

# UB Libraries *Today*

Summer 2025 | A publication of the University at Buffalo Libraries

## It All Happens Here

From the first rush of students in the morning to late-night study sessions, UB Libraries are alive with energy, ideas and innovation.

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

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## On the Cover

UB Libraries student assistant Corina Carr, shown in Lockwood Memorial Library, earned a master's degree in information and library science in May 2025.



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Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning and discovery. To give to the University Libraries, please visit: [library.buffalo.edu/support](http://library.buffalo.edu/support).

## DO YOU KNOW?



The University Archives holds UB commencement programs dating back to 1891—including one printed in Braille for the Class of 2024. You can also explore the entire digital collection through our finding aid at [findingaids.lib.buffalo.edu](http://findingaids.lib.buffalo.edu).

from **EVVIVA**

# Greetings!

Welcome to the summer issue of *UB Libraries Today* where we take a moment to celebrate our students—their creativity, their scholarship, and the many ways they engage with the libraries as they shape their academic experience.

Our cover story follows several students through a typical week on campus, offering a behind-the-scenes peek into how they make full use of UB Libraries' services and spaces—from research consultations with librarians to collaborative work in group study rooms to bringing ideas to life with library tech tools. These stories demonstrate the integral role the libraries play in student success.

You'll meet a student who embarked on a remarkable research project through the Rare and Special Books Collection, analyzing ancient and rare coins to better understand their cultural and historical contexts. His experience exemplifies how access to primary source materials deepens learning and sparks original scholarship.

We will explore a cutting-edge project where a UB student is using AI tools to develop metadata for digitized public radio broadcasts. By combining archival stewardship with emerging technologies, this work preserves local history while enhancing accessibility for future researchers, and at the same time providing valuable experiential learning experiences for our students.

We're also pleased to introduce Shana DiCamillo, our director of advancement for University Libraries. Her leadership will be instrumental in building lasting partnerships and expanding support for our collections, programs, and initiatives.

This year marks two major milestones for our Special Collections. The Poetry Collection celebrates its 90th anniversary, a legacy that began in 1935 with Charles David Abbott's vision to build a comprehensive laboratory for the study of modern and contemporary poetry. It has since grown into one of the most important collections of its kind.

In 2025, we also mark the 75th anniversary of our world-renowned James Joyce Collection. As the most comprehensive Joyce archive in the world, this collection continues to attract scholars from around the globe and inspire new generations of literary inquiry.

These milestones remind us that our libraries are more than repositories—they are living, evolving centers of learning and exploration. They connect past and present, supporting students and scholars alike as they ask questions, push boundaries and contribute to the world around them.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. I hope you enjoy the stories in this issue and find inspiration in the work we are privileged to share with our campus and community.

Warm Regards,

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



# DiCamillo Is All In

UB Libraries' new advancement director is building connections, inspiring support, and sharing the impact of one of the university's most dynamic resources.

**S**hana DiCamillo, the new director of advancement for the University at Buffalo Libraries, brings a unique blend of experience in music, nonprofit advocacy and higher education to her role. Since joining UB in June 2024, she has been connecting with alums and friends near and far, helping raise awareness and support for UB Libraries' services, collections and forward-looking projects.

"I see myself as a champion for UB Libraries," DiCamillo says. "My role is to collaborate with library staff, engage our alumni and donors, and align their interests with opportunities to make a difference."

DiCamillo didn't take the typical route to a career in advancement. Trained in classical voice and pedagogy, she initially pursued a career in music education and performance before discovering a passion for public service. Earning a master's degree in public administration opened the door to nonprofit and higher education leadership roles, including fundraising and communications for universities, arts organizations and legal service agencies.

Now at UB, she's excited to share the Libraries' mission with a broader audience. "Every student at UB interacts with the Libraries in some way," she notes. "Whether it's data science, rare books, artificial intelligence or archives, something here connects with every interest and passion."

