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UB LIBRARIES today

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LIBRARIES

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Enhancing the Student Experience

Therapy Dogs Ease Students' Test Anxieties During
Stress Relief Days in the University Libraries

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

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DID YOU KNOW?



In 2013, UB Libraries-supported websites received **14,657,402** pageviews, or approximately **1 pageview every 2 seconds**.

from AUSTIN



H. Austin Booth, (center), with sons, Emmett (left) and Dylan (right)

NANCY J. PARISI

Undergraduate Love

I have my own personal tell-it-like-it-is focus group—my son, Dylan, who is a first-year student at UB.

Dylan uses the Libraries for a variety of purposes: as a computing lab, a collaborative workspace, a silent retreat away from our networked world and the dorms, and a social hub (Club Capen, anyone?). He may be the son of the VP for Libraries, but he's not atypical. Of the Libraries' 3.5 million annual visitors, the majority of them are undergraduates. The Libraries have ranked #1 on SUNY's Student Opinion Survey since 2001. Why do undergraduates use and love our services and spaces so much? Because we make a difference in their education and lives.

On a chilly afternoon last week, I decided to make a stop on the first floor of Silverman Library—the atmosphere was electric. Directly in front of me, two students were awkwardly flirting in the line to use library workstations. To my right, a group of young men were loudly negotiating about how to divvy up a group project. To my left, two of the Libraries' undergraduate employees were helping their peers navigate Capen and "the Spine."

Though our bustling, tech-friendly spaces are a far cry from our Libraries of yesteryear, the core mission of our Libraries remains essentially the same: we provide environments that inspire learning, reflection and collaboration. I'd love for you to be a part of this ongoing inspiration. Feel free to contact me at haboath@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-0983 should you wish to talk about any aspect of the Libraries' services or collections.

I'm looking forward to another exciting spring in the University Libraries!



H. Austin Booth
Vice Provost for University Libraries



Searching for a quiet spot on UB's North campus?

Sharol Shamsor suggests Silverman Library. "It's a relaxing place to be," says Shamsor, a junior communication major. "Deep inside Silverman Library, you can't miss the study rooms. I wish there were more study rooms like Silverman 123 and 124. They're relaxing and peaceful, which is just what I need in a bustling environment at a large university."



Detail of visual poem sent from Amelia Etlinger to Ellen Bissert, ca. 1970s. Reproduced with permission of the estate of Amelia Etlinger.

An Intimate Address

The Visual Poetry of **Amelia Etlinger**

When Ellen Marie Bissert donated her collection of works by Amelia Etlinger (1933-1987) to the Poetry Collection in December 2013, she did so with the hope of enabling a future reassessment of the little-known artist and her work.

Etlinger's early work includes relatively traditional poems, but she later moved beyond words, creating elaborate textile pieces made of cloth, ribbon and thread. These she mailed to friends and fellow visual poets, and when unfolded, each delicate, intensely personal package often reveals natural elements such as dried leaves or flowers. Highly prized internationally, Etlinger's package poems and tapestries have received little attention in the United States.

Bissert, whose collection of Etlinger's work includes over 80 original pieces, first met Etlinger during a 1974 interview for *13th Moon*, a feminist literary magazine, and for over a decade, the artist continued to send her work. Overall, Bissert's is now likely the largest collection of Etlinger's visual poetry.

In May 2012, Bissert telephoned James Maynard, the Poetry Collection's associate curator, to discuss placing her Etlinger materials in an archive for the benefit of future scholars. "In part literary works and in part art objects, Amelia's highly personal art requires a specialized setting," says Bissert. "The Poetry Collection at UB, with its deep holdings and its wide embrace of poetry in all its variety, was/is the right choice to maintain and highlight this collection."

The long-term plan for the Amelia Etlinger Collection is to use it as the basis to attract additional experimental visual works by women poets, and eventually to support it with an endowment. For more information about the Amelia Etlinger Collection, or to help support it, please contact James Maynard at (716) 645-2917 or jlm46@buffalo.edu.



Dylan goes to Wales!

