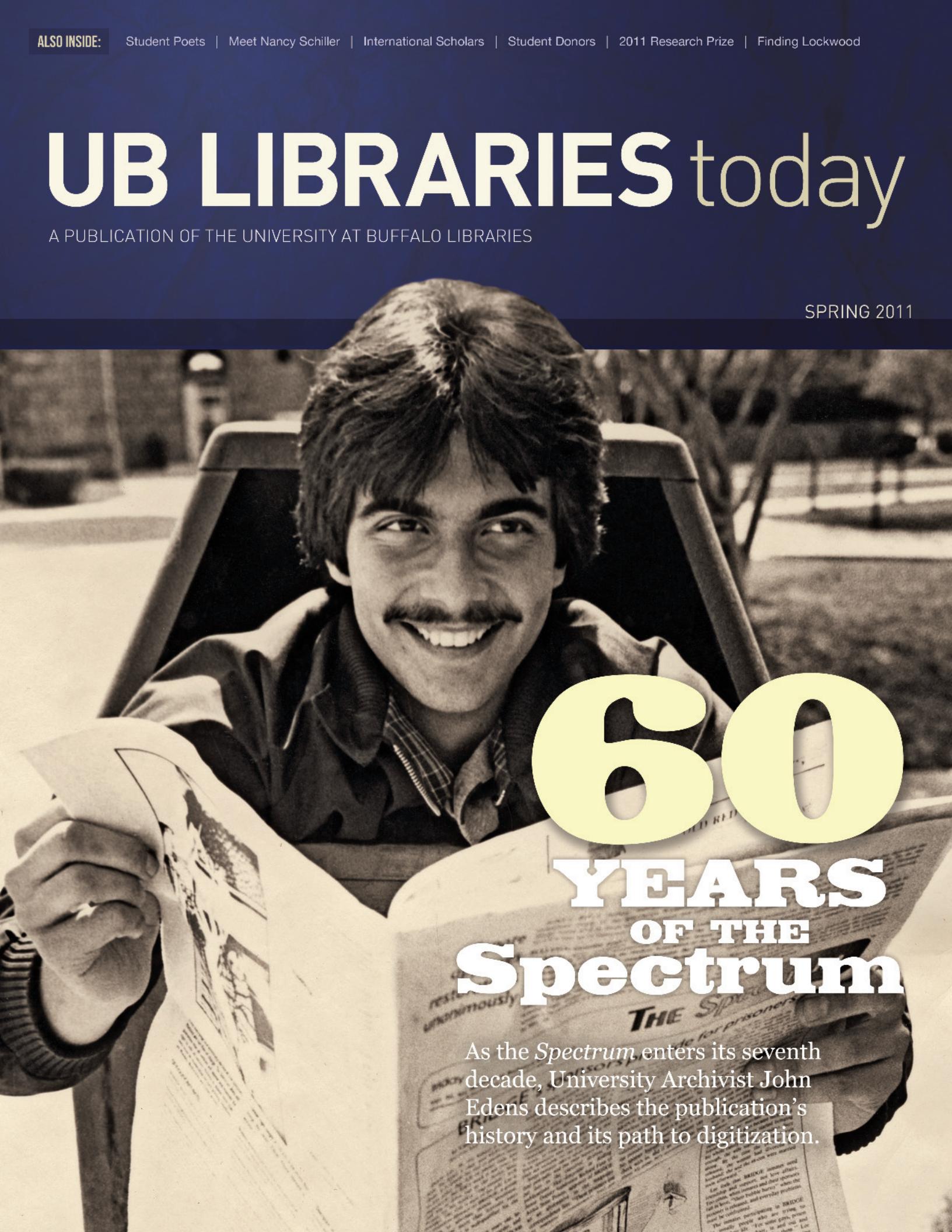


# UB LIBRARIES today

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LIBRARIES

SPRING 2011



**60**  
**YEARS**  
**OF THE**  
**Spectrum**

As the *Spectrum* enters its seventh decade, University Archivist John Edens describes the publication's history and its path to digitization.

# UB LIBRARIES today

SPRING 2011

*UB Libraries Today* is published by the University at Buffalo Libraries for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.

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John K. Lapiana, B.S. '82, J.D. '87, served on the *Spectrum* staff 1979-82 and was Editor-in-Chief 1981-82. He is currently Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Photo courtesy University Archives.

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## DID YOU KNOW?



Amazon Kindles are now available for circulation in the UB Libraries!