As director of advancement, DiCamillo is focused on growing philanthropic support in key areas such as:

- » **The James Joyce Museum and Collection**, the world's largest archive of Joyce materials
- » **Special Collections**, including the University Archives and the Poetry Collection
- » **The Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science**, where UB Libraries support ethical data use and student mentorship
- » The upcoming renovation of **Lockwood Memorial Library**, UB's largest library



While financial gifts are vital, DiCamillo emphasizes that support comes in many forms—time, advocacy and new connections. "It's not just about writing a check. Sharing what UB Libraries are doing with others, helping us make introductions or telling your own UB story all help grow our impact."

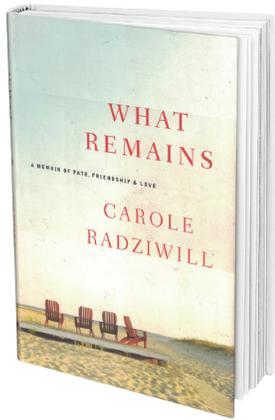
She stays energized through collaboration, curiosity, and the meaningful stories she hears from alumni and donors. And when she's not building relationships for UB, you might find her attending a concert, at a Buffalo Sabres game with her husband or cheering on her son at a travel hockey tournament.

"There's so much happening here, and I want to make sure the world knows about it," she says. "UB Libraries are one of Buffalo's best-kept secrets—but not for long."

**Your story matters—and so does your support.**

Email Shana DiCamillo at [shanadic@buffalo.edu](mailto:shanadic@buffalo.edu) or call 716-881-7485 to learn how to make a difference.

## LIBRARY NEWS



### What We're Reading

In search of a little escapism, I started watching *The Real Housewives* and unexpectedly found a compelling book recommendation. Carole Radziwill, a former ABC News journalist and cast member of *The Real Housewives of New York City*, wrote *What Remains: A Memoir of Fate, Friendship & Love*. The memoir is beautifully written—at times heartbreaking, but also filled with hope. Radziwill reflects on her early life, her marriage, and the grief that followed, all with vivid, lyrical prose. For readers who love elegant, emotional writing, this book is a standout.

**Beth Carpenter**, Undergraduate Engineering & Instruction Librarian

### GRAND REOPENING



DOUGLAS LEVERE

From left to right: Katherine Pietras, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Mateusz Sakowicz, Polish Room curator Rose Orcutt, Head of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Team Laura Taddeo, and Polish Arts Club of Buffalo President Robert Fronckowiak. Photo by Douglas Levere.

## Polish Room Rededication

The University Libraries and the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo co-hosted a rededication ceremony on May 21 for the Polish Room, now housed in its stately new location in Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus. The event welcomed members of the University at Buffalo, the Polish Arts Club, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland and guests from across the Buffalo community. This fall marks the 70th anniversary of the Polish Room and Collection, which began in 1955 with just 400 volumes. Today, it has grown to more than 12,000 items—including literature, memoirs and works reflecting Poland's rich intellectual and artistic legacy. The collection continues to support teaching, research and public engagement, offering a distinctive lens on Polish history and culture for students and scholars across disciplines. It stands as a proud symbol of collaboration between UB and the region's vibrant Polish American community.

## 2025 Journey of Discovery Prize Winner

**Brianna Brockington**, a psychology major, is the 2025 winner of UB Libraries' Journey of Discovery undergraduate research contest. Her award-winning essay, "Individual Influences and Impacts on Gender Roles and Expectations," explores how gender roles are shaped by societal norms and calls for authentic self-expression. With guidance from librarian Beth Carpenter, Brockington used UB Libraries' website, *Delivery+* service, and silent study spaces to support her research.



Learn more about library programs and events: [library.buffalo.edu/news](https://library.buffalo.edu/news)





## Enter AI—and Ronan.

Ronan Adams, a student assistant in UB's information and library science program with roots in San Diego and Las Vegas, has found themselves at the heart of this innovative pilot project using Microsoft Copilot to generate archival metadata that transforms raw audio into searchable historical resources.

