Boldly Bloomsday!

Future plans for UB’s James Joyce Collection announced with the unveiling of a new mural in the city of Buffalo.
Together Again

Welcome to the Summer 2021 issue of UB Libraries Today. A sense of optimism and excitement is in the air as we begin to emerge from the health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 global pandemic and prepare to welcome our entire UB community back to campus for the start of the fall semester.

In reflecting upon the many changes and uncertainties we have experienced this year, I am deeply grateful for the resiliency and perseverance of our librarians and staff. They have worked tirelessly to provide the print materials, electronic resources, streaming media, e-books, and educational resources necessary to support the university’s research, teaching and learning initiatives. Moving forward, we are planning to build on what we’ve learned during the pandemic by delivering additional online programs, enhancing access to our collections, and developing innovative new ways to assist students and scholars.

This issue’s cover story focuses on the recent launch of a new public art mural in downtown Buffalo promoting UB’s renowned James Joyce Collection and future plans for a James Joyce Museum in Abbott Library on the South Campus. With the creation of a permanent, accessible exhibition space, we aim to share this singular collection, allowing it to have a larger and more impactful role in the community and beyond.

Other stories found within these pages bring you up to date on several recent Libraries’ initiatives, including a poster project exhibition recognizing the importance of equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice across the university, the Libraries’ Open Educational Resources (OER) Studio promoting educational equity, and a unique collection documenting Western New York labor history.

I hope you enjoy this quick snapshot of some of the things we’ve been up to in the UB Libraries over the past few months. As always, please reach out to us at library@buffalo.edu if you have any questions about our collections, services or programs.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer!

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie
Vice Provost for University Libraries
The year 2000 was a turning point for Daniel Liberthson, PhD ’75 & MA ’74. He turned 50, but his birthday wasn’t just a personal milestone; it was the catalyst that would change his life goals.

Liberthson’s love of language had always run deep. But after nearly three decades as a successful medical writer, he felt it was finally time to pursue his true passion: poetry. “At 50 I realized, ‘I think I have more to say in poetry—so, I’d better start saying it,’” he recalls.

Since then, Liberthson has self-published several of his works, and now he’s giving back to his alma mater, a place so rooted in his path to poetry. “This bequest is an acknowledgment of where I came from, and who helped me along the way,” he says.

His gift, which will establish the Dan Liberthson Acquisition Fund for the Poetry Collection and the Dan Liberthson Award for Independently Published Poetry, was created to support the work of aspiring poets like himself. “When you give to an area of your passion or your strength, it does more for you than it takes from you,” says Liberthson. “This bequest is a contribution beyond my own life, one that will hopefully inspire future generations.”

Liberthson, who also generously supported UB’s James Joyce Collection, hopes his gift will provide writers the resources to share their work more broadly, regardless of when they start. “This is an alternative path for people who didn’t start out writing poetry when they were younger,” he says. “Maybe they started out later, like I did, but they’re still looking for a way to share their work with the world.”

The prize, which will fund poets who design and write their own books, is one Liberthson hopes will carry prestige, and more importantly, inspire future generations of writers to self-publish.

In addition to the poetry prize, his gift will also contribute to the Poetry Collection’s goal of acquiring all publications of 20th- and 21st-century poetry in English, “a fitting way to use my own legacy to ensure the immortality of these works, and their authors,” says Liberthson.

“Writing poetry was a way to enrich my life,” he says. “It feels good to build something in the world, and that’s what these gifts are about. I hope they will inspire others to value their own poetry, and make more of it.”

Liberthson has published five books of poetry, a fantasy novel for young adults and most recently an espionage novel.
The University Libraries note with sadness the death of University Archivist Amy J. Vilz who passed away on March 4, 2021. A native of Buffalo, New York, Vilz received her BA and MLS degrees from UB and held several archival positions throughout Western New York before joining the University Libraries in 2013.

Among her many professional accomplishments, Vilz initiated a large-scale project to digitize the UB Archives’ vast audiovisual holdings, including speeches by Robert F. Kennedy, Angela Davis and Timothy Leary. She also served as co-editor-in-chief of the open access journal *The Reading Room*.

Vilz’ family members say she worked to help people understand the importance of preserving history as a way of better appreciating the present and planning for the future. Described as remarkable, creative and courageous by those who knew her, Vilz is remembered as a kind and generous teacher, mentor, colleague and friend.

“Libraries Out Loud,” a podcast series developed by a team of UB librarians and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, made its debut in February 2021. The series gives listeners an opportunity to discover the connections between the University Libraries and the research, learning, teaching and creative activities underway in the UB community.