To learn more, visit:  
[library.buffalo.edu/kindle](http://library.buffalo.edu/kindle)



Dear Friends,

This issue of *UB Libraries Today* celebrates students. It includes a history of the *Spectrum*, the University's student newspaper, as well as descriptions of the Libraries' project to digitize student newspapers, awards our students have received, ways in which students have contributed to the Libraries' activities and more.

The University Libraries reach students in many ways—through one-on-one interactions at our service desks; in-class and virtual instruction; email, chat and text reference service; individual research consultations; and, increasingly, through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We are particularly proud of the number of students we reach via instruction: over 5,000 students completed our online *Library Skills Workbook* and more than 14,500 students participated in instruction sessions, workshops and online tutorials offered by the Libraries during the 2009/10 academic year. As massive amounts of information are

## "This issue of *UB Libraries Today* celebrates students."

digitized and made easily accessible electronically, students need more guidance than ever in discovering valid, relevant information and in

developing skills to evaluate critically the information they find. Data from the most recent SUNY Student Opinion Surveys (2003, 2006, 2009) indicates that UB students understand the importance of the Libraries; our students consistently rate the UB Libraries #1 when asked to rank academic services and experiences in terms of satisfaction.

The University Libraries also employ a large number of students—currently 186 undergraduate and graduate student assistants. Our student employees are dedicated, hard-working and generous. They also provide us with vital insights about how students use 21st-century library facilities, collections and services. As I write this, our Staff Development and Training Committee is developing our first University Libraries' Student Assistant Recognition Award. I look forward to telling you more about this award and its recipient in a future issue of *UB Libraries Today*.

Sincerely,

**H. Austin Booth**  
Interim Associate Vice President for University Libraries  
[library.buffalo.edu/habooth](http://library.buffalo.edu/habooth)



**From left:** Dr. Michael Basinski, Poetry Collection Curator, with poetry award winners Patrick Riedy, Letson Williams and Morani Kornberg-Weiss.  
(Not pictured: Adam Katz, Katherine Kurtz).

## Student Poets Honored

In celebration of **National Poetry Month**, the Poetry Collection hosted a reception and poetry reading on April 13, 2011 to honor the winners of the 2011 English Department and University Libraries Writing Prizes. Winners of the following poetry prizes were presented with their awards during the reception.

### **The Friends of the University Libraries Undergraduate Poetry Prize**

Winner: Katherine Kurtz  
Honorable Mention: Patrick Riedy

### **The Academy of American Poets Prize**

Winner: Morani Kornberg-Weiss  
Honorable Mention: Letson Williams

### **The Dan Libirthson Poetry Prize**

Winner: Morani Kornberg-Weiss  
Honorable Mention: Adam Katz



## 2011 Undergraduate Research Prize

**The University at Buffalo Libraries**, in cooperation with the UB Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, are pleased to announce the winner of the 2011 Undergraduate Research Prize. This year's winner is **Joshua Dill** (senior, history major) for his research project, "Spanish Carlism in the International Context," which explores the international influences and relations of the Spanish Carlist movement from 1870 to 1940.

The prize recognizes students who produce significant academic inquiry requiring the use of information resources, the Libraries and the collections. Major research databases provided by the Libraries, including *JSTOR*, *WorldCat* and *Historical Abstracts*, supported this project. Dill's faculty mentor is **Sasha D. Pack** of the UB history department.

Joshua received a \$500 award and was honored at the Celebration of Academic Excellence on April 6, 2011. Congratulations, Joshua!

## The Opinion

Past issues of the *Opinion*, the University at Buffalo Law School's official student newspaper, are now available online as part of the University Libraries' **Digital Collections**. UBdig hosts volumes 1-27 (November 1949 through April 1987).

First published on November 29, 1949 under the leadership of editor Michael Beilewech, Jr. ('51), the *Opinion* has historically served as a forum for the viewpoints of UB law students. The publication's debut coincided with the opening of the Law School's building on West Eagle Street in downtown Buffalo. View the online collection at:

[library.buffalo.edu/opinion](http://library.buffalo.edu/opinion)



The *Opinion* won the American Bar Association's Award for Excellence in overall quality in 1977.



Dear UB Libraries,

I graduated from UB in May 2010 with a B.S. degree in Biomedical Sciences and a B.A. in Psychology. After graduation, I accepted a neuroscience research fellowship with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense in Edgewood, Maryland.

As an undergraduate student at UB, I spent, on average, five or six days per week in the UB Libraries, mainly in Silverman, and occasionally in Lockwood and the Health Sciences Library. I lived, breathed, ate and slept in those libraries, and did my best work in those locations. I easily spent more time in the Libraries than I did anywhere else in the entire city of Buffalo!