"I'm learning so much about Western New York in a way I never expected," they said.

The streamlined workflow begins when the digitized files are sent to UB Libraries media production specialist Omar Brown, who generates transcripts of the audio. Ronan then submits the transcripts with carefully vetted prompts to produce AI-generated program summaries that capture the essence of each recording while maintaining historical accuracy.

"Ronan feeds the audio transcripts and the prompt into an AI tool, Microsoft Copilot, to create a program description," said Hope Dunbar, university archivist. "Then Ronan reads through the text to make sure it makes sense and there isn't anything glaringly incorrect or biased. The amount of processing time it cuts down is incredible."

WBFO project archivist Ken Axford likens the work to assembling a historical quilt, where each audio segment represents a unique patch in Western New York's cultural fabric.



Ken Axford  
WBFO Project Archivist

"You listen to the audio and it's so powerful," he said. "We find little bits and pieces and kind of stitch them all together. It intersects with so many aspects of history and the region."

For Ronan, the experience has had lasting impact. "It's really opened doors for me," they said. "I have an internship at the Whitney Museum in New York City this summer, and I credit this project with helping me build the skills I need to grow my career. Working with AI—and doing so ethically and responsibly—will be a big part of my future. It's been an incredibly fulfilling experience, and I'm excited to see it become publicly accessible."

The full digital collection of audio and metadata from the UB-WBFO Radio Archive is set to launch publicly in late 2027 in partnership with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting, significantly expanding access to these valuable historical recordings.

# Unlocking Buffalo's Broadcast History

Libraries pilot project uses artificial intelligence to transform archival audio into searchable history

**THOUSANDS OF HOURS** of audio recordings once broadcast on the University at Buffalo's campus radio station WBFO are being brought back to life—not just through preservation, but through a new pilot project powered by artificial intelligence and student involvement.

The UB-WBFO Radio Archive contains meticulously preserved reel-to-reel magnetic audio tapes collected as part of a partnership between the former WBFO campus radio station and the University Archives. When the University Archives began processing more than 2,000 hours of recordings and station records spanning from the 1950s through 2000, archivists faced a significant challenge: making this vast collection discoverable and meaningful for researchers.

The digitization project launched in 2017, transitioning the audio from fragile, obsolete media to preservation-quality digital files. But the creation of comprehensive metadata—including speaker names, timestamps, topics and summaries—remained the biggest barrier to access.



James Maynard, curator of the Poetry Collection, holds a 1939 drawing of Charles Abbott by artist and writer Wyndham Lewis, created during Lewis's visit to Buffalo. The Poetry Collection also houses a significant collection of Lewis's manuscripts.



# Building the House of Poetry

## Poetry Collection Celebrates 90 Years

BY JAMES MAYNARD

This year, the Poetry Collection celebrates its 90th anniversary of preserving the art of modern and contemporary poetry. In autumn 1935, Charles David Abbott (1900-1961), professor of English and the first director of libraries at what was then the University of Buffalo, began collecting books, magazines and eventually manuscripts and other materials to create what he initially called the “Poetry Project” in Lockwood Memorial Library on UB’s South Campus. His goal was to create a comprehensive laboratory in which one could access all the material resources necessary for the study of modern poetry.

“ [We will build a] research laboratory for the study of poetry of our times, a laboratory as carefully and as completely equipped with the tools for literary investigation as the most demanding scholar could ask.”

**Charles Abbott**  
first director of the University Libraries and founder of the Poetry Collection

Today, housed in Capen Hall on North Campus as part of UB Libraries Special Collections, the Poetry Collection continues to pursue and expand Abbott's vision and serves as the library of record for 20th- and now 21st-century Anglophone poetry. Dedicated to preserving its plurality and diversity, the collection aims to gather all poetry in English since 1900 in order to document the evolution of poetics and the writing of individual poets, along with their social and historical contexts.

