

# UB Libraries *Today*

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A Collaborative Effort  
to Preserve History

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Records  
Find a Home in the University Archives



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

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## Vice Provost for University Libraries

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie

## Editor

Denise Wolfe

## Creative Director/Designer

Kristopher Miller

## Senior Communicator

Scott Hollander

## Contributors

Karlen Chase  
Hope Dunbar  
Alison Fraser  
Bert Gambini  
Keith Mages  
Bryan Sajecki  
Denise Wolfe

## On the Cover

Clockwise from left: Barbara Seals  
Nevergold, Stephen Lane, Lillian Williams  
and BreAnna Rice. Photo: Douglas Levere



## Contact Us

Email: [library@buffalo.edu](mailto:library@buffalo.edu) or  
US Mail: 433 Capen Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260



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The UB Libraries proudly house rare first editions of Charles Dickens' and William Thackeray's Christmas classics. These treasures, part of the Thomas

B. Lockwood Collection in Rare and Special Books, showcase exquisite illustrations and timeless stories.

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from **EVVIVA**

# Greetings!

Welcome to the winter issue of *UB Libraries Today*, where we celebrate the remarkable achievements, acquisitions and transformations happening in our university libraries.

This issue's cover story shines a spotlight on an extraordinary new addition to the University Archives: a series of ledgers and documents from St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Buffalo, N.Y.—one of the oldest African American Episcopal congregations in the country. These records, dating back to the mid-19th century, are now carefully preserved and available both digitally and physically.

They offer an invaluable glimpse into the rich history and heritage of this vibrant community. This acquisition underscores our commitment to preserving and sharing diverse narratives that shape our collective past.

We are particularly proud of a recent acquisition: a small but significant collection of materials related to the assassination of President William McKinley. The materials included in this collection will provide new research opportunities on a pivotal moment in American history.

There are some "firsts" in UB Libraries to celebrate. You'll read about the university's first curator for the Rare Books and Special Books Collection, Alison Fraser. Her expertise and vision will enhance our unique holdings while ensuring that our rare materials continue to educate and inspire for generations to come.

Another exceptional achievement comes from Elizabeth Adelman, our first librarian to be appointed to the prestigious rank of SUNY Distinguished Librarian—an honor that reflects her excellent service, scholarship and leadership.

In addition to these milestones, I am excited to announce that Silverman Library has unveiled a brand-new entrance, offering more convenient access and a seamless connection to the academic spine, making it more welcoming and accessible to all. Complementing this is the relocation of the Music Library to an updated and distinct space within Lockwood Library. This new space is designed to heighten the study and enjoyment of musical scholarship while introducing the materials to a wider audience.

Finally, explore a fascinating exhibit in our Poetry Collection, focusing on queer occult poetics—an intriguing intersection of art, identity and mysticism. This exhibit promises thought-provoking insights and creative dialogue.

Our libraries continue to grow, innovate and preserve, ensuring that we remain a dynamic hub for scholarship and discovery. I invite you to explore these exciting updates and more in this issue of *UB Libraries Today*.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

**Evviva Weinraub Lajoie**, Vice Provost for University Libraries





# Alison Fraser

First Curator of UB's Rare and Special Books Collection

MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

“UB has an incredible treasure here, and I'm honored to help unlock its potential for future generations.”

For the first time in the University at Buffalo's history, its Rare and Special Books Collection has a dedicated curator. Alison Fraser, a scholar deeply passionate about book history, has been appointed as the collection's inaugural curator, overseeing more than 17,000 volumes dating from 1450 to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This new role marks a significant step in enhancing the collection's visibility and availability.

Fraser, who earned her PhD in English from UB, brings a wealth of expertise to the position. “My background is in twentieth-century poetics,” Fraser explained. Her research on “homemade” books by American women poets sparked a broader interest in book history. To further her knowledge, Fraser pursued advanced training in pre-1900 books at the University of Virginia's Rare Book School and has earned a certificate of general proficiency. She has also been named a Senior Fellow in Critical Bibliography and was a co-chair of the 2024 Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Conference.