As part of a yearlong centennial celebration of **Dylan Thomas** (1914-1953), the Poetry Collection has loaned materials from its Dylan Thomas Collection to joint exhibitions at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth and the Dylan Thomas Centre in Thomas's birth city of Swansea. An exhibitions officer from the National Library traveled to Buffalo in February to pack up and courier the items back to Wales.

from warhol to **UB**

Marie Elia didn't plan to stay in Pittsburgh after receiving her MLIS degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2008, but with bills to pay, she needed a job fast. Luckily, the Andy Warhol Museum, also in Pittsburgh, was hiring, and Elia spent the next few years sifting through Warhol's *Time Capsules*, hundreds of cardboard boxes filled with the pop artist's personal effects. The boxes held roughly 500,000 objects—everything from fingernail clippings to photographs—that Warhol kept from the 1960s until his death in 1987.

Working with other archivists, Elia cataloged the boxes' contents and built a database that researchers, artists and Warhol fans can use to delve into the artist's life and work. Elia, who holds a master's degree in fine arts specializing in creative writing and poetry from Columbia University, arrived at the UB Libraries' Poetry Collection in November 2013. She is currently cataloging materials on Harry Jacobus, an obscure but influential abstract expressionist who worked with members of the Beat Generation in San Francisco in the 1950s. The work is rewarding, she says, because it can give voice to people or events that aren't fully appreciated. "I can't imagine a better job for what I want to do!" she says.



NANCY J. PARISI



POKÓJ!

Digital Collection Highlights Polish Peace Posters

The designs are different, but the message is the same: peace. The University Libraries' newest digital collection features posters advocating peace and disarmament. Created by Polish artists, the posters are from a set of reproductions published by Krajowa Agencja Wydawnicza around 1978, and were originally printed between 1948-1978 for the World Peace Council, an international organization that promotes universal disarmament.

Molly Poremski, curator of the Libraries' Polish Room collection, launched the digitization initiative to ensure that the peace posters and other important works from the collection are accessible to a global audience. The digital collection and reproductions of the Polish peace posters are available at: library.buffalo.edu/collections/peace-posters.

Other exciting projects and events are in the works. "I welcome everyone interested in Poland, Polish-American culture and the history of Buffalo's Polonia to visit the Polish Room," says Poremski. "With your help, we can continue to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Poland and Western New York."

Dziękuję! Thank You!



Improved Learning

Donors Provide Support for New Technologies



Thanks to our generous donors, the **Science and Engineering Information Center** recently purchased a new iPad and other technology tools. "The tablet computers are a wonderful addition to our drop-in clinics for students and faculty," says librarian Ben Wagner. "We can interact with our students in more dynamic and flexible ways in the library, in the classroom, and even in the hallways."

At a recent Lunch 'n Learn event, co-sponsored by the University Libraries and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), 30 student attendees gathered in the light-filled Science & Engineering Information Center on the second floor of Silverman Library. On the menu? Learning how to use library databases to conduct research and prepare for job interviews.

Inaugural Robert Frost Event

On April 1, 2014, the Poetry Collection hosted its inaugural **Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Event**. With nearly 100 people in attendance, the event featured a lecture by Robert Daly, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English, titled "Our 'Need of Being Versed': Frost, Virgil, and the Uses of Poetry."



A recording of the event, sponsored by the Jonathan F. Reichert Fund to Support the Victor E. Reichert Robert Frost Collection, is available online through the Reichert Frost Digital Collection library.buffalo.edu/robertfrost

From left to right:
Michael Basinski,
Jonathan Reichert,
James Maynard





meet Gina

Gina DiBenedetto has logged hundreds of hours in the UB Libraries. “I was lucky,” says the senior linguistics major. “After receiving my acceptance to UB, I started looking at the UB website for a part-time job on campus, and the first thing that popped into my mind was the library.” Gina started working at the circulation desks in Lockwood and Silverman Libraries in 2010, the summer before her freshman year, checking books in and out, answering questions, and issuing courtesy cards to library visitors.