Over the past 90 years, numerous curators, catalogers, archivists, and student assistants—working in tandem with colleagues throughout the University Libraries—have each made indelible and significant contributions to building the Poetry Collection item by item and collection by collection into one of the world's largest poetry libraries. With nearly 210,000 cataloged titles, the collection is comprehensive in its holdings of first and other significant editions of poetry and related publications (more than 175,000 titles); little literary magazines and journals (more than 11,500 serial titles); broadsides; anthologies (more than 10,500 titles); and criticism, including more than 4,200 reference titles. In addition to substantial collections of artwork, audio recordings (nearly 4,000), ephemera, photographs, visual poetry, mail art and zines, the Poetry Collection holds more than 175 archives and manuscript collections from a wide range of poets, presses, magazines and organizations. More information about these materials is available at [library.buffalo.edu/pl](http://library.buffalo.edu/pl).

As an active research center for the study of modern and contemporary poetry, we open our doors each day to researchers and other visitors from around the world; provide course-integrated instruction with primary materials for undergraduate and graduate classes; host lectures, readings, conferences, and other events; and loan items to exhibitions. The collection also continues to explore new ways of making its holdings more publicly accessible—whether through reading room exhibitions like the most recent exhibition, *The Language of Magic: Queer Occult Poetics*, and its related programming, or through ongoing work to build a public museum for the James Joyce Collection in the old Lockwood Library—now, fittingly, named Abbott Hall—on the South Campus.

With the Poetry Collection's 100th anniversary now coming into view, our future couldn't be more exciting and we look forward each day to expanding the house of poetry for the next 90 years and beyond.

In honor of the Poetry Collection's 90th anniversary, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Friends of the Poetry Collection Endowment Fund. The Friends fund supports the acquisition of new materials as well as special projects such as events and publications. To donate, visit [library.buffalo.edu/pl/support](http://library.buffalo.edu/pl/support). For more information about the current SUNY University Center Endowment Match or other ways to give including estate plans, contact Shana DiCamillo, director of advancement for University Libraries, at [shanadic@buffalo.edu](mailto:shanadic@buffalo.edu) or 716-881-7485.

*James Maynard, PhD, is the curator of the Poetry Collection at the University at Buffalo Libraries.*



## A Legacy of Joyce: 75 Years of a World-Renowned Collection

In addition to the 90th anniversary of the Poetry Collection, 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of its James Joyce Collection, the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of manuscripts and other works by and about the renowned Irish writer. The first of several acquisitions arrived in Buffalo in fall 1950—nine years after Joyce's death—and consisted of most of the items that were part of an exhibit of his family's collection of Joyceana at the Librarie La Hune in Paris. Fortunately for the university, English Professor Oscar A. Silverman—later Charles Abbott's successor as director of the University Libraries—was in Paris on sabbatical in fall of 1949 and visited the exhibition. Upon returning to Buffalo, he set into motion a series of events that led to Abbott purchasing the collection with the philanthropic support of Margaretta F. Wickser's gift made in memory of her husband, Philip J. Wickser. The Joyce family collection consisted of nearly 600 items, including manuscripts, notebooks, correspondence, personal effects (such as canes, passports and eyeglasses), editions of Joyce's books, family photographs and portraits, and Joyce's Paris library. For more information about the UB James Joyce Collection, visit [library.buffalo.edu/jamesjoyce](http://library.buffalo.edu/jamesjoyce).



“

Our team had to present live to a panel of NASA judges, and I used the library's recording studio to deliver my portion while the rover was streamed live from our lab. The professional setup really enhanced our delivery.”

**Sujal  
Dattarao  
Bhakare**

computer science

# It All Happens Here

Libraries are where students learn, connect, recharge and thrive—supporting academic success and well-being every day.

BY DENISE WOLFE

**F**rom the first rush of students in the morning to late-night study sessions, UB Libraries are alive with energy, ideas and innovation. Across their many spaces and services, the libraries support academic success, creativity and well-being in ways that go far beyond books. It can start with a student unlocking a group study room early Monday morning and end late Friday night with a podcast recording. In between, hundreds of students pass through the University Libraries each week—reading, researching, creating, collaborating and sometimes just taking a moment to breathe.