Since stepping into her role, Fraser has been highlighting notable works within the collection. “My first response was amazement that UB has such a fantastic resource,” she shared. Some of the collection's highlights include a first British edition of *Wuthering Heights* (1847) and a 1668 edition of Athanasius Kircher's *Mundus Subterraneus*, filled with

detailed engravings of the earth's interior and mythical creatures.

The collection is a valuable asset for students and scholars alike. “In the spring 2024 semester, a group of students from the Romance Languages and Literatures department completed an independent study on the Gran Colombia Collection,” Fraser noted. “This fall, a student from the Classics department worked on an independent study using ancient Greek and Roman coins.”

Fraser is also committed to increasing the collection's availability to the public. “We've worked to digitize materials like the Charlotte Brontë notebook and are currently in the process of digitizing the Gran Colombia Collection,” she said. Looking ahead, she aims to diversify the collection's holdings to include more works by women, people of color, and the LGBTQA+ community. She also hopes to establish an acquisitions endowment to support future growth.

With Fraser leading the way, UB's Rare and Special Books Collection is poised for a future of discovery and expanded engagement. “UB has an incredible treasure here,” Fraser said, “and I'm honored to help unlock its potential for future generations.”



## LIBRARY NEWS



### Beth Adelman

UB's First SUNY Distinguished Librarian

Elizabeth Adelman, director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and vice dean for legal information services in the School of Law, has been named UB's first SUNY Distinguished Librarian. This prestigious honor, SUNY's highest faculty rank, recognizes Adelman's contributions to academic librarianship and her transformative impact on the field.

As the first person at UB to attain this recognition, Adelman sets a benchmark for excellence, exemplifying the vital role that academic libraries play in fostering knowledge and innovation.



MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

## The Language of Magic

The Poetry Collection's new exhibit, *The Language of Magic: Queer Occult Poetics*, explores how poets, artists, and activists of the San Francisco Renaissance engaged with the occult to shape queer identity. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday in 420 Capen Hall, North Campus, the exhibition is also available for tours by contacting the Poetry Collection.

Curated by Alison Fraser, associate curator of the Poetry Collection, the exhibition highlights a movement in the 1950s-60s during

which queer artists connected occult themes with hidden expressions of identity. Key figures like poet Robert Duncan and artist Helen Adam pushed creative boundaries in gender, sexuality and language. Artifacts on display include Elsa Gidlow's *On a Grey Thread*, the first openly lesbian love poetry book published in the U.S., and a letter from Harvey Milk to poet Bruce Boone.

"This exhibition shares the courage and creativity of these writers," says Fraser.

## FM88/WBFO

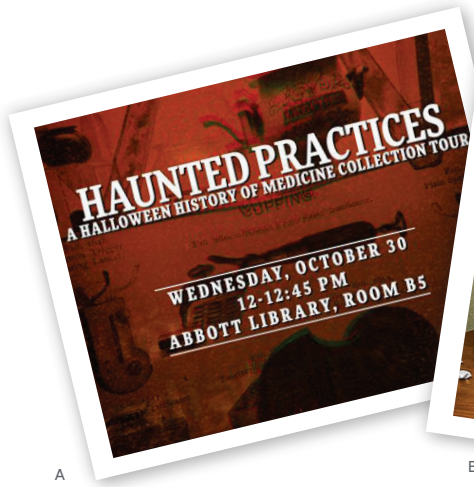
The University Archives is home to the UB-WBFO Radio Archive, a vital piece of Western New York and UB history. The archive features over 2,000 hours of audio recordings and 40 linear feet of archival station records, featuring voices on civil rights, environmental design, and local social history. Since 2017, UB has been digitizing the

archive's recordings to prevent material degradation and ensure their longevity. Partnering with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting, the University Archives aims to make the collection openly available to the public, highlighting hidden regional and national history through the unique lens of public radio journalism.





A. Haunted Practices in the History of Medicine.  
 B. Taylor Swift LP's in the Music Library.  
 C. Paws and Relax: Halloween Stress Relief Day.



A



B



C

Let's get Social!

