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SPRING 2017

Seasons of UB Basketball

Through the Years: UB Sports History Collection
When Silverman Library’s third floor reopened at the beginning of the fall 2016 semester, UB students responded enthusiastically, turning to Twitter to exclaim: “Beautiful!” “On point!” “Amazing!” The overwhelmingly positive response to the library’s newly-renovated space continues to resonate, and I hope you’ll visit the next time you’re on campus. Visiting in person will give you an opportunity to experience first-hand the wonderful energy and excitement we’re witnessing every day in this dynamic learning environment.

In this issue of UB Libraries Today, you’ll meet some of the many students who gather in Silverman each day. They come here to share ideas, to collaborate on projects in the library’s spacious group study rooms, and to create digital media presentations in our state-of-the-art video recording studios. For many, the quiet, contemplative surroundings of Silverman Library’s beautiful grand reading room make it the perfect place to read or study.

From academics to athletics, the University Libraries connect every element of the UB experience. Our broad array of digital collections, covering a wide variety of subjects, reflects our commitment to making unique items from UB Libraries’ collections as accessible as possible to a global audience. In celebration of the 100th anniversary season of the UB men’s basketball team, this issue’s cover story highlights one of our most popular digital collections: UB Sports History. Filled with images of UB student athletes, coaches and fans, this distinctive collection offers a fascinating glimpse into the history of UB athletics.

With your support, we will continue to expand and enhance our digital collections, foster student success, promote research and creative activity, and build strong partnerships. Thank you to everyone who makes the University Libraries and the University at Buffalo a better place!
Beautiful Buffalo Homes, one of the University Libraries’ newest digital collections, highlights Buffalo’s architectural grandeur from a century ago, a time when the “Queen City of the Lakes” was one of the wealthiest cities in the country. Based on the book Beautiful Homes of Buffalo, edited by Mark Hubbell and published in 1915 by the Buffalo Truth Publishing Company, the digital collection features over 100 black-and-white photographs of architecturally significant homes in Buffalo and its suburbs. Several local buildings, museums and parks of note are also featured.

“Digitizing these photographs is a wonderful way for the UB Libraries to share part of Buffalo’s rich history with a global audience,” says digital collections librarian Molly Poremski. Each photo in the Beautiful Buffalo Homes digital collection includes the home’s address, along with the names of the owners at the time the photograph was taken. In addition, the images have been incorporated into Historypin, an interactive digital mapping website that provides a way for people to share and celebrate the history of their communities through photos and stories. On Historypin, each home’s location appears on a map, and, where possible, the original photographs have been superimposed over the present-day Google Street View of the home. This allows viewers to fade the past and present images in and out, offering a unique “then and now” glimpse of Buffalo’s impressive architectural heritage.

Visit the Beautiful Buffalo Homes Collection: library.buffalo.edu/collections/beautiful-buffalo-homes
n a beautiful late autumn afternoon, UB students Kole Gilchrist and Trent Ferguson are comfortably ensconced in a study booth on the newly renovated third floor of the Oscar A. Silverman Library. Huddled over their laptops, the senior accounting majors are reviewing for an upcoming exam. “I come here every time I study,” says Gilchrist. “We just got here and were able to get this booth. It was luck of the draw because the study booths are usually full.” Ferguson nods in agreement. “I never came to Silverman’s third floor before it was redone,” he says. “I did all my studying on the second floor, but this is definitely better!”

Although vastly different from its former self in many ways, at its core, Silverman Library remains what it has always been – an intellectual hub where ideas are born, tested and take shape. With its spacious study booths, group study rooms, traditional grand reading room, and wide range of informal and formal seating areas, the library’s redesigned third floor invites students, faculty, staff and visitors to explore, research and collaborate.

“I’m up here every day,” says UB sophomore Rachel Bourbonnais, a political science major. “I come here early in the morning, and I sometimes stay until midnight or later. It’s very quiet and peaceful late at night, and it’s also very conducive to getting a lot of work done.” For many students, including senior history major Michael Ryman, the 1,300 electrical power outlets available on Silverman’s third floor are one of the renovation’s best features. “Having more outlets on this floor makes it much easier to study,” says Ryman. “The atmosphere is very conducive to meeting up for group work and enjoying your time studying.”