Early in the week, Silverman Library is buzzing with activity as students take full advantage of the University Libraries' resources. On the third floor, Sujal Dattarao Bhakare, an undergraduate computer science student, is using one of the two recording studios—an amenity he says has been instrumental to his academic and extracurricular work.

Bhakare is a member of UB Lunabots, a student team competing in NASA's Lunabotics Competition, which challenges participants to design, build and test a lunar rover.

"Our team had to present live to a panel of NASA judges," he said. "I used the library's recording studio on the assigned day to deliver my portion of the presentation, while the rover was streamed live from our lab. The professional setup really enhanced our delivery."

Their presentation helped UB Lunabots rank among the top 10 teams in the United States. They traveled to the University of Central Florida in May to participate in the in-person qualifiers.

"The studios let me produce high-quality content without needing expensive equipment," Bhakare said. "I've used them several times for interviews and presentations. It gives me confidence to focus on performance, not the setup."

Kyle Zakowicz, an aerospace engineering undergraduate, also uses the studios. "The equipment is high quality, and I can ask library staff to set it up. It creates equal opportunity regardless of familiarity," he said. "The microphones are better than what I have at home. The rooms are almost completely soundproof, and the green screen is great for video projects."

“

The microphones are better than what I have at home. The rooms are almost completely soundproof, and the green screen is great for video projects.”



**Kyle Zakowicz**  
aerospace  
engineering

## EQUIPMENT LOANS



“It’s a privilege to have access to high-quality digital cameras to pursue my passion for photography and vlogging.”

**Rohan Anand**  
computer science



Learn more about library equipment loans:

[library.buffalo.edu/equipment](https://library.buffalo.edu/equipment)

On the second floor, two students make use of the Equipment Loans program, where UB students, faculty and staff can borrow GoPro cameras, camcorders, headphones, microphones, VR goggles and more.

Rohan Anand, a computer science student focused on data-intensive computing, said, “It’s a privilege to have access to high-quality digital cameras to pursue my passion for photography and vlogging.”

Nearby, Kristofer Kong, a public health major with a minor in nonprofit leadership, agreed. “The libraries helped me discover my passion for photography and videography,” he said. “Without this support, I might not have found such a meaningful hobby. It opened doors to travel and meet people. I’m so grateful for it.”

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**Kristofer Kong**  
public health



The next day at Lockwood Library, Veronica Bargnesi meets with social sciences librarian Carolyn Klotzbach-Russell for a research consultation.

“The UB Libraries offer so much more than just a study space,” said Bargnesi, a double major in English and political science. “I’m so glad I took advantage of a consultation. The insight I got was more helpful than a quick Google search.”

These sessions help students refine their research and identify valuable sources. “I was overwhelmed, but after one meeting, I had a clear direction and sources I didn’t know existed,” she said.

Nearby, graduate student Corina Carr staffs the Library Services Desk. Carr, enrolled in the Master of Library and Information Science program, said, “It’s



“I’m so glad I took advantage of a consultation. The insight I got was more helpful than a quick Google search.”

**Veronica Bargnesi**

English and political science

great connecting students with research help, resources and events. I’m always excited to tell them everything here is free.”

Carr answers questions, gives directions, and helps students reserve study rooms. “People think it’s just books, but we help with so much more. I like being the person who makes the library feel more welcoming,” she said.

In the Charles B. Sears Law Library, Nick Foti, a Juris Doctor candidate, appreciates the quiet. “I use a study carrel every day,” he said. “It’s a comfortable place to organize, reset between classes, and review my notes.”

Midweek, we spoke with students using group study rooms, one of the Libraries’ most popular resources. The rooms fill up quickly. Whiteboards are covered in diagrams, laptops are open to shared docs, and students collaborate on projects, prep for exams and work together.