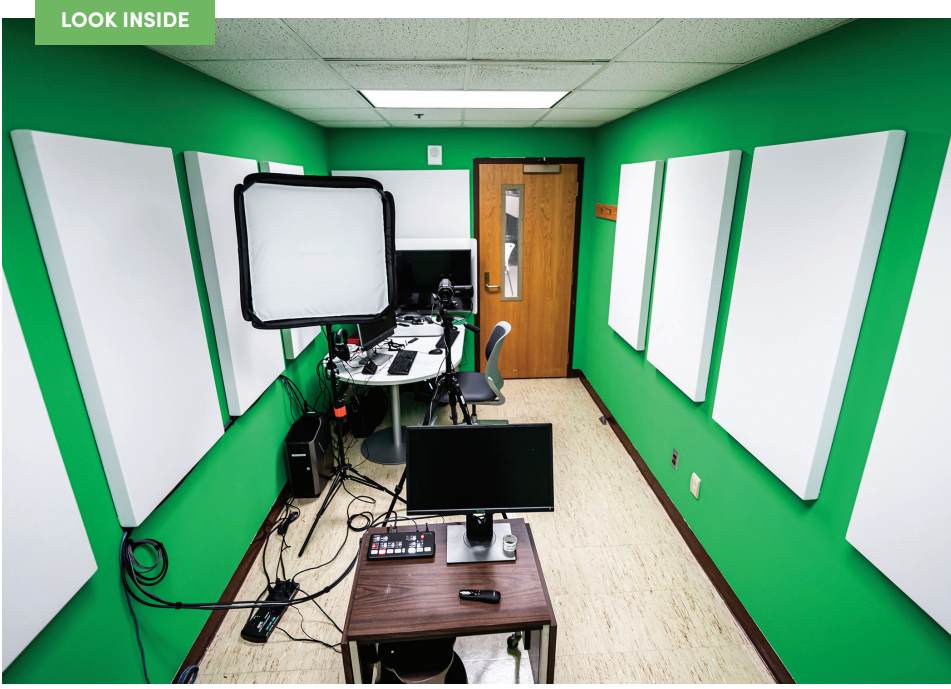


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# Now Open!

## South Campus Recording Studio

Abbott Library's new recording studio, located in Room 120B on South Campus, expands multimedia services beyond North Campus, giving students, faculty and staff the ability to bring their multimedia projects to life with easy access to high-quality recording facilities. Equipped with advanced technology and professional-grade equipment, the studio is ideal for green screen recordings, conferencing, interviews and podcasting, with staff available for setup and consultations. This expansion supports the growing demand for multimedia resources and makes creative tools more accessible across campus.



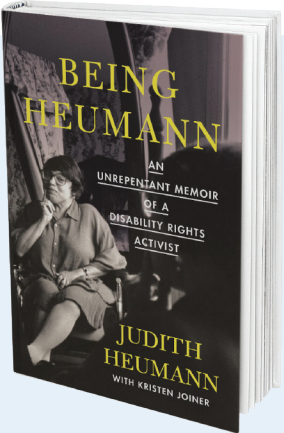
LOOK INSIDE

JULIE PAVLOCK

# What We're Reading

Over the summer on North Campus, I noticed crews replacing sidewalks with accessibility platforms—a now-common feature rooted in the disability rights movement. At the center of that battle was Judith Heumann, a tiny woman in a wheelchair with a loud voice. Paralyzed by polio at 18 months, *Being Heumann* chronicles her decades-long struggle for disability rights in the U.S. Facing exclusion from schooling and jobs due to her disability, Heumann chose to act, becoming an inspiring figure in the fight toward the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Readers will be humbled by the harrowing story of countless demonstrations, activism and planning towards equity for all.

**Bryan Sajecki**  
 Social Sciences, Student Support, and Instruction Librarian







DOUGLAS LEVERE

# New Spaces, New Experiences

Updated library spaces invite students to explore, connect and create

The University Libraries have introduced redesigned spaces at the Oscar A. Silverman Library and the relocated Music Library, transforming these hubs into accessible, vibrant environments that support academic exploration and creativity. These projects reflect UB Libraries' commitment to creating student-centered spaces that enhance accessibility and foster a dynamic campus community.

The Oscar A. Silverman Library, located in Capen Hall, has unveiled a new entrance on the second floor, offering improved access for students, faculty and visitors. The entrance, part of UB's Heart of the Campus initiative, features floor-to-ceiling glass, bringing natural light into the library, while an expanded vestibule, additional seating, and a new services desk streamline access and ensure visitors can quickly find assistance. Recent renovations, including fresh paint in contemporary hues, new coordinating carpeting, and modern furniture, have transformed the second floor into a sleek, inviting area that complements the functionality of the new entryway.