Every library staff member with whom I interacted was knowledgeable and kind. I want to thank you for your time, services, commitment and generosity, all of which have contributed to my success. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all that you've done for me!

Most sincerely,  
Chani Becker

## COLLECTION PROFILE

Step back in time for a moment to Friday, November 17, 1950, the day when a new student newspaper greeted students at the University of Buffalo. With four pages ready to go to print and no title yet selected for the new publication, the editors decided to call the inaugural issue simply the *Official Student Publication of the University of Buffalo*.

UB students suggested other possible names, including “*Bull Pen*,” but it was *Spectrum* that won out. The scientific definition of “spectrum” was the guide for explaining the significance of the publication’s title:

Campus news in its dispersion can only be brought into focus through the medium of a newspaper which must in turn present all the hues and facets as they appear. We of the “*Spec*” will endeavor to print the many aspects of important issues with responsibly written student interpretation. In presenting these opinions it is hoped student interest will be aroused to such an extent that intelligent analysis will follow.

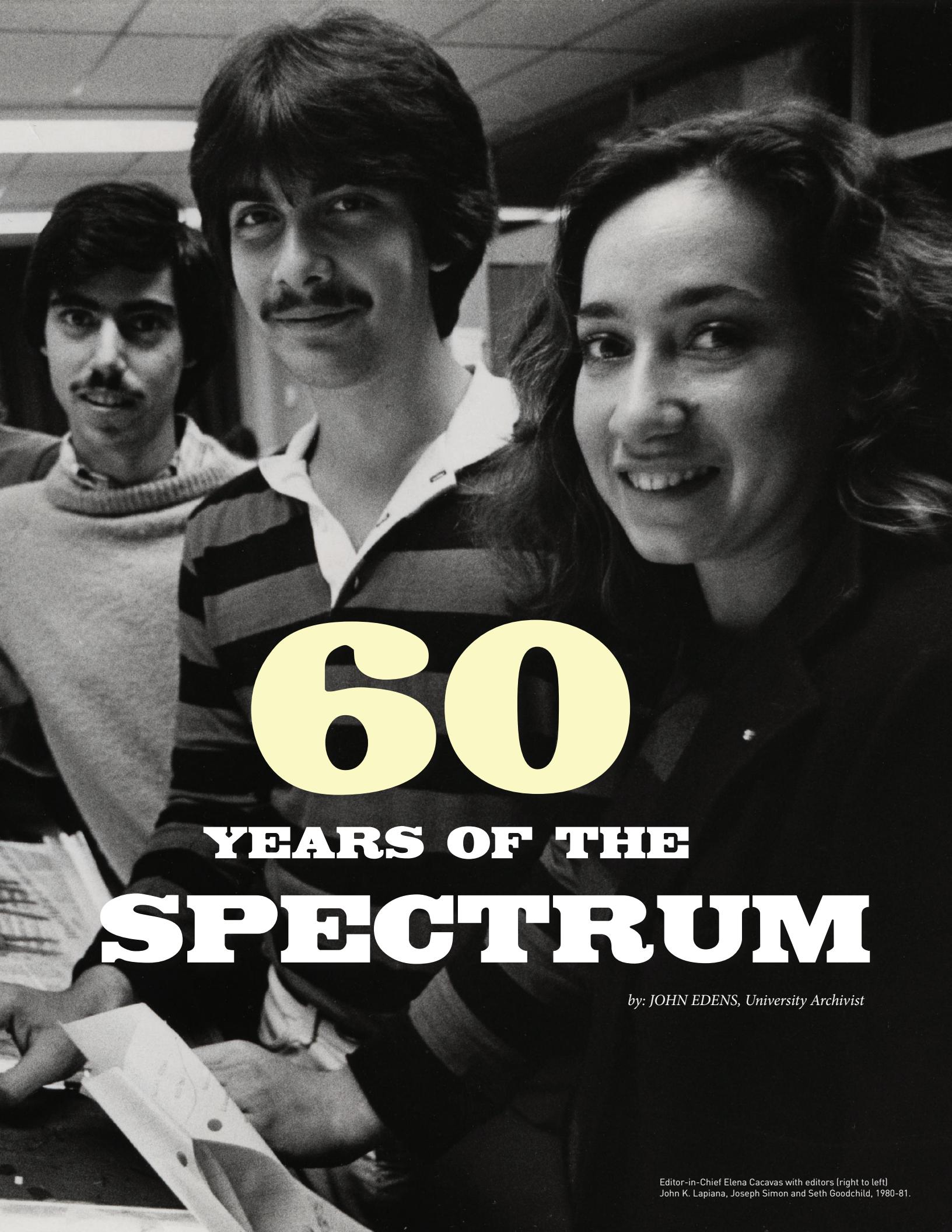
(*Spectrum*, December 1, 1950, p.1)

Flash forward sixty years. The former private university is now the University at Buffalo, a flagship institution of the State University of New York (SUNY). Today UB has three campuses, its current enrollment is much larger and far more diverse, and 21<sup>st</sup>-century student life barely resembles that experienced by UB students in the early 1950s. The student newspaper, however, still known as the *Spectrum*, holds the distinction of being the university’s longest continuing publication.