For the past four years, Gina has worked between 18 and 20 hours each week during the fall and spring semesters, and this semester, she’s busier than ever. A resident of Buffalo’s West Side, Gina commutes to UB with her 5-month old daughter, Aria. “There’s a

lot of planning involved,” says Gina. “I leave for school early in the morning, and after dropping Aria off at the UB Day Care Center, I head to class.” The upside of her busy schedule? “I love the Libraries’ 24/7 chat service,” she says. “If I’m at my computer late at night, I just type in a question, and a librarian directs me to what I’m looking for; it’s great!”

Gina’s advice to other students who might be interested in applying for a job as a student assistant in the Libraries? “If you catch the flow of what needs to happen,” she says, “then you’ll feel like you’re really helping to keep the Libraries afloat, and you’ll be a part of the team.”

Way to go, Gina!

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES TRIVIA

Can you identify these famous visitors to UB?

Our “Prominent Visitors to Buffalo” digital collection highlights authors, politicians, actors, musicians and activists who visited UB and the City of Buffalo in decades past. Photographs from the University Archives, along with articles from the *Spectrum* student newspaper, provide a glimpse into memorable moments.

library.buffalo.edu/collections/prominent-visitors

Answers:
A. Elizabeth Taylor, 1957
B. Allen Ginsberg, 1966
C. Ralph Nader, 1970
D. Robert F. Kennedy, 1964





Golden retriever Hannah, a regular volunteer for Stress Relief Days in the UB Libraries, enjoys the attention of a student.

Enhancing the Student Experience

Therapy Dogs Ease Students' Test Anxieties During Stress Relief Days in the University Libraries

By Mary Cochrane, Associate Director, UB Development Communications
Photography by Douglas Levere

A group of UB students eagerly walked to the area where Raven was waiting to meet them. One young man, however, dropped back, hesitant.

"I just don't like dogs," he explained.

While Raven, a brown-and-tan Doberman, played on the floor with the students, the young man slowly moved closer. Raven's owner, Becky Iannone, recalled what happened next.

"Little by little, he became part of it and got down on the floor with the others," she recalled. "Raven went over and sat down next to him. His friends showed him how gentle Raven was and with a little help from them, he started to pet Raven."

Raven, age five, has been winning over humans as a therapy dog for four years. His busy schedule includes visiting area schools as a "tail waggin' tutor" to help children practice reading; home visits arranged through hospice; and once-a-month stop-ins in a shopping cart at a Home Depot, to the enjoyment of many customers and staff.

Raven gets to play on the floor at UB during Stress Relief Days, held to ease students' tensions and anxieties during final exams.

The events are the brainchild of Amy Lyons, associate director of the Health Sciences Library (HSL), who saw them as an innovative way to welcome students and enhance their experiences in the libraries. Stress Relief Days were first held in 2011, and subsequent events have grown in popularity, with hundreds of students, faculty and staff attending.



Happy faces on both Fender, a Bernese mountain dog, and a UB student attest to the positive benefits of Stress Relief Days.

CONTINUED



Researchers recently examined the effects of the presence of friends, spouses and pets on the level of stress associated with certain relatively unpleasant tasks. They found that compared with human support, the presence of pets was associated with lower perceived and actual responses to stress.

Source: Allen, K., Blascovich, J., & Mendes, W. B. (2002). Cardiovascular reactivity and the presence of pets, friends, and spouses: the truth about cats and dogs. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 64(5), 727-739.



What's the attraction?

For one, there's free food, always a big draw. Students and others also get the chance to try proven stress relief measures, including

“ *It's amazing how just a few minutes with the therapy dogs can brighten your day.* - Sethleen Allen, senior, School of Nursing

reflexology, drawing, knitting, listening to music and receiving chair massages.

And then there are the therapy dogs, no-fail crowd-pleasers every time.

The dogs offer benefits to all who interact with them. Research has shown that simply petting a dog can lower a

person's blood pressure and cholesterol, boost immunity and increase endorphins, known as the happiness hormone, and oxytocin levels, the so-called “bonding” hormone that is released during hugs, and credited with increasing trust and empathy.