Open 24/7 during the fall and spring semesters, Silverman Library welcomes more than 6,000 people on typical weekdays. Not surprisingly, it’s one of the most popular destinations on UB’s

“We want this space to be full of energy and ideas and excitement, a place where students and faculty can come together to share their ideas and create new knowledge.” – H. Austin Booth, Vice Provost for University Libraries
North Campus. “I really enjoy the large reading room,” says Kara Daly, a freshman biomedical engineering major. “No one can talk in here, so I get a lot of work done.” Senior Miura Ang, a psychology and sociology major, agrees. “I like the silent study in the reading room. The facilities are great, and it’s very easy to plug in my USB cord.”

From the group study rooms to the spacious grand reading room, from the new café to the high-tech video recording studios, Silverman Library’s third floor is an innovative, 21st-century learning environment. It is a library space that UB students, faculty, staff and alumni can feel proud of; a space that matches the energy, enthusiasm and vitality of the community it represents by offering new ways of accessing information, new ways of learning, and new patterns of interacting in the digital age.

Rohey Ceesay, Freshman
Major: Communications

“There are many places to study, many different rooms and lounges, not only one place. I like to sit at the counters with the high chairs, across from the Café.”

Silverman Library is more than just a place to study; it is a home away from home, inviting students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors to share ideas, collaborate with peers, and explore new opportunities for innovative research and lifelong learning.

6000
DAILY VISITS

1500+
POWER OUTLETS

150
COMPUTER WORKSTATIONS

17
GROUP STUDY ROOMS

16
STUDY BOOTHS

2
VIDEO RECORDING STUDIOS
Celebrating 400 years of the Bard

The University Libraries and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library commemorated the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death with a Wedding of the Folios on October 4, 2016. The ceremony began when UB's treasured set of First Folios arrived at the public library in a vintage Pierce-Arrow motor car.

For the first time in Buffalo's history, two sets of Shakespeare First Folios were joined together in a unique arranged marriage. The volumes were displayed as part of the public library's recent exhibition, Celebrating 400 Years of Shakespeare: Reflecting on the Life of the Bard.

Published between 1623 and 1685, the Folios are credited with preserving many of Shakespeare's plays, which otherwise would have been lost. Each Folio contains varied markings and modifications, and by displaying them together, the public has an opportunity to see these differences.

“For a city to have two complete sets in public institutions is quite unique,” says Michael Basinski of UB Libraries Special Collections. “Bringing these collections together shows the great depth and significance of our cultural heritage and proves that Buffalo is an art capital, especially for literature.”

Lackawanna Yemen Soccer Club

The Lackawanna Yemen Soccer Club Digital Collection is the first installment in the Buffalo Soccer History Project. This project aims to document the history of soccer in Western New York. If you are interested in contributing materials to the project, please contact Molly Poremski at poremski@buffalo.edu.

Visit the collection: library.buffalo.edu/collections/yemen-soccer-club
Samuel P. Capen, family man

His name is familiar to generations of UB students, faculty and alumni. Samuel P. Capen, the University’s first full-time chancellor (1922-1950), was a pioneer in the field of higher education and a champion of academic freedom. In his official photographs and portraits, Capen’s image is that of a rather stern academic figure, but delving into his correspondence, mementos and articles in the University Archives, another side of “Sam” Capen emerges – that of a loving husband, a doting father, a man with a quick wit and a dry sense of humor.

In letters and notes written to his wife, Grace, throughout their courtship and marriage, Capen rarely missed an opportunity to express his love and devotion, especially when business called him away. On a voyage to Norway he once wrote, “twelve hours have been devoted to slumber…most of the other twelve have been spent reminiscing and dreaming ahead. Both operations involve you.”

Capen’s collection of postcards from U.S. cities, often signed “With love, Father” or “Missing you, Daddy,” similarly reflect his affection for his daughter, Mary.