Produced monthly, podcast episodes feature conversations with UB librarians and staff, interviews with faculty and researchers, and discussions focusing on emerging trends, new initiatives and the wealth of scholarly resources available in the Libraries and the University at Buffalo.

Since last year, Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries, has collaborated with University Advancement to host a virtual book club for members of the Loyal Blues, a recognition group for UB’s annual donors to the university. At a time when many were separated from family and friends due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Loyal Blues Book Club has proven to be a great way for readers to virtually connect.

The first book, *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez, was introduced in March 2020 and since that time, the group has read four additional titles: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie, *City of Light* by Lauren Belfer, *Dubliners* by James Joyce and *Kindred* by Octavia Butler. With nearly 300 members and growing, the Loyal Blues Book Club generally reads three to four books a year.

Members receive weekly emails with questions and additional materials with links to related podcasts, articles, and videos, guiding them through each section of the book. Readers can engage in a Facebook Forum for discussion, and there are also opportunities to attend online lectures presented by university experts. At the conclusion of each book, Vice Provost Weinraub Lajoie leads an interactive online discussion, giving members an opportunity to delve deeper into each selection.

Learn more: buffal.edu/giving/loyal-blues
Abbott Library...Once Again

A landmark building on UB’s South Campus has had several different names over the years. Designed by architect E. B. Green and dedicated in 1935, this iconic structure was originally the home of Lockwood Memorial Library. In 1977, following the relocation of Lockwood Library to the North Campus, the building was renamed in honor of Charles D. Abbott. A distinguished book collector, Abbott was director of UB Libraries from 1934-1960 and founder of the university’s renowned Poetry Collection.

In the mid-1980s, following an extensive renovation to serve the growing health sciences community more efficiently, the building was named the Health Sciences Library (HSL). Today, this distinctive structure once again returns to the name Abbott Library, and a new sign on the building’s façade reflects this change. In addition to housing the Health Sciences Collection, Abbott Library is also home to the Architecture & Planning Collection and the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection.

Our delivery services remain essential during challenging times. From assisting UB faculty with acquiring course materials, to helping with online course support, to fielding questions and concerns about our services, we continue to deliver.”

Sui Mei Grierson, Course Reserve and Circulation Supervisor

Stephen M. Roberts
1949 - 2020

The University at Buffalo community mourns the passing of Stephen M. Roberts, former associate vice president for University Libraries, who died Sept. 21, 2020. Roberts joined the UB Libraries in 1977 and held several key administrative positions during his 30-plus years as a member of the Libraries’ staff. Under his leadership, the Libraries accomplished a number of important initiatives, including digitization of library collections, enhanced resource sharing among SUNY libraries, and construction of the Libraries’ off-site storage annex.
What does it mean to be Black in America? That question is the focus of exhibitions currently on display in Silverman Library, Abbott Library and the UB Student Union. Responding to an important moment in our nation’s history, the University at Buffalo’s Campus Living, Intercultural and Diversity Center, and Student Life’s Social Justice Advisory Committee developed the Black Lives Matter Poster Project, an initiative acknowledging the university’s support for and promotion of racial equity.

The project is the brainchild of Mary Clare Fahey, assistant director for residential inclusion in UB Campus Living. She wanted to ensure that Black students felt supported by their university when they returned to campus last fall following a summer of nationwide protests focused on police brutality and demands for racial equity. “I want people to know that there are people here at UB who are here for them, who love them, who really do believe they matter with all their heart,” Fahey says.

After seeing the project highlighted during President Satish K. Tripathi’s State of the University address in October 2020, members of the University Libraries’ communications team recognized the magnitude of the message. They contacted Fahey and offered the Libraries’ assistance in promoting awareness of this project. Fahey’s answer was a resounding, “Yes!”

Using images and text provided by Fahey and her colleagues, Libraries’ designer, Kristopher Miller, created two exhibitions, one for Silverman Library on UB’s North Campus and another for Abbott Library on the South Campus.

Both exhibitions showcase framed posters of UB students and faculty, with the individual’s thoughts on social justice, social equality and the BLM movement superimposed on their portraits. The Black Lives Matter Poster Project gives UB students, faculty and staff of all races and backgrounds the opportunity to share their perspectives in their own words. "Black Lives Matter is a two-way street. The project is one of the many ways we can do our part to support our students and the Black Lives Matter movement. The exhibitions will remain on view through the fall 2021 semester."
United We Bargain

The Richard Lipsitz Jr. Collection on Labor Organizing in Western New York

A unique collection in the University Archives speaks directly to the history of the labor movement in Western New York. Richard Lipsitz Jr., former president of the Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and a prominent figure in the region’s labor movement, has spent decades documenting and gathering materials related to local labor unions.