As the *Spectrum* enters its seventh decade, the University Libraries have made the first twelve years of the newspaper available online through the “Best of the UB Archives” hosted by UBdigit, a University Libraries digital library initiative:

[library.buffalo.edu/archives/bestof](http://library.buffalo.edu/archives/bestof)

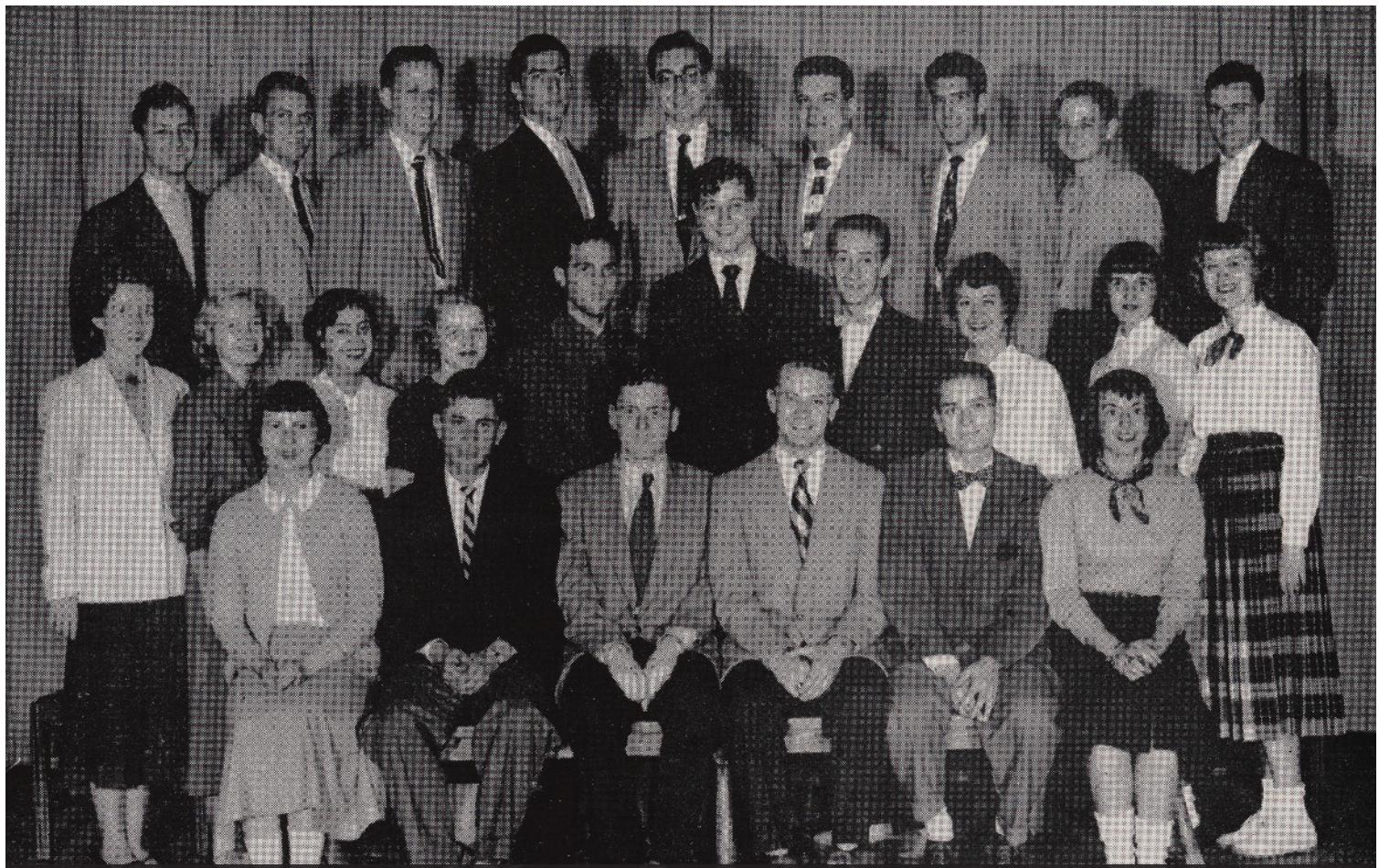




# **60** **YEARS OF THE** **SPECTRUM**

*by: JOHN EDENS, University Archivist*

Editor-in-Chief Elena Cacavas with editors (right to left)  
John K. Lapiana, Joseph Simon and Seth Goodchild, 1980-81.