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries, expressed her excitement about the new entrance, saying, "We are delighted to unveil this new entrance, which beautifully integrates Silverman Library into the larger Heart of the Campus initiative. This is a major step forward in enhancing the student experience." Designed with accessibility in mind, the entrance complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), making it convenient for all visitors to explore the library's extensive resources.

Meanwhile, the Music Library has found a new home on the fifth floor of Lockwood Memorial Library, moving from Baird Hall to a space with greater visibility and modern amenities. The newly positioned Music Library provides a comfortable, bright setting for students across disciplines to explore the collection, which includes over 224,000 items. Deborah Chiarella, associate librarian and liaison to the Departments of Music and Theatre and Dance, expressed enthusiasm about the relocation,



noting that “the Lockwood location will increase the visibility of this remarkable collection to users outside the Theatre and Dance department, and the Music department.”

Features of this redesigned area include modern furniture, listening stations for in-house use of sound media, individual workspaces and a new highlight in the Music Library: Piano Pods, soundproof, reservable rooms equipped with full-size Roland digital pianos. Open to students from any department, the pods offer headphones, keyboards, and USB connections for personalized practice, composition, and recording. This addition gives users the opportunity to browse and play scores on-site. The Music Library’s new location also offers listening stations where patrons can browse LPs and CDs, access record players and CD players onsite, or check out materials for use elsewhere. The Treasure Room, containing rare editions of books and scores, has also been relocated to Lockwood’s Room 517, available by appointment.

Together, these two incentives illustrate UB Libraries’ mission to enhance the campus experience with accessible, welcoming spaces. These projects open new pathways for study and creative expression, inviting students to discover all UB Libraries have to offer in spaces designed to inspire and support their academic journeys.



Sophia Finger, an information and library science student, explores the vast LP collection in the Music Library.



Treasure Room in the Music Library

JULIE PAVLOCK





Lillian Williams (left) and Barbara Seals Nevergold display some of the St. Philip's church records that will be preserved by University Archives.



# *A Collaborative Effort to* **Preserve History**

St. Philip's Episcopal Church Records Find a Home in the University Archives

**T**he University Archives recently received a significant addition to their collection: a series of ledgers and documents from St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Buffalo, N.Y., one of the oldest African American Episcopal congregations in the country. These records, dating back to the mid-19th century, are now preserved and available both digitally and physically, serving as a vital records repository for the community.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, established in 1861, holds a prominent place in Buffalo's history as the first Black Episcopal church in the area. This newly acquired collection includes early minute books, as well as baptism, marriage and burial records dating back to the church's founding, providing a comprehensive look into the lives and milestones of the congregation over the years, offering invaluable insights into the social, cultural, and religious history of Buffalo's Black community.

The journey that led to the University Archives being entrusted with the conservation and care of these historical records goes back many years and involved input and cooperation from various community members and historians. Dr. Lillian S. Williams, an associate professor in UB's Department of Africana and American Studies, was instrumental in ensuring the preservation of these materials. In the late 1970s, as part of the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier, Dr. Williams had the records microfilmed and deposited at Buffalo State College (now Buffalo State University), with the original documents returned to St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

Years later, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Barbara Seals Nevergold, a historian and co-founder of the Uncrowned



Marie Elia (left), Archivist for Special Collections, and Sarah Cogley, Digital Collections and Repositories Librarian

DOUGLAS LEVERIE

Queens Institute for Research & Education on Women, revisited the St. Philip's records as part of her research of Buffalo's earliest Black churches. Recognizing the fragile state of the materials, Dr. Nevergold, who had firsthand knowledge of their condition, sought to ensure their long-term preservation. She, along with Dr. Williams, approached the University Archives about safeguarding the records for posterity, emphasizing the importance of maintaining accessibility for both the congregation and the broader community.