When searching for a fitting place to house this extensive collection, Lipsitz chose the University Archives. He wanted to ensure that this series of labor movement publications and memorabilia, which is directly connected to Buffalo and Western New York, stays in Buffalo and remains accessible to students and researchers.

From negotiating for reasonable hours and safer working conditions, to securing health benefits and striving for fair and equitable wages for all workers, labor unions have significantly impacted the lives of American workers. The Richard Lipsitz Jr. Collection on Labor Organizing in Western New York chronicles this powerful story through the lens of Buffalo’s labor unions, offering insight and perspective on the role of local and regional unions in politics, education and the welfare of workers.

More than fifty years of labor union memorabilia are found in this collection. Bumper stickers and buttons with such phrases as “Save our Children’s Hospital,” “Health Care for All,” and “SEIU: Justice for Janitors: Fighting for Good Jobs for our Communities” highlight issues that were significant decades ago and remain relevant today. Publications, meeting minutes and correspondence related to various labor organizations, such as the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the Western New York Area Labor Federation, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), make up a significant portion of this compendium of materials. Photographs, posters, commemorative items and clippings of articles on labor topics from local periodicals give the collection added depth. Colorful pinback buttons, lapel pins and promotional materials help to complete this the story of the work of labor unions in Western New York.

Richard Lipsitz Jr. has a connection to the University at Buffalo through his late father, attorney Richard Lipsitz Sr. (1920-2018, UB Law ’43). His father, whose papers are housed in the University Archives, specialized in union-side labor relations law and civil liberties. Thanks to both father and son, Western New York labor relations history is well documented in the University Archives.
From left: Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, James Maynard, Ciarán Madden, Tim Kennedy and Satish K. Tripathi stand together in front of the new James Joyce mural.

Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki
Heeding the words of James Joyce’s “The Dead” that it is “Better [to] pass boldly... in the full glory of some passion,” UB Libraries made a bold statement on June 14 by introducing a 36-foot-tall mural of James Joyce and announcing ambitious plans to create a museum to showcase its James Joyce Collection and secure its stature as the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of materials by the acclaimed author.

The June 14 celebration, just ahead of Bloomsday, included a press event that featured UB President Satish K. Tripathi, Consul General of Ireland in New York Ciarán Madden, New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy, Vice Provost for University Libraries Evviva Weinraub Lajoie and Poetry Collection Curator James Maynard. Nearly 80 UB alumni, friends, faculty, staff and Western New York community members gathered to hear the announcement and then moved across the street to the Curtiss Hotel for a reception on its rooftop patio that overlooks Buffalo’s newest mural.

Located at 181 Franklin St.—outside of the LoTempio P.C. Law Group building in Buffalo—the mural, which was designed by Kristopher Miller, UB Libraries web manager and lead designer, and installed by Rory Allen, owner of Buffalo-based ZoomCopy.com, depicts Joyce in an archival photograph from the UB James Joyce Collection juxtaposed against a vibrant background of yellow, orange and pink hues.

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The mural is part of a larger initiative to invite a broad global audience to discover and experience James Joyce through the UB James Joyce Collection. At the center of this initiative are plans to create a James Joyce Museum in historic Abbott Hall on UB’s South Campus, creating a permanent exhibition space for visitors from across the globe to experience for themselves the rare materials and the very life and history of Joyce. As part of the university’s Boldly Buffalo fundraising campaign that recently increased to a goal of $1 billion, UB Libraries also aims to secure significant funding for a preservation and acquisitions endowment, a James Joyce curator position, and programming and exhibition funds.

"Building a museum space in which to share our Joyce collection with a wider and more inclusive audience is a wonderful example of the kind of impact...

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**Bloomsday**

Bloomsday is recognized internationally on June 16—the same day Ulysses takes place in 1904—to celebrate the enigmatic story of a day in the life of protagonist Leopold Bloom in Dublin.
that philanthropy to UB can make on the world,” stated James Maynard, PhD, curator of the Poetry Collection—home of the UB James Joyce Collection.

“A collection of this significance deserves a prominent home where it can easily be seen by people from around the world. Such a permanent exhibition space will increase public access to our Joyce collection and enable it to have a larger and more impactful role at the university, in the local and regional communities, and for visitors to Buffalo. In this regard, we think of our new mural as a metaphor for what we can accomplish by making the UB James Joyce Collection more publicly accessible within the city of Buffalo and beyond.”