Spectrum staff, 1952-53. Dick Schaller, Editor-in-Chief, is third from the right in the first row.

Two significant grants have provided funding for the University Libraries to digitize complete issues of the *Spectrum* from 1950 through May 1962. The first grant, from the New York State Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials in 1987, enabled the UB Libraries to create microfilm copies of over 200 university and student publications, including the *Spectrum*. More than two decades later, using funds received through the Regional Bibliographic Databases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing Program administered by the Western New York Library Resources Council, the University Libraries were able to create a digital version of the *Spectrum* from the microfilm.

Through the process of optical character recognition, each word in the digital version of the *Spectrum* is now searchable. Printing and downloading of individual articles are facilitated through an article segmentation process. With continuing financial support from alumni and others interested in the history of UB, the University Libraries hope to make additional years of the *Spectrum*

available, including the supplements "Dimension," "Backspace" and "Prodigal Sun."

For over sixty years, the *Spectrum* has covered all aspects of UB student life. Staff writers reported on the periods of campus unrest in the late 1960s and early 1970s, on the selection of Amherst as the site for the new campus, and on the impact of reductions in state funding that plagued UB in the late 1970s and 1980s.

It is through the pages of the *Spectrum* that the transformation of UB from a small, private university into a large, public institution with an international presence can be traced. The *Spectrum* gradually evolved from a newspaper in which, as described by staff writer Elena Cacavas, "sexism and frivolity ran rampant...with little space devoted to 'real' issues," to a newspaper with "an increasingly political and liberal focus through the 1960s, [which] in the 1970s used this awareness to concentrate on the university and its relationship to the state, and local and national events" (*Backspace*, supp. to the *Spectrum*, November 21, 1980).

By the late 1960s, the *Spectrum* was recognized as an outstanding student newspaper. Its staff has won many honors over the years, including the Associated Collegiate Press's highest rating. It was the first newspaper outside Niagara Falls to provide investigative reporting on the Love Canal environmental disaster. In the late 1970s, the *Spectrum* sent reporters and photographers to New York and Washington, D.C. to cover anti-nuclear demonstrations.

The history of the *Spectrum* dates back to a dispute between two earlier UB student newspapers: the *Bee* and the *Argus*. All available issues of both publications are also available in digital format as part of the "Best of the UB Archives." The *Bee* began as a short-lived column in the *Buffalo Commercial* before becoming an independent publication in 1921. Focusing almost entirely on student activities, and often with humor, the *Bee* provided little coverage of events beyond the UB campus. The *Bee*'s sometime frivolous style came under attack in the years immediately

following World War II when UB enrolled an older and more diverse student body. As an alternative, a group of more liberal and progressive students launched a rival paper, the *Argus*, in 1947 and soon took aim at the campus fraternities and sororities represented by the *Bee*.

By 1950, editorial warfare had intensified to such an extent that the Board of Managers of Norton Union withheld funding from both papers. The Board of Managers, composed of students and representatives from UB faculty and administration with the authority to distribute student activity fees, decided that there should be an entirely rebuilt newspaper. The stated purpose of the new publication was to combine the journalistic ability of the *Argus* staff with the efficient advertising and business staffs of the *Bee*.

The staff of the new paper inherited "rickety typewriters, fouled-up filing systems and only a few advertisers" (1951 *Buffalonian*, p. 175), along with the impact of debt left by the other two publications. In spite of financial crises and two attempts by the Staff Association Senate to abolish the paper in the late 1970s, the *Spectrum* has survived and continues to thrive,



Rebecca Bernstein, *Spectrum* Art Director, 1979-80.

publishing three times per week during the academic year. It is available online at: [www.ubspectrum.com](http://www.ubspectrum.com)

Digitization of UB student publications from decades past is part of the University Libraries' commitment to provide online access to our noteworthy collections.