Pamela Rose, web services and library promotion coordinator, had suggested bringing in therapy dogs for students, and the Stress Relief Days presented the perfect opportunity to do so. Rose's own Bernese mountain dog, Sophia, a certified therapy dog, has worked several of the events.

Year-round, students and others eagerly await the next visit by the therapy dogs, Rose added.

“People come up to the reference desk and ask ‘When are the dogs coming?’” Rose said.

UB students have testified previously to the positive effects the therapy dogs have on them. Some of their comments include:

“They take the stress away when you pet them. They're happy; they get your mind off things.”

“This is a nice way to wind down.”

“The dogs keep me calm. Otherwise, I'd be freaking out. This keeps me going until my exam.”



Left: Hannah, a golden retriever, and Max, a French bulldog who uses wheels to support his weak hind legs, work their magic with UB students. **Right:** French bulldog Max provides a calming presence for UB students. **Below:** A soothing chair massage helps ease students' pre-exam stress.



"The dogs can sense when you're really stressed."

Such comments support multiple research studies on the benefits of animal contact—including one conducted at UB medical school that found dogs can be even more comforting to humans than husbands or wives in stressful situations.

More than 20 therapy dog teams offered comfort during the most recent Stress Relief Days, a three-day event in December on the North and South campuses. The therapy dog teams are certified by the local chapter of Therapy Dogs International (TDI) and the SPCA Paws for Love program.

For the safety of students and others, therapy dogs adhere to several requirements during their visits: they must be clean, healthy, up-to-date on vaccinations and relaxed with people. Owners keep the dogs on leashes during the entire visit; the dogs are kept out of main traffic areas to avoid encountering anyone who is allergic to or afraid of dogs.

Debbie Braun of the SPCA Paws for Love program said their therapy dogs are highly versatile.

"The dogs have to be comfortable around strangers, medical

equipment, and be accepting of petting and people handling different parts of their bodies," Braun said.

The dogs come in a variety of breeds and sizes, from Max, a small French bulldog with a brindle coat and wheels to support his weak back legs, to Murphy, a 120-pound golden brown Great Dane whose head nearly reaches some students' shoulders. Others include Brody, a brown boxer; Margot, a white boxer; Telly, a yellow English labrador; and many more: Butch, Clyde, Fender, Molly and Griffin.

Braun said her dog teams enjoy their UB visits.

"I have always received positive responses back from the teams. The students seem to enjoy having the dogs there. It reminds them of their own pets," she said.

Raven's owner, Becky Iannone, who manages the local TDI chapter, agrees.

"I've had nothing but amazing experiences at UB," she said. "The students absolutely love the dogs."

UB Libraries work to make Stress Relief Days enjoyable for the students, and welcome support for this popular initiative from alumni and friends. From the tasty snacks and beverages given free to students to scheduling instructors and entertainment, the staff keeps busy weeks in advance of each event.

UB Libraries will hold their sixth Stress Relief Days May 12-15, 2014 in libraries on the North and South campuses.



To learn more about Stress Relief Days in the UB Libraries, visit:
library.buffalo.edu/support/stress-relief

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H. Austin Booth

H. Austin Booth
Vice Provost for University Libraries:

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KAHN!



William S. Huff, professor
emeritus, UB School of
Architecture & Planning.

Professor's Gift Enhances UB Design Archive

By: Kathleen Quinlivan, Communications Officer, University Libraries

William S. Huff, UB professor emeritus of architecture, was a student at Yale University in 1951 when he first met Louis Kahn, one of the most influential architects of the 20th century. Over 60 years later, their meeting and ensuing professional relationship continues to influence a new generation of future architects through the **William S. Huff Louis I. Kahn Collection**.

Huff began working for Kahn in 1958. "I was not in the office for more than a month or so," Huff recalls, "when my aunt, Angeline Huff Herbert, then president of the *Tribune Review* publishing company in Greensburg, PA, was searching for an architect to design a new office and printing plant. She called me to ask: 'Do you think Mr. Kahn would consider designing such a small building?' Kahn was delighted. It was a new challenge, a different kind of institution to serve."