In 2021, UB interim co-university archivists, Sarah Cogley and Marie Elia, met with Dr. Nevergold, Dr. Williams, Pastor Steve Lane of St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Josephine Cross, a senior warden of the church, to discuss the significance of St. Philip's and the broader role of Black churches in Buffalo. Pastor Lane



UB graduate student BreAnna Rice examines a selection of original documents from the St. Philip's Church records in the University Archives.



JULIE PAVLOCK

supported the idea of donating the records to the University Archives, which proposed a stewardship plan that included accelerated processing and digitization timelines.

One crucial component of the project was surveying the materials to determine how to best arrange and describe the collection. BreAnna Rice, a UB graduate student, took on the task of transcribing a portion of the ledgers and creating a finding aid for the collection as part of an experiential learning opportunity. Under the guidance of Cogley and Elia, Rice's work contributed to the descriptive metadata for the digitized collection, ensuring that the records were arranged and described in a way that highlights their historical significance.

"It was important to us to work with a student on this project, specifically a scholar whose research aligns with the collection. Rice's experience in the areas of African American literature and diaspora studies allowed her to convey the significance of the records beyond simple genealogical or historical facts," explained Marie Elia, archivist for Special Collections. "She read the 19th

and early 20th century records of the church—and transcribed some of the ledgers, which now serves as the basis for descriptive metadata for the digitized version of the collection."

As part of her work, Rice conducted interviews with Dr. Nevergold and other key figures to better understand the role of St. Philip's in the community. These interviews helped organize the files chronologically and brought to light significant periods in the church's history, such as the financial hardships it faced during the Great Depression. Dr. Williams provided additional details about former clergy and parishioners, including Dr. Joseph Robert Love, the first Black graduate of UB's medical school, and Henry Moxley, a former enslaved person who became a successful businessman and reformer in Buffalo, helping to fill in the historical record.

The records also revealed intimate aspects of the church's history, such as the Community Music School initiative from the early 1970s, resistance efforts during times of social turmoil, and the establishment of a food pantry to support those in need. Rice, who has taken a course on Black archives, expressed particular interest in these elements, noting, "The stories of resilience and community support that emerged from these records are truly inspiring."

After completing this project phase, Ronald Gaczewski, preservation and access services librarian, led a meticulous, months-long effort to stabilize and preserve the aging documents. His work made certain the records could be safely

“

Working on the St. Philip's collection has been an incredible learning experience. Transcribing the ledgers not only provided me with hands-on archival experience but also deepened my understanding of the church's rich history and its significance to the community.

– BreAnna Rice, UB graduate student

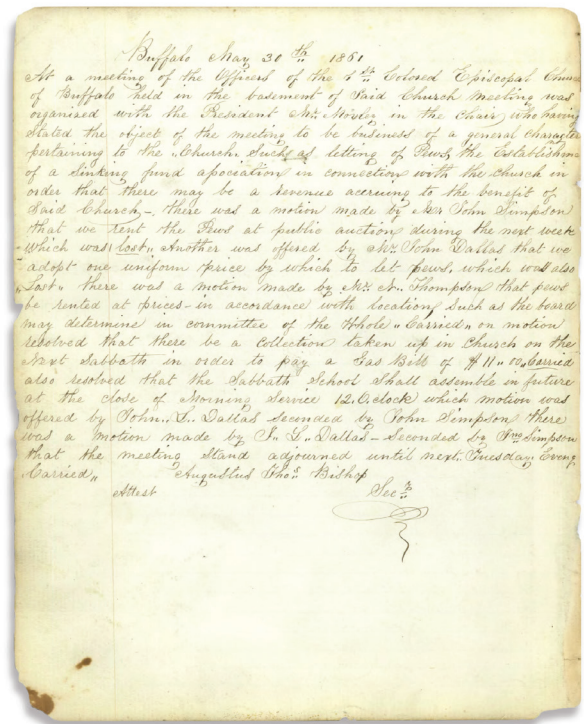


handled and accessed by researchers. "Our goal was to preserve these documents for future generations," Gaczewski explained. "It's rewarding to see them now accessible to both the community and scholars."