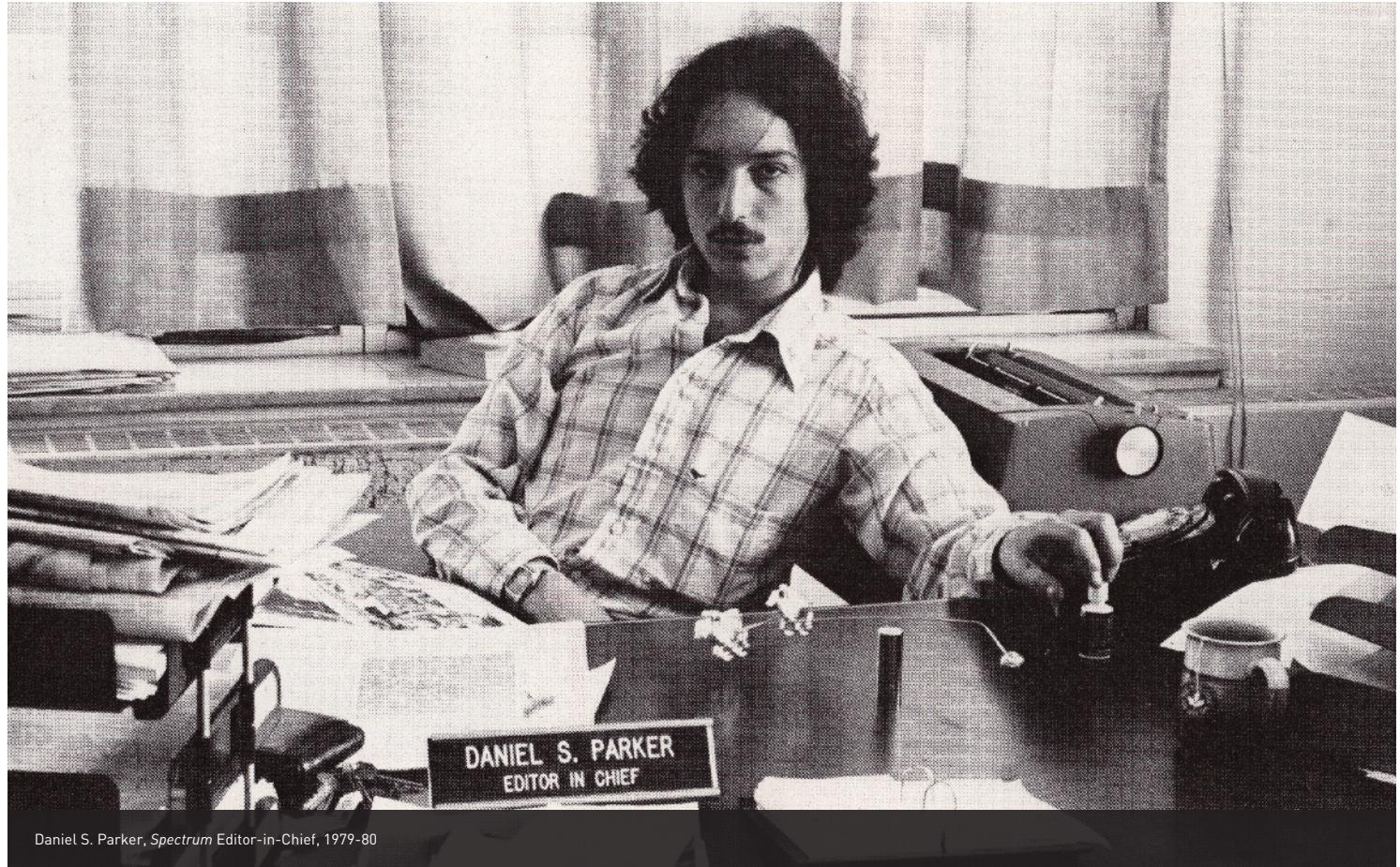
The "Best of the UB Archives" currently includes the following digital collections:

- UB Student Newspapers, 1921-1950
- The *Spectrum*, 1950-1962
- UB Black Student Union Periodicals
- The Clifford C. Furnas Collection
- The *Opinion*, 1949-1987

## SUPPORT THIS COLLECTION

The University Libraries appreciate the support of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends interested in the digitization of UB student newspapers, yearbooks, newsletters and other publications. For additional information on the "Best of the UB Archives" and other digital initiatives currently under way in the Libraries, please contact:

**John Edens**, University Archivist  
(716) 645-2510  
[lib-archives@buffalo.edu](mailto:lib-archives@buffalo.edu)



Daniel S. Parker, *Spectrum* Editor-in-Chief, 1979-80

# Nancy Schiller

*Engineering Librarian*

Although my first job was in the public library in my hometown of Des Plaines, Illinois, in high school, I never thought that I would one day make my career as a librarian.



## STAFF PROFILE

I was an English major in college, graduating with a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. I moved to Buffalo to take a job as a technical writer for a local environmental consulting firm, working with geologists, biologists, hydrologists, toxicologists and engineers to produce environmental impact statements for large-scale development projects. It was fascinating, and I found that I enjoyed interacting with scientists and engineers.