"When the first set of contract drawings on the *Tribune Review* building was sent out for bids," recalls the 87-year-old Huff, "the bid proposals were probably twice as high as the newspaper was willing to invest in a new building. We worked feverishly to reduce the construction cost of the new plant. Kahn's thumbnail sketch was a way for him to show himself what the new version of the plant would look

like. He made this sketch while he was sitting on a stool at my desk with me."

In 2005, Professor Huff generously donated original drawings, documents and photographs of the *Tribune Review* building and several other Kahn-designed buildings to UB's School of Architecture & Planning. **The William S. Huff Louis I. Kahn Collection**, now part of the Design Archive at UB, is used by students as they study building techniques and features, such as Kahn's signature keyhole windows.

"Following Professor Huff's donation, a team of students studied the material and used it to build new models of the building," says Brian Carter, professor, UB School of Architecture & Planning. "The sketches and models were subsequently the focus of an exhibition, *Kahn in Buffalo*, shown at UB's School of Architecture & Planning."

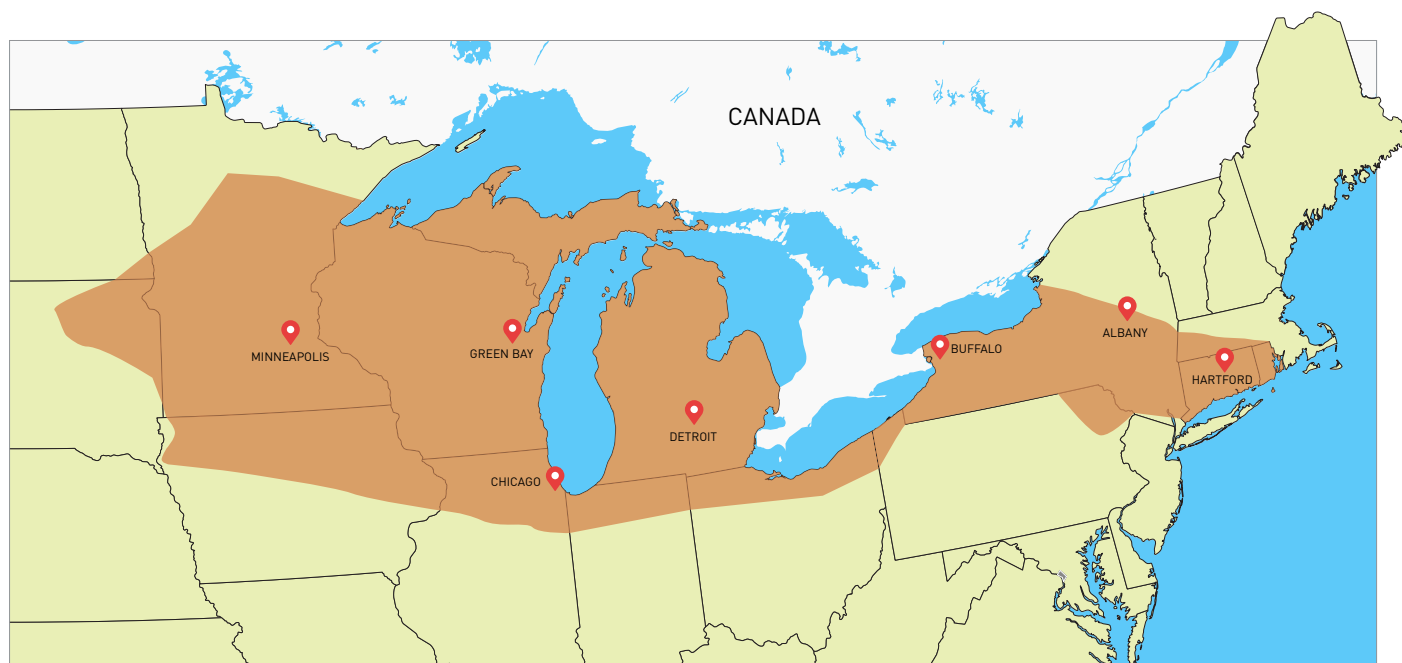
Through his generosity, Huff has passed on many of the lessons Kahn taught him, and UB architecture students are richer for it. "The thing I did not learn at Yale, but did learn in Kahn's office, was how to put the building together: how to handle the crafts, the materials, the mechanical technologies."



