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The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center is a nonpartisan institution devoted to teaching and research related to the United States Congress and to strengthening representative democracy through engaged and informed citizens.

Established in 1979, the Center is a living tribute to the ideals, leadership and accomplishments of the Honorable Carl Albert, native Oklahoman, University of Oklahoma alumnus, Rhodes Scholar and 46th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Center houses one of the largest congressional archives in the country, with the papers of 61 former members of Congress, and 25 other collections with close ties to congressional politics such as former legislative and political aides, journalists, scholars and organizations. The archive also houses the Kanter Political Commercial archive, one of the major sources for political commercials in the world.

Distinguished visitors to the Center:
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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Sarina Rhinehart, Director of Data Quality & Reporting
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Arturo Vega, Professor St. Mary's University

Walter C. Wilson, Associate Professor University of Texas at San Antonio

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Michael H. Crespin

Director and Curator of the Carl Albert Center and professor of political science. His research focuses on legislative politics, congressional elections and political geography. Crespin has published articles in top political science journals and his research with co-authors has won two national awards.

Charles J. Finocchiaro

Associate Director of the Carl Albert Center and associate professor of political science. His research and teaching interests span American politics and research methodology, with a particular focus on the development and organization of the U.S. Congress. Finocchiaro's published work appears in leading outlets. He is a frequent collaborator with students and has received best paper awards from the APSA and SPSA.

Rachel Blum

Assistant professor of political science and Carl Albert Center faculty member. Her research examines how political parties interact with and shape U.S. political institutions. Blum's book How the Tea Party Captured the GOP: Insurgent Factions in American Politics (University of Chicago Press, fall 2020) explains how a faction like the Tea Party was able to take over a major political party.