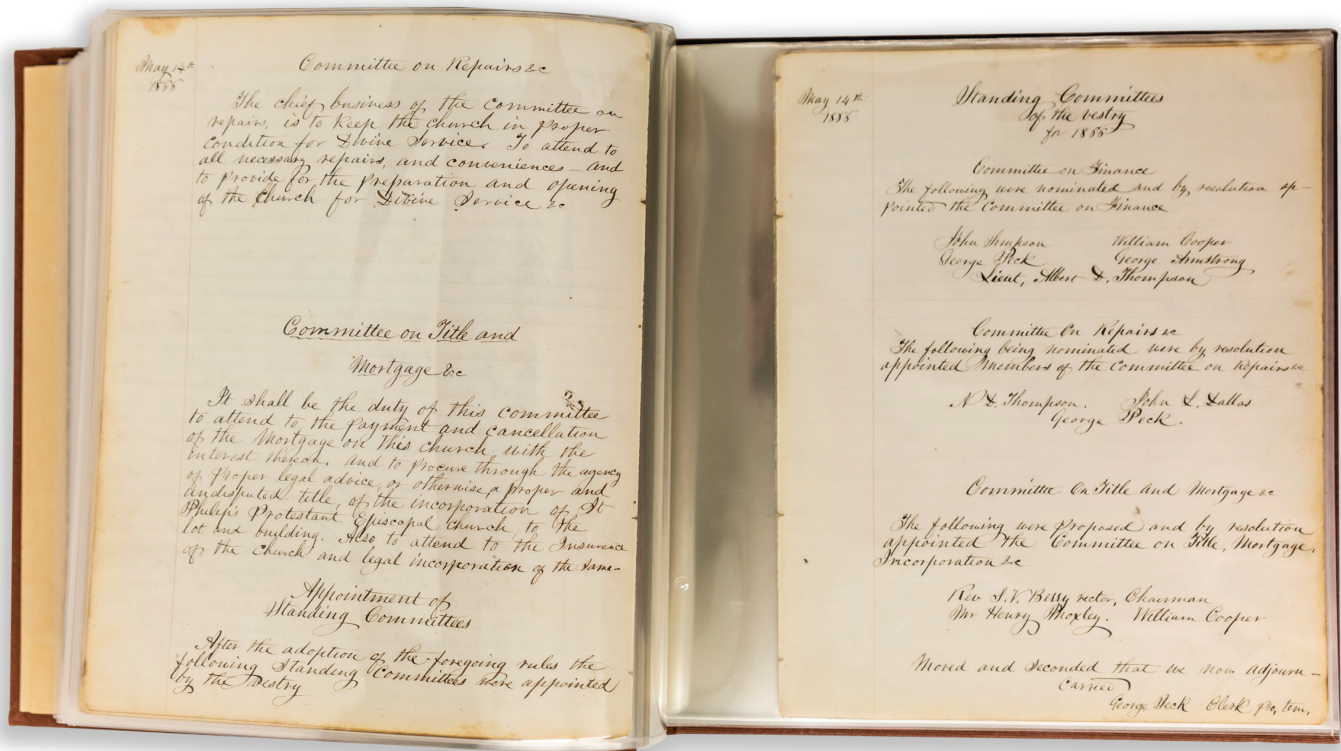
The University Archives has digitized the collection, ensuring that these invaluable records are preserved and publicly available for years to come, underscoring the importance of archival work in preserving history and providing insights into the lives of past generations. "The project is an excellent example of a partnership between the University Libraries and the community to build locally significant digital collections and provide broader access to important historical materials," observes Cogley, digital collections and repositories librarian.

Reflecting on her involvement in the project, Rice shared, "Working on the St. Philip's collection has been an incredible learning experience. Transcribing the ledgers not only provided me with hands-on archival experience but also deepened my understanding of the church's rich history and its significance to the community."

For more information on the St. Philip's Episcopal Church Collection, visit the University Archives' digital collections on UB Libraries' website or contact the University Archives.



Vestry Minutes, 1861-1874, St. Philip's Episcopal Church Collection, University at Buffalo Digital Collections

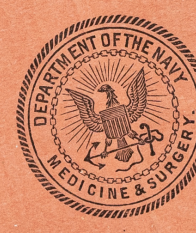


Vestry Minutes, 1861-1874, St. Philip's Episcopal Church records, University Archives, University at Buffalo





LATE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.



SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

EXTRACTED FROM THE REPORT OF

Dr. Mattinger's Notes  
on President McKinley's  
Case.



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**William McKinley** was the 25th president of the United States, serving from March 4, 1897, until his assassination on September 14, 1901, after leading the nation to victory in the Spanish-American War and raising protective tariffs to promote American industry.



# Autopsy Archive

## Rare McKinley Assassination Documents Acquired by the History of Medicine Collection

**T**he University at Buffalo (UB) Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection has added a rare and historically significant set of documents related to the 1901 assassination of President William McKinley. Known as the Matzinger Collection, this archive contains autopsy reports, medical notes, and personal documents belonging to Dr. Herman Matzinger, a professor of clinical pathology at UB's medical school, who was involved in McKinley's autopsy. The materials offer new insight into the president's medical care and the investigation following his death.

"This is an incredibly important acquisition," said Keith Mages, curator of UB's Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection. "It includes never-before-seen evidence related to McKinley's case, including the documentation of Dr. Matzinger's bacteriologic testing and subsequent autopsy. We're excited to have these documents back in Buffalo, available to researchers and the public alike."

On Sept. 6, 1901, President McKinley was shot twice at close range by anarchist Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. Initially, doctors believed the surgery to remove the bullet was successful, but McKinley's health soon deteriorated. He died on September 14, becoming the third U.S. president to be assassinated. The government commissioned a detailed report to investigate the shooting, surgery and any underlying infections to address concerns about the cause of McKinley's death.

Matzinger, a respected medical professional and 1884 UB graduate, collaborated with Dr. Harvey Gaylord, a professor of surgical pathology at UB, on the autopsy. Matzinger conducted a

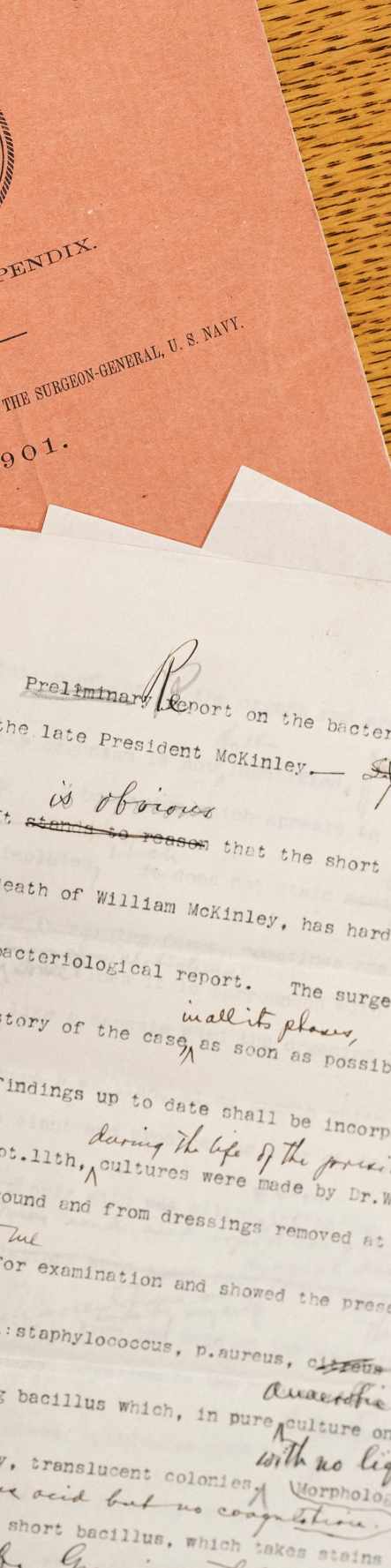
bacteriologic analysis of the bullet wound and surrounding tissues, to determine whether infection or poison played a role in McKinley's death. His findings, groundbreaking at the time, concluded that no pathogenic bacteria or poison contributed to the president's condition.

Matzinger's final report said, "The significant absence of known pathogenic bacteria, particularly in the necrotic cavity, warrants the conclusion that bacterial infection was not a factor." This confirmed that McKinley's death likely resulted from trauma-induced complications, including severe pancreatic injury—a condition that would have been impossible to treat in 1901.