To learn more about the Huff Collection and the Design Archive at UB, visit:
library.buffalo.edu/collections/design-archive

Discovering the Origins of the Buffalo Accent

By: Dean Hendrix
Assistant Director for University Libraries



Buffalo, NY is one of several cities affected by the Northern Cities Vowel Shift.

When speaking to people from other parts of the country, native Buffalonians are often confused with Chicagoans, who live over 500 miles to the west. Why the confusion? No one knows for sure, but researchers are using the University Archives Oral History Collection to shed new light on the origins of the Great Lakes accent and its famous flat “a.”

The audio interviews in the collection were originally taped in the 1970s to capture UB’s rich history. But for Matthew Gordon and Christopher Strelluf, two University of Missouri researchers, the collection’s digital files are an uncommon treasure, providing access to the spoken accents of Buffalonians born in the early 20th century.

Gordon and Strelluf are analyzing the changing speech patterns in Great Lakes cities, also known as the Northern Cities Vowel Shift. Strelluf says that the UB Libraries’ Oral History

Digital Collection provides “the earliest empirical, measurable evidence of this change,” as far as he knows. One theory posits that construction of the Erie Canal brought people with different English dialects together, linguistic distinctions broke down, and tenser vowel sounds, such as the flat “a,” took over.

“It’s very difficult to find audio files of a sufficient quality to do close, sensitive analysis to construct linguistic histories,” says Strelluf. “UB Archives is a rare gem. Archivists need resources to store original materials, equipment to read old audio formats, and transform them into uncompressed formats for acoustical analyses.”

As part of Phase 2 of the project, we are interviewing current and former UB faculty, staff and students. To learn more about how you can support this project, please contact Amy Vilz at amyvilz@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-2991.



University Archives Oral History Collection

The Oral History Collection contains taped interviews with UB administrators, alumni, faculty, staff and University Council members. The interviews cover a wide range of topics and offer personal insights into UB history by those who lived it. library.buffalo.edu/collections/oral-histories

◀ **Dorothy M. Haas** served in several administrative positions at UB from 1934-1973. In an interview recorded on May 17, 1978, she discusses her experiences as a student at UB and her later involvement with student activities as director of Norton Union.



UB students celebrate victory, Oozefest 1986.

from THE ARCHIVES

30 Years of Mud, Sweat and Tears

Driving by Lake La Salle on UB's North Campus, it's easy to overlook the sodden field at the corner of Frontier Road and St. Rita's Lane. But for one day each year, this area of matted grass and dirt is transformed into a bacchanalia of contests, costumes and music with the arrival of Oozefest, one of the nation's largest collegiate mud volleyball tournaments.

Held annually on the last Saturday before Spring final exams, Oozefest offers pre-exam stress relief for UB students. Sixteen teams entered the first Oozefest tournament in 1984; in this year's 30th-anniversary event, 192 teams of students, alumni and faculty competed on 24 courts for prizes and most importantly, UB bragging rights.





Thanks to you,

the information I need is at my fingertips!

Hillary Chiarella is an organizer. “I make to-do lists like no other,” says the sophomore environmental engineering major. “My calendar is on my computer, and it comes with me everywhere so I can allocate how much time to spend on each thing and still get everything done.” Hillary has interned with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and the City of Buffalo Urban Fellows program. As a student assistant coordinator working approximately 20 hours each week at Silverman Library’s information desk, Hillary is often the first point of contact within the Libraries for students and visitors. “Lots of students study in Silverman Library,” she says. “It’s bright and open, and people love it. I especially love the fact that I can count on the Libraries for the information I need to succeed!”

Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning, discovery and service to society. library.buffalo.edu/support

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