From there I moved on to graduate school in New York City, earning an M.S. in Library Service from Columbia University. I interned in Columbia's Engineering Library and discovered that I loved the challenge of engineering reference work. When the position of Engineering Librarian at UB opened up just as I was completing my degree, I applied for the job. I've been here ever since, for over 20 years, helping engineering students and faculty find the information they need to be successful in their teaching, learning and research.

Engineering is very multi-disciplinary. An industrial engineering student researching air filters to protect workers at a coke production plant may need to consult resources in toxicology, medicine and even business, in addition to many of the "standard" engineering sources. I like the breadth and scope of the field. I also like its focus on understanding and solving problems. Like engineering problem-solving, engineering reference typically requires breaking down the overall problem into a series of smaller problems. Finding the "answers" to each part may require using very different types of information resources, including product reviews, patents, standards and technical reports.

I particularly enjoy working with what is often referred to as the "grey literature," materials rich in technical detail that are hard to identify and track down, often because they aren't distributed through conventional publishing channels.

But my greatest pleasure is working with the students. With approximately 2,500 undergraduate and 1,300 graduate engineering students at UB spread out across seven departments, I'm very busy! I work with students in different ways, often over email, but also, increasingly, one-on-one in my office. I prefer this type of individualized, face-to-face interaction. It allows me to get to know the students as well as their research, which I enjoy.

And as all librarians will tell you, I love the hunt. One student whom I worked with over the course of a year was still missing for her literature search the numerical values of the area of the foot that contacts the ground during the stance phase of gait. Unfortunately, the information she needed was not to be found in the major sources for this kind of anthropometric data; those didn't have the necessary level of detail. We finally found the data in a 1949 technical report titled *Foot Dimensions of Soldiers* produced by the Armored Medical Research Laboratory. I love it when we find what we're looking for—and when it means digging for it a bit and then finding it in the grey literature, it's even more satisfying. It was a good day to be a librarian!

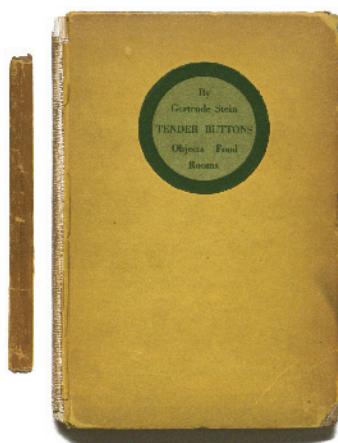
My staff profile is online at:  
[library.buffalo.edu/nschiller](http://library.buffalo.edu/nschiller)

# Visit to the Poetry Collection Inspires Students' Gift

by: JAMES MAYNARD, Assistant Curator, *The Poetry Collection*

Last fall, the Poetry Collection experienced what may well be a first in its nearly 75-year history when it received a generous donation from the undergraduate students in Professor Steve McCaffery's English 361 class.

Impressed and inspired by their class visit to the Poetry Collection, during which Curator Michael Basinski gave a history of the collection and presented a number of significant, rare, and otherwise noteworthy poetry items, the students in Professor McCaffery's Modern and Contemporary Poetry course decided among themselves to make a class donation. More specifically, they wanted to raise funds to repair the binding of the Poetry Collection's first edition of Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* (Claire Marie, 1914), an important volume of linguistic innovation and a favorite of the English 361 students.



Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons* (Claire Marie, 1914), before conservation.

me it indicates the value placed on rare and fragile items. It was a rare gesture, and in our current predominantly digital world, an almost revolutionary gesture."

This gift will ensure that the Poetry Collection's first edition of Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* receives the physical conservation it requires, and will be available for the benefit of students and scholars for decades to come. Once the repair work is complete, Professor McCaffery's students will be honored with an acknowledgment slip placed inside the book.



Michael Basinski with Professor Steve McCaffery and English 361 students.

Such a donation underscores the Poetry Collection's need for ongoing maintenance of its renowned collection of modern and contemporary poetry publications, some of which have become endangered over time. It also demonstrates how preservation funding can come from diverse sources. Historically, the collection has received conservation awards from individuals and private foundations, but never—until last fall—from a group of students. "By this act of simple philanthropy," notes Curator Basinski, "our young scholars and poets have become curators in the realm of the poem."

This is not the first time that Professor McCaffery has directly supported the University Libraries' Poetry and Rare Books collections. Last year he sponsored the rebinding of a 1482 edition of *The Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius as part of the Gray Chair's commitment to an annual restoration, a generosity that is most appreciated for its long-term care of the rare and special items in both collections.