Although his academic career kept him busy, leisure was not a concept lost to Sam Capen. Often in the summer months, he conducted university business from his home in Maine, “though after a swim and a noonhour shot of rum.” An avid sailor, Capen owned a small sloop which he would race occasionally. Off the water, Sam and Grace Capen enjoyed word games – she favored double acrostics, he was inclined to write limericks.

The University Libraries mourns the loss of its distinguished longtime Poetry Collection curator Robert J. Bertholf, who died February 19, 2016 at his home in Austin, Texas. A widely published scholar of 20th-century American poetry, he edited the little magazine Credences.

A graduate of Bowdoin College and the University of Oregon, Bertholf first taught at Kent State University. For over 25 years, he served as curator of what at the time was the University Libraries Poetry and Rare Books Collection. In 2005, Bertholf was named the Charles D. Abbott Scholar of Poetry and the Arts. Over the years he significantly expanded the Poetry Collection’s manuscript collections. He retired in 2007.

“Little Blue, UB Libraries’ free lending library, is a favorite destination for the UB community. To donate books, contact Denise Wolfe at dawolfe@buffalo.edu.

Farah Vandrevala, Ph.D. candidate, UB Electrical Engineering
Story by Scott Hollander

With more than 1,000 images from the University Archives, the UB Sports History Digital Collection uniquely documents the athletic accomplishments of UB Bulls, past and present. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of UB men’s basketball’s first official season, we highlight a selection of images from this collection, and recall the trailblazers whose passion, dedication and skill helped to build a sense of community, accomplishment and fond memories for generations of University at Buffalo students and alumni. Go Bulls!

1915 – 1943

Long before Art Powell stepped onto the basketball court to face Niagara University on January 29, 1916, the UB head coach (all five feet four inches of him) had a lot to overcome.

With UB fielding a football team for the first time in over ten years in the fall of 1915, the University decided in late December that basketball should also officially return to UB as a varsity sport. Art Powell agreed to take over as head coach, and quickly put together a basketball team.

Powell’s team had already lost two away games in Pennsylvania to start the season. And the lack of a gymnasium anywhere on campus meant that UB’s team was forced to play home games at Orioles Hall, a social/cultural club located at 566 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY. But the scrappy Powell was determined to bring collegiate athletic respectability back to Buffalo.

Powell was a well-known Buffalo product who starred in basketball, baseball and football at Syracuse University from 1903-07. He began his basketball coaching career in 1907 at the University of Rochester, and his...
1909-10 Rochester squad finished with 16-2 record, making a valid claim as the best Eastern college team. In 1912, Powell was recruited to Bloomington, Indiana, to serve as the head coach of the Indiana Hoosiers men’s basketball team lasting one year.

Although his UB team lost their first home game to Niagara, by mid-February, Powell’s training finally took hold, and Buffalo went on to win their last seven games. Buffalo capped the season by winning a best of three series against local rival Canisius College. Called the “city collegiate basketball championship,” the series was played at the Elmwood Music Hall, and Buffalo won the first game, narrowly beating Canisius by just two points, 27-25. Buffalo wrapped up the city championship the next game with a convincing 40-23 victory, and Buffalo’s first official basketball season was a success.

Powell spent the next 27 years as head coach of the UB men’s basketball program from 1915 to 1943. Over three seasons (1929–32), Buffalo posted a 45-5 record that included a 28-game winning streak with triumphs over Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Syracuse. Powell’s 1930-31 UB team was 15-0, the best mark in Buffalo basketball history.

1946 – 1956

Athletics at the University at Buffalo went on hiatus during the World War II years of 1943-45, but returned to the court in 1945. In 1946, Malcolm Eiken, a former football and basketball star at the University of Minnesota, was named Buffalo’s head coach.
The post-war years could be considered the halcyon days of college basketball in Western New York, as the city of Buffalo was a regular stop for major college basketball teams travelling by train to and from New York City.

Although not a member of the original “Little Three” basketball trio (Canisius, Niagara and St. Bonaventure), UB was regularly included in “Little Three” Saturday doubleheaders held in Buffalo’s Memorial Auditorium against national basketball powerhouses.

During Eiken’s tenure, UB played such schools as Missouri, Georgia, Washington State, Wake Forest and Connecticut in front of large capacity crowds at Memorial Auditorium in downtown Buffalo.

