

Spring 2006

For the Record

## News from the Center

LaDonna Sullivan

### Congressional Archives

The Carl Albert Center recently received a \$5,000 “We the People” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for promoting knowledge and understanding of American history and culture. The grant money will fund a preservation and access assessment of the Center’s congressional archives. Director and Curator **Cindy Simon Rosenthal** and Archivists **Carolyn Hanneman** and **Erin Sloan** will work on the assessment with consultant **Sheryl B. Vogt**, who is director of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia.

Archivist **Erin Sloan** has updated and redesigned the archives web pages to make them more accessible to the public. Information about the visiting scholars program, congressional collections, and traveling exhibits is readily available at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/>. There is also a new email address for the archives: [cacarchives@ou.edu](mailto:cacarchives@ou.edu).

A third archivist, **Jeanene Letcher**, recently joined the staff and will process some of the Center’s more recently acquired congressional papers. She earned her Bachelor of Art in History from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and her Master of Art in History from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Jeanene previously served for more than six years as Region 6 Archivist for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Columbus, Ohio. At the Region 6 Archives, Jeanene worked with closed congregational records, researchers from around the world, active congregations who wanted to preserve their records, and the general public on archive practices. She also worked for Trinity Lutheran Seminary, University Museum at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, University Archives at SUIC, and several local historical societies in Pennsylvania.

The new graduate assistant in the archives is **Cary Osborne**, who will complete her Master of Library Information Studies degree in 2007.

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) recently presented the Muriel H. Wright Award for the best article published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in 2005 to OU Professor Emeritus **Richard Lowitt**, who did much of the research for his article, “Fort Sill Enters the Missile Age,” in the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives.

The Center’s archives were also used by Visiting Scholars Program grant recipient **Patricia Loughlin**, professor of history at University of Central Oklahoma, in the research for her book, *Hidden Treasures of the American West: Muriel H. Wright, Angie Debo, and Alice Marriott* (University of New Mexico Press, 2005). The book earned for Professor Loughlin the annual “Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History” award from the Oklahoma Historical Society.

### Dissertation Awards

Two recent winners of the Carl Albert Dissertation Award, an annual award of the Legislative Studies Section of the American Political Science Association, visited the Carl Albert Center on February 17. **Christian Grose**, Vanderbilt University, won the award in 2004 for his dissertation, "Beyond the Vote: A Theory of Black Representation in Congress." **Robert Van Houweling**, University of California at Berkeley, won an award in 2005 for "Legislators' Personal Policy Preferences and Partisan Legislative Organization." Both of these scholars discussed their research at a luncheon meeting with political science faculty and graduate students. Later in the afternoon, Grose and Van Houweling met with graduate students to talk about the art of dissertation writing.

### Dream Course

A course on "Gender in Political Leadership – The Real and the Imagined," designed by Carl Albert Center Director and Curator **Cindy Simon Rosenthal** and Civic Education and Leadership Coordinator **Hannah Brenner**, has been designated as an Undergraduate Dream Course for academic year 2006-2007 at University of Oklahoma. The \$20,000 special funds award will be used to explore the intersection between reality and perception by bringing into the classroom two nationally recognized scholars in the field of gender and politics, a screenwriter involved in constructing dramatic political dramas for entertainment as well as educational purposes, and a national female political figure with lived experience in the eye of the media spotlight. Rosenthal is associate professor of political science and women's studies. Brenner has a law degree and is an adjunct professor in women's studies.

### N.E.W. Leadership Pipeline to Politics

In addition to the annual 5-day N.E.W. Leadership seminar (May 19-24) located on the Norman campus and designed to educate, empower, and encourage undergraduate women to become political leaders, the Carl Albert Center also sponsored a weekend seminar, March 24-25, in downtown Oklahoma City. This new seminar, Pipeline to Politics, is designed specifically for women who would like to make the leap into electoral politics as a candidate or campaign organizer and for women who simply want to work behind the scenes in political campaigns or increase their volunteer involvement. The seminar features workshops on party politics, putting a campaign together, raising money, dealing with the media, increasing volunteer involvement, getting appointed to boards and commissions, and the connection between politics and community service. Details about N.E.W. Leadership and the Pipeline to Politics can be found on the website: <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/NLO/>.

### Undergraduate News

**Bailey Cato**, political science senior and N.E.W. Leadership alumna, has been selected by the Carl Albert Center as a student mentor in the Great American Cities Program, a joint venture with the Close Up Foundation. Bailey will work with a group of Booker T. Washington High School students in Tulsa during this spring semester and at the Tulsa Youth Summit in June on the OU campus.

Undergraduate Research Fellow **Jenna Morey** is a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarships. About 80 of these scholarships are awarded each year, and there is a rigorous national selection process. The scholarships provide funding for graduate school to students with outstanding leadership potential who are committed to careers in public service. Jenna is a Regents' Scholar, has ranked in the Top 10 of her class each year at OU, is president of Young Democrats, was the first OU student to study abroad in Turkey, and is a recipient of the David L. Boren Commitment to Service Award.

### Recent Publications

Carl Albert Center Associate Director **Glen S. Krutz** and former Undergraduate Fellow **Justin LeBeau** published their article, "Recurring Bills and the Legislative Process in the US Congress," in *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, volume 12, number 1 (March 2006).

An article from the Fall 2004 issue of *Extensions*, "Substantial Political Consequences, A Practitioner's Perspective on Redistricting" by **Clark Bensen** of POLIDATA Political Data Analysis, was cited in two Amicus Briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court in the Texas redistricting appeal. Both the American Legislative Exchange Council and Free Enterprise Coalition Brief and the Heslop, Adair, Berner, Morgan, and Ward Brief can be accessed at the website of the attorney representing the Texas Democrats: [http://www.jenner.com/news/news\\_item.asp?id=000013238624](http://www.jenner.com/news/news_item.asp?id=000013238624).

### Former Fellows

**Lauren Cohen Bell**, associate professor of political science at Randolph-Macon College, and **Kevin M. Scott**, assistant professor of political science at Texas Tech University, published their article, "Policy Statements or Symbolic Politics: Explaining Congressional Court-Limiting Attempts," in *Judicature*, volume 89, number 4 (January/February 2006).

An article by **L. Marvin Overby**, professor of political science at University of Missouri – Columbia, was published in *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, volume 12, number 1 (March 2006). The article is titled "Public Opinion Regarding Congressional Leaders: Lessons from the 1996 Elections."

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### In Memoriam: Paul Alejandro Shanor 1984 – 2006

Bullets fired into a crowd of people at a fraternity party on January 15 in Stillwater, Oklahoma wounded three others and took the life of OU student Paul Shanor. Mourners packed the concert hall of OU's Catlett Music Center a few days later to memorialize this popular, highly motivated honor student who was a political science senior, a volunteer with numerous charities and humanitarian efforts, and vice president of the local Norman chapter of NAACP. Paul's friends spoke of his genuine love and concern for others. They felt certain he was on his way to achieving great things in his life.

Paul recently served as a mentor in the "Great American Cities" program, the Close Up Foundation's joint venture with the Carl Albert Center to give Tulsa's inner city high school students an understanding of how government works and help them become active participants in their community. Paul was assigned to mentor a group of students at Booker T. Washington High School, his alma mater. He traveled with them to Washington, D.C. in November for a week of Close Up government classes and tour of the nation's capitol.



OU President David L. Boren put into words the feeling of all who knew Paul Shanor: "It is heartbreaking to see his life cut short in such a tragic way."

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