The Matzinger Collection includes a variety of primary documents related to the assassination investigation. Items include Matzinger's 17-page notebook with lab notes, his final report on the autopsy, McKinley's funeral tickets and official death certificate acknowledgment, and personal letters and related ephemera. Many of these materials were previously unknown, significantly enhancing the collection's historical value.

The acquisition returns these artifacts to Buffalo, where they will serve as a resource for researchers and the public. "This collection provides new insight into a moment of national tragedy," said Mages. "It's a privilege to preserve this history and make it accessible to the Western New York community."

Matzinger's papers will be housed at UB's History of Medicine Collection, where they will deepen understanding of investigations into McKinley's death and the medical practices of the early 20th century.





# Ten Millimeter Pig

Art and Anatomy Bring Developmental Science to Life for Students

Among the fascinating items in the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine is a remarkable teaching tool that once aided University at Buffalo medical students in studying developmental anatomy. Authored by Dr. Erling S. Hegre, professor of Anatomy at the Medical College of Virginia, the 1967 model, *A Model Atlas of the Ten Millimeter Pig*, was created to guide students in studying the intricate details of an embryonic pig, magnified 16 times its original size.

Constructed with a wooden base and cover to protect the 546 delicate paper pages, the model showcases the embryo's external and internal anatomical features. Students would use the provided index to identify critical features, pausing to reassemble the model and connect their observations to the complete form—represented by an eye-catching bas-relief fetal pig on the closed model. This hands-on approach allowed a more immersive understanding of the pig's anatomy and engaged the students in a unique learning experience.

What makes this object even more intriguing is the collaboration between Dr. Hegre and artist John Conway, who brought the minuscule 10-millimeter fetal pig to life in a much larger and more accessible format. This unique combination of scientific precision and artistic skill, evident in every model detail, has resulted in a truly rare piece that will impress.

The model was generously donated to the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine by the Jacobs School of Medicine in 2024, ensuring that this extraordinary educational tool continues to inspire and educate future generations.



JULIE PAVLOCK



Donations, such as the Ten Millimeter Pig, are invaluable to the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection. They not only help us preserve unique educational artifacts but also enable us to expand our collection in ways that enhance our understanding of medical history.”

– Keith Mages, Curator, History of Medicine Collection





Lilly (left) and Hayden Radel on the third floor of Oscar A. Silverman Library

# Lilly and Hayden

## Fourth-Generation Students Make the Most of the UB Libraries

Hayden and Lilly Radel are more than just sisters; they're fourth-generation students at the University at Buffalo, carrying on a family tradition. Both are active in UB's Honors College as ambassadors and mentors, all while managing full course loads, working part-time at Wegmans, and making the most of UB Libraries' resources to balance it all.

Hayden, a civil engineering major set to graduate in spring 2027, and Lilly, who is working toward dual degrees in environmental studies and environmental design with a 2026 graduation date, have a shared appreciation for the flexibility and support UB offers. "UB has given us the options no other school could," they say, making it the perfect fit for their packed schedules.

When asked about their go-to study spot in the Libraries, the answer was unanimous: Silverman Library. "Silent study in the grand reading room is the best!" says Hayden, who values the

peaceful space for focusing on her engineering coursework. She's also a fan of Silverman's ultra-wide monitors, which help her power through computer science assignments. Lilly agrees, having used Silverman's recording studios to complete a recent project. As an equipment loan user, she's particularly grateful for the time UB Libraries saved her when she needed a calculator right before an exam. "The loan service came through in the nick of time!" she recalls, making a stressful day much easier.

Both sisters also make use of *Delivery+* and the scanners in the library to stay on top of their research and projects. These dedicated students embody UB's spirit of hard work and innovation.

With their enthusiasm for UB Libraries and a deep connection to the university, Hayden and Lilly seem like ideal ambassadors for all the resources and support the UB Libraries offer!



# THANKS A BILLION!



**One historic campaign, over 82,000 donors and more than \$1 billion**

The University at Buffalo is celebrating the largest fundraising campaign in university history! Because of the generosity of alumni, donors and friends, more UB students will realize their dreams. More faculty will discover solutions to complex challenges. And UB will continue to change our world for the better. Learn more at [buffalo.edu/campaign](https://buffalo.edu/campaign).



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