Eiken’s 1951-52 UB Bulls played in Buffalo’s first ever post-season tournament, being invited to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) district playoffs in Rutherford, New Jersey, where they lost a hard-fought battle to Fairleigh Dickinson.

After ten seasons in Buffalo and 140 career wins, Eiken headed back to his native Minnesota to enter into private business.

1956 – 1970

In 1956, Len Serfustini, a former UB basketball star under Eiken, took over the coaching duties, and promptly guided the Bulls to the inaugural NCAA Small College Division Tournament.

In 1960-61, Buffalo defeated Villanova, Boston University and Syracuse on their way to an 18-5 season.

Serfustini’s 1964-65 team went 19-3, the Bulls’ best modern record, and had a 14-game winning streak. The team did so well that Athletic Director Jim Peelle initiated plans to upgrade the competition. Syracuse, Penn State and Kent State, schools with “major” basketball classification, were added to UB’s 1965-66 schedule.

During Len Serfustini’s 14 seasons as coach of the basketball Bulls, UB would notch a 205-106 record and play in six NCAA Championship Tournaments.

To view photos and learn more about the history of UB Athletics go to library.buffalo.edu/ub-sports.
Your gifts have a tremendous impact on our ability to provide outstanding collections and services to our students and faculty. Thanks to your generous support, the University Libraries are able to acquire new resources, preserve existing materials, and provide cutting-edge technologies that offer expanded access to all information.

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H. Austin Booth
Vice Provost for University Libraries

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CERT ’67
Tucked away in Box 6 of Samuel Capen’s papers, a variety of mementos reveal the personal life of the University’s first full-time chancellor: an invitation to Capen’s 1908 wedding, an address book, postcards and a lock of his daughter Mary’s hair. Buried near the bottom of the box, a small index card, written in pen and ink, contained instructions for preparing maple cream custard.

To University Archivist Amy Vilz, the challenge of recreating the original recipe was easy with a few simple changes. Amy left out the egg whites, included in the original, added a bit more cream, and froze the custard into ice cream. This did the trick. Whether this was Grace’s recipe or a family favorite is unclear. What is clear? Capen’s maple custard is delicious!

Capen’s Maple Custard

The recipe below was adapted from the original by University Archivist Amy Vilz.

- 6 egg yolks
- 1 cup rich maple syrup
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream and 1 1/2 cups whole milk

Heat cream and milk over medium heat until simmering. In a separate bowl, stir together the yolks, salt and syrup. In a slow, steady stream, pour in hot cream while whisking yolks. Add yolk and cream mixture back to pot. Heat on medium low until the mixture coats the back of a spoon and reaches 170 degrees. Stir constantly. Pour through a sieve, and refrigerate several hours or overnight. Pour into ice cream machine and freeze according to machine instructions. Enjoy!
That I’ve discovered new learning opportunities.

Student. Poet. Teacher. Alison Fraser is all of the above. “I’m very interested in the writing process,” says this enthusiastic young scholar, “and in looking at the objects that poets made, like scrapbooks and albums, and exploring how those objects informed their poetry.”

Alison’s passion for avant-garde poetry and poetics drew her to the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries. Currently a PhD candidate in English Literature at UB, Alison is putting the final touches on her doctoral dissertation, a work which includes a chapter on Helen Adam, a 20th-century Scottish-American poet, photographer and collagist whose literary archive is housed in the Poetry Collection.

“A lot of the most important poetry scholarship is being done from the archive; looking at primary sources and seeing how they impact the work. The UB Libraries offers a wonderful combination of people and collections,” Alison says, “and the Poetry Collection staff are very willing to help. It’s a privilege to study and work here!”

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Searching for a unique gift? Selected images from the UB Libraries’ Digital Collections (including those pictured here) are available for purchase as posters or prints from our Library Store. You’ll find photographs of famous individuals associated with the University at Buffalo, vintage renderings of Niagara Falls, 1901 Pan-American Exposition prints, 19th-century lithographs, cover art from early UB student publications and more. Visit the Library Store, choose your favorite item, and have a print or poster shipped directly to your address.

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