“The study rooms in Silverman Library are a convenient, dedicated workspace for our group assignments and study



**Corina Carr**

information and library science

“It’s great connecting students with research help, resources and events. I’m always excited to tell them everything here is free.”



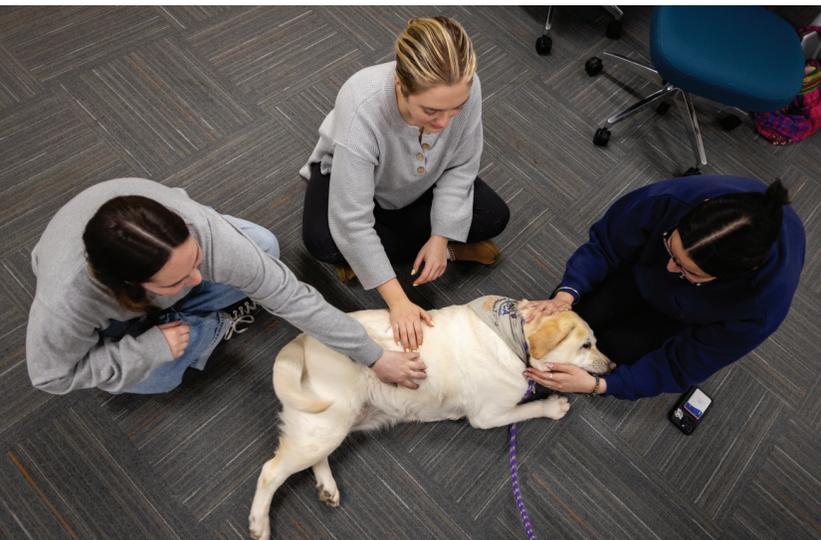
“The study rooms in Silverman Library are a convenient, dedicated workspace for our group assignments and study sessions

**Mateo Alessi**  
mechanical engineering

“ I love that the school provides therapy dogs, it makes me feel like I’m home with my dogs when I’m missing them.”



**Nicalena Ferraro**  
biochemistry



MEREDITH FORREST KULWICKI

sessions,” said Mateo Alessi, a mechanical engineering undergraduate.

Fellow mechanical engineering student Mary Gannon added, “Working in the study rooms keeps me motivated and focused.”

Later in the afternoon, students gather in Silverman Library for a Stress Relief event. Smiles and conversation fill the room as students pet therapy dogs, solve puzzles, do crafts and play board games.

“I love that the school provides therapy dogs,” said Nicalena Ferraro, a biochemistry major. “It makes me feel like I’m home with my dogs when I’m missing them.”

“Events like this—coloring, sticker journals, making bracelets or petting dogs—give me a healthy break from studying and let me socialize without guilt,” said Sara Finn, a psychology and health and human services major.



Learn more about library programs and events: [library.buffalo.edu/news](https://library.buffalo.edu/news)



**“The LEGO table lets me unwind and recharge between classes.”**

**Connor Scarpena**, environmental studies

“Afterward, I can focus better and sometimes even do better on assignments.”

On the third floor, the LEGO table offers a creative outlet. Connor Scarpena, an environmental studies undergraduate, said, “The LEGO table lets me unwind and recharge between classes.”

After hours, a student-run club sets up in a multipurpose classroom. Destiny Hopkinson, a legal studies and political science major, co-founded the Legal Scholars Achieving Triumph (L.S.A.T.) Club to support LSAT prep through study sessions, resource sharing and discussions.

“We can request different setups, and tech help is nearby. The rooms are a great size,” she said.

Criminology major Tina Treherne added, “Being in a central study spot in Silverman Library, we invite students to take a break and have fun with us. It’s a perk we don’t get elsewhere.”

It’s not just UB’s North Campus libraries that are a hub for students. At Abbott Library on the South Campus, students gather in collaborative study spaces and the silent study area in the grand Austin Flint Main Reading Room.

Riley Spurr, a speech pathology student, said she and her classmates often meet in the group study spots. “We use the library as a workspace and a place to socialize. The shared spaces help us work together effectively,” she said.