President Tripathi said the Joyce collection, as well as other materials acquired and preserved by the UB Libraries, play a key role in boosting UB’s reputation for educational excellence in the U.S. and abroad.

“This significant scholarly treasure enhances UB’s international reputation and impact. And both our UB Poetry Collection and our UB James Joyce Collection play a wider role in our ambition to situate UB among top 25 public research universities in the nation,” he said.
Ciarán Madden, the consul general of Ireland in New York, was instrumental in making the mural project possible by facilitating a strategic diaspora grant from Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Amherst Gaelic League, Alphonse Kołodziejczak, PhD ’14, MA ’12 & BA ’71, and Frank LoTempio, JD ’97, and the LoTempio family generously supported the mural project.

Madden praised UB Libraries’ plans to make the collection, which includes Joyce’s manuscripts, personal belongings and other ephemera, more easily accessible to the public. The Consulate General of Ireland in New York works closely with Ireland’s Embassy, other consulates and state agencies in the U.S. to help maintain and enhance links with the Irish American diaspora and promote Irish culture in new and traditional forms. It also works with these entities to pursue opportunities that will deliver economic growth and jobs for Ireland. James Joyce is one of Ireland’s most recognized literary figures and prominently features the city of Dublin in his works.

The mural and plans for the museum arrive ahead of the 2022 centenary of the publication of James Joyce’s Ulysses, one of his most revered works and widely considered a masterpiece of 20th-century literature. “Personally, in anticipation of an exciting 2022, I want to say how much I am looking forward to promoting these fundraising goals for the UB James Joyce Collection worldwide as we develop programming with partners in Ireland and the U.S. like the Consulate General in New York to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Joyce’s Ulysses,” said Maynard. “In all these endeavors, our goal is nothing less than to invite the entire world to experience the literary life and works of Ireland’s James Joyce, while ensuring the continuation of the UB James Joyce Collection as an international destination for research and discovery.”

For more information about the UB James Joyce Collection and its future plans, including the museum and 2022 centenary of the publication of Ulysses, visit library.buffalo.edu/jamesjoyce.

Still was introduced to UB Special Collections in 2014 in a bit of Irish serendipity, when at a UB scholarship gala he bid on a whiskey and cheese reception with family and friends hosted by the Libraries’ Poetry Collection. “When I saw UB owned such renowned materials, I wanted to support its key acquisitions even more,” Still said.

He is now making an additional bold investment to help the UB James Joyce Collection—the world’s largest—become more accessible and visible to a broader global audience. Poetry Collection Curator James Maynard appreciates both the timing and the impact of Still’s generosity. “With the 100th anniversary of Ulysses coming quickly in 2022, the gift will harness the growing momentum of this literary milestone and help bring awareness and additional support for UB’s Joyce Museum,” says Maynard.

Still hopes his gift will inspire others to follow his lead by matching all gifts received in support of the UB James Joyce Museum up to $100,000 between now and June 16, 2022. And he is doing so in memory of Mr. Terry Gaffney, who along with his family attended Still’s initial reception in the Poetry Collection. Says Still, “This gift is made in his honor. A man of great intellect and warm heart, he welcomed me and my partner Terrie into the warmth of his family. He wore the tartan of Scotland but embraced the depth of Irish culture.”

To participate in the Stephen E. Still, BS ’76, Challenge for the UB James Joyce Museum, contact Erin Hartnett, director of advancement for University Libraries, at ehhartne@buffalo.edu or visit buffalo.edu/campaign/joycemuseum.
Open Educational Resources

As the costs associated with higher education continue to rise, UB librarians are actively exploring new and experimental models to alleviate those costs by seeking solutions that benefit students and align with the university’s standards for a high-quality education for everyone.

One such solution is the development of open educational resources (OER)—teaching, learning and research materials free and accessible to anyone, anywhere. The use of OER has saved UB students an estimated $1.3 million in textbook expenses in the past few years. Many OER materials are in the public domain, while others are licensed in a manner that provides everyone with free and perpetual permission to engage in the “Five Rights” or the “Five Rs”: that is, to retain, reuse, revise, remix and redistribute content.

This new and growing field has increasingly become a priority with academic libraries. To assist in the further development and use of OER at UB, the University Libraries have launched the OER Studio.

Chris Hollister, head of scholarly communication for University Libraries, oversees the Studio and works closely with university faculty and instructors to create open, free and accessible course materials for their teaching. Hollister and Joe Patton, assistant librarian, provide expertise in creating, licensing and publishing OER. They are available to advise UB instructors about incorporating OER into their teaching, to advance general developments in OER use, and to promote the benefits of open education moving forward.