For more information about other conservation projects in need of funding, please contact the curators at (716) 645-2917 or [lpo-poetry@buffalo.edu](mailto:lpo-poetry@buffalo.edu). Gifts to the Poetry Collection can be made online by visiting [library.buffalo.edu/giving](http://library.buffalo.edu/giving).



Photos, floor plans and architectural models highlight "Wayfinding" exhibit, Lockwood Library [May 2010].

# FINDING LOCKWOOD

by: KEN HOOD, Facilities Planning & Management Officer, UB Libraries

One of the greatest rewards of my 30-year career in the University at Buffalo Libraries was the recent opportunity to engage in the process of “wayfinding” with students and faculty of UB’s School of Architecture and Planning. This energizing and enlivening experience brought together the old, established and known with the new, futuristic and imaginative.

In my relatively new role as Facilities Planning and Management Officer for the University Libraries, I had a strong desire to understand the workings and professional perspectives of architects and designers. I inquired about the possibility of working with a group of students on “wayfinding” for the Libraries, and UB Associate Professor M. Beth Tauke responded enthusiastically, developing a syllabus for her Inclusive Design Research Group studio during the fall semester 2009.

We journeyed through the creative process together. Background readings and research requirements were extensive. Each student developed an understanding of the rich history of libraries, the dynamic changes libraries are undertaking, and what the future holds for the notion of “library.” The scope of their research was local, national and international. In particular, they studied the UB Libraries, focusing on Lockwood Memorial Library—its convoluted structure and its potential for being the “heart” of the University. What they discovered was far greater. They discovered the “soul” of Lockwood Library, a soul made manifest in their new and imaginative designs.

Initially, the students tried to “find” Lockwood from various points on campus using various sensory cues. For our first meeting, the students stood in the courtyard area outside Lockwood, and I waved them in to meet me in the Government

Documents area. They could easily see me; but to reach me, they needed to find the main entrance on the building’s second floor and navigate two intertwined, glass-enclosed staircases.

It was an amusing yet telling experiment. Their “inclusive design” perspectives provided useful information regarding the navigational needs—visual, auditory, physical—of our library users. The syllabus went further, requiring students to use online sources, on-site services and other means, to locate specific, esoteric items. All of these interfaces were analyzed, providing the students with the experience and understanding needed to design a Lockwood Library of the future. Their design models and visions were beautiful!

I was so impressed by the project, I asked the students to create an exhibition of their work to share with Libraries faculty and staff. Again, Professor Tauke accepted the challenge and developed an independent study for the spring semester 2010. This subset of the original studio group prepared an exhibit of their design models, accompanied by narrative descriptions of their work and a video presentation. The students also participated in a Libraries’ Town Forum to outline, for library staff and guests, what the students had discovered and to discuss how they imagined a new Lockwood.

Collaborating with these students and learning how architects approach their work, how they think and how their creative imaginings take concrete form were rich and rewarding experiences. It is my hope that developing more programs like these will foster stronger bonds with colleagues across the disciplines.

To read more, visit [library.buffalo.edu/findinglockwood](http://library.buffalo.edu/findinglockwood)

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## INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

by: Jill Hackenberg, Associate Librarian

Last summer, I had the privilege of working with a group of international post-graduate students who spent three weeks at UB during July and August. The students were part of the 2010 Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright Program activity funded by the U.S. State Department and run by the Institute of International Education.

The students' UB visit was coordinated by UB's English Language Institute, and after completing their orientation, the students moved on to other host institutions to complete their coursework. While at UB, the students attended courses that included Writing for Advanced Studies and American English Pronunciation. A significant part of their program included information literacy classes in one of the UB Libraries' hands-on computer classrooms.

During these classes, my colleague Associate Librarian Chris Hollister and I taught the students how to conduct library research effectively, and we discussed how American libraries differ from libraries in their home countries. Our discussions included searching the UB Libraries' online catalog (BISON), using subscription databases to find journal articles, and searching the Internet. Since some international students have limited experience using subscription databases and search engines such as Google, we also discussed how to evaluate websites for accuracy, bias and truthfulness.

Near the end of their stay, the students, who were from Bahrain, China, Egypt, India, Ivory Coast, Kosovo, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Zimbabwe, hosted a celebration and invited faculty who had worked with them to enjoy food and music from their home countries. This delightful gathering was a highlight for me. I enjoy interacting with international visitors, and after our classes together are finished, I often find that I've learned as much from our meetings as they have!



Humphrey Scholars celebrate with UB faculty at the Nation's Day party, August 1, 2010.