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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is the fourth volume in the C-SPAN Research Conference proceedings. Each year we hold a conference at Purdue University that focuses on research from the C-SPAN Archives. The authors of the papers presented all use video from the online C-SPAN Video Library to advance our understanding of research in political science, communication, and history. This year’s conference was unique in that each paper (and now, chapter in this volume) was authored or coauthored by a graduate student. The topics range from content analysis of speeches of members of Congress to presidential tweets.

Many people helped make this conference possible. Brian Lamb, Susan Swain, and Robert Kennedy, executives of C-SPAN, have encouraged us in this research endeavor. They facilitated funding from the C-SPAN Education Foundation that resulted in the grants to the scholars to complete their work. The C-SPAN Board of Directors, all representatives of the cable television industry that supports C-SPAN, was instrumental in the initiative to digitize the archive and has been enthusiastic about encouraging its use.

Nita Stickrod Granger skillfully managed the planning, interacting with Purdue Conferences staff, Ethan Kingery in particular. She also worked with all participants to pull off a very successful conference. The entire staff of the Archives—Kevin Ingle, Alan Cloutier, Matt Long, Josh Tamlin, Karen Adams, Martin Swoverland, Steve Strother, and Gary Daugherty—helped along the way.

At Purdue University we were assisted by Professors Rosie Clawson and Marifran Mattson, heads of the Department of Political Science and the Lamb School of Communication, respectively. Donna Wireman of Communication assisted with many campus details. Fara Stalker and Paige Pfeifer of the Liberal Arts Business Office helped with financial management for the conference.
Dr. Raymond Smock of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education at Shepherd University quickly and graciously agreed to keynote the conference. His remarks are printed in this volume.

The Purdue University Press made sure that everything went smoothly, from the initial idea through publication of the book. Rebecca Corbin, Katherine Purple, and Bryan Shaffer helped throughout. Kelley Kimm provided very skillful editing to ensure that every chapter looked and read well.

As we move forward with additional conferences and research activities, I am pleased to announce that Purdue University has created the Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement in the Brian Lamb School of Communication. Connie Doebele has joined the Center as managing director, bringing 25 years of experience at C-SPAN. The Center will sponsor the future conferences, bring in speakers, and encourage research and teaching using the C-SPAN Video Library. I welcome Connie and look forward to more activities promoting the extensive holdings of the C-SPAN Video Library.

I dedicate this book to three of my graduate school colleagues, who each went on to very successful careers in political science: Timothy E. Cook, Gary King, and Lyn Ragsdale. Unfortunately, Tim Cook’s career was cut way too short by his death in 2006. I miss him and the advice he would offer as a leading communication scholar on using the Archives for research. Gary King and Lyn Ragsdale are both prolific scholars who teach at Harvard and Rice Universities, respectively. They each influenced me in untold ways.

The C-SPAN Archives observed its 30th anniversary in 2017. When we started in 1987, we had a vision of how C-SPAN could be used in teaching and research. With each volume in this series, we get closer to realizing that vision. There will be future conferences and future volumes, each showing a diverse range of research in multiple disciplines. I never cease to be impressed by what scholars propose and execute for each of these volumes. It is our hope that professors and graduate students will pick up these volumes and propose new research that will appear in the future volumes. Let the research continue.

Robert X. Browning, Editor
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