A variety of programming initiatives on topics ranging from open education and open pedagogy to educational technology, accessibility and instructional design are presented through the Studio. For instance, the Studio’s fellowship program, the OER Curriculum, allows competitively-selected faculty an opportunity to develop OER-based courses. By using formats such as multimedia, virtual reality, integrated homework modules, and student response systems, the OER Curriculum concentrates on developing course content beyond traditional texts.

Hollister and Patton consult with UB’s Open Education Research Lab and with interested faculty who investigate OER efficacy, student and faculty perceptions of open course materials, and other aspects related to OER-based teaching. OER Studio librarians are also focused on investigating questions around the themes of effective professional development, sustainable OER practices, and the extent to which course instructors consume versus create or share OER materials.

The Libraries’ OER Studio is taking an important step toward achieving the goal of providing access to, and affordability of, higher education for all.

Learn more at research.lib.buffalo.edu/affordable-and-open/OER-studio
The University at Buffalo and the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences are celebrating 175 years of medicine at UB. To mark this milestone, Associate Librarian Nell Aronoff and Assistant Librarian Matt Gadziala created a research guide called “175 Years of Medicine at UB.” Says Gadziala, “We wanted to celebrate the anniversary by drawing from some of the fascinating collections of primary sources we have available in the Libraries. In our research, we came across stories about the people associated with the school and tidbits about life at the university throughout its history.”

Aronoff and Gadziala used resources from the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection and the University Archives to gather some fun facts, share brief biographies of the founders, and highlight some notable faculty and alumni. Dr. James Platt White, one of the original faculty when the Buffalo Medical College was founded in 1846, was a pioneer in obstetrics education. In 1850, he conducted America’s first demonstration of clinical midwifery, the examination of a pregnant woman and delivery of her baby in front of medical students. The practice was considered controversial at the time but eventually became an essential part of medical education.

Faculty and alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the fields of medicine and biomedical sciences also appear in this guide. For example, Dr. Roswell Park, longtime chair of the Department of Surgery, established the world’s first research laboratory devoted to the study of cancer in 1898. Dr. Herbert A. Hauptmann, a biophysical sciences professor, and his collaborator, Jerome Karle, were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1985. Dr. Marcella Farinelli Fierro, MD ’66, once served as Virginia’s chief medical examiner. Fierro later became the inspiration for best-selling crime novelist Patricia Cornwell’s popular character, medical examiner Kay Scarpetta. Throughout the guide there are additional examples of the exceptional accomplishments of UB’s medical school faculty and alumni.

While exploring two of the UB Libraries’ Digital Collections, the University at Buffalo Yearbooks and The Buffalo Physician Magazine, Aronoff and Gadziala discovered little-known facts about the history of the medical school. In addition to pictures, poems and prophecies, they came across yells and or cheers for early UB medical school classes, such as this refrain from 1906:

“Cut, slash, carve, stir, rub, mix. U.B. Medics 1906!”

Both the medical school and the university have come a long way since the inaugural class of 17 students graduated in 1847. “175 Years of Medicine at UB” provides an intriguing and informative glimpse of the school’s history. As Aronoff notes, “If the past is any indication, they will continue to flourish for many years to come.”
Dedicated Duo

Özlem “Özzie” Sahan has been a familiar sight in the Charles B. Sears Law Library since 2019, where she and her friendly service dog Cherry greet students and staff. Even during the uncertain days of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether assisting patrons, checking out library materials, or closing the library at the end of the day, this duo has been a steady presence in the Law Library. “We look forward to having Özzie and Cherry at our service desk,” says her supervisor Melissa Bednarz, adding, “Cherry is a real asset when students are stressed out.”

Though Özzie is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering, she enjoys broadening her knowledge by browsing through the Law Library’s collection and learning more about different aspects of the law. “I appreciate having a quiet place to work and I enjoy the comfortable, calming atmosphere of being in a setting surrounded by books,” she says. “Seeing the students in the Law Library after studying for exams all night makes me smile. In my mind, this is a true picture of college life.” Born in Turkey, Özzie comes to UB from Brooklyn, New York. She will be graduating in 2022 and has enjoyed her UB experience so much that she hopes to pursue a career in a city much like Buffalo.

We wish Özzie and Cherry the best!

Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning, discovery and service to society: library.buffalo.edu/support
Back to campus! 1979 photo from the University Archives of a student moving into Governors Complex on UB’s North Campus.