Late Friday afternoon, the libraries are still busy. Some students head to evening study sessions. Others return equipment or prep for finals.

The University at Buffalo Libraries are more than a place—they’re a community, a classroom and a catalyst for student success.

“

**Being in a central study spot in Silverman Library, we invite students to take a break and have fun with us. It’s a perk we don’t get elsewhere.”**

**Tina Treherne**  
criminology



University at Buffalo Doctor of Pharmacy students Morgan Van Buren-Fess and Faith Jackman prepare for finals in the Austin Flint Main Reading Room.



# A Journey Through Coins of the Classical World



**F**or Nolan Mattison, an undergraduate at the University at Buffalo with a growing passion for numismatics, a well-preserved collection of ancient coins has become the centerpiece of a transformative research experience.

After participating in three archaeological digs in Italy, experiences that deepened his appreciation for Roman and Greek archaeology, he discovered an interest in numismatics, the study of coins and currency. Mattison, who began as an Anthropology major, then shifted his major to Classics, where he learned about the Thomas Lockwood Coin Collection, now housed in UB's Special Collections.

He approached John Dugan, director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classics, about pursuing an independent study focused on the collection. With encouragement from Dugan and guidance from Alison Fraser, curator of the Rare & Special Books Collection and associate curator of the Poetry Collection, Mattison began researching and cataloging a selection of ancient coins from the collection.

"When Nolan first floated the idea of working on the Lockwood coins, I was eager to

collaborate with him," Dugan said. "This project is just the sort of experiential learning that leads a student of Nolan's interests, abilities and ambition to thrive."

Mattison's research brought him face-to-face with artifacts like a coin from Kroton, an ancient city in southern Italy dating to around 540 B.C., featuring a bronze tripod. "I wasn't expecting any of this—it really has taken me aback," he said, reflecting on the detailed craftsmanship and historical narratives captured in each coin's design.

His focus has been on coins from Greek and Roman cultures. He's worked to identify inscriptions, symbols and minting techniques, weighing and measuring each coin and cross-referencing Lockwood's original notes.

Among the collection are Greek tetradrachms—coins minted for external trade—which offered Mattison insights into ancient economic systems. A favorite is an Athenian owl coin depicting the owl of Athena, a symbol of wisdom and military strength.

Another highlight for Mattison is a coin featuring the Roman Emperor Augustus, who rose to power in 31 B.C. after defeating Marcus Antonius in a naval battle. The coin

also depicts Augustus' two adoptive sons, both of whom died before him. "This coin highlights Augustus' need to institute a dynasty," Mattison said, "and how fate thwarted his plans."

Mattison's findings will be added to the collection's existing finding aid, providing future researchers with fundamental insights into the historical context of each coin and the

cities from which they originated. "His work is a paragon of undergraduate scholarship using special collections," Fraser said. "He's made careful study of these coins, and his research will help make the collection much more accessible."

The project's impact has extended to the classroom. Dugan now incorporates the coins into his lectures, giving other students hands-on access to ancient history.

"These aren't just old coins," Mattison said. "They tell stories of cities, rulers, and empires, preserving a slice of history with each stamp."

Mattison graduated this semester and plans to continue studying numismatics and archaeology, whether in a classroom or in the workplace. He has been accepted to Leiden University in the Netherlands and hopes to attend in the future.



Athenian owl coin



## Sharing Knowledge

Nikolas (Niko) Martinez-Saroff is pursuing a master's degree in school librarianship at UB and will graduate in fall 2026.

I came to the University at Buffalo on the advice of a librarian who worked at the same school where I was a one-on-one teacher aide. We'd talk from time to time about all sorts of things, including my concern about the lack of access to information. That belief—knowledge as a tool for empowerment—drew me to library work and inspired me to pursue a master's degree in school librarianship at UB.

You'll often find me at Silverman's welcome desk or, occasionally, at Lockwood's services desk. I feel energized helping patrons and coworkers—digging into the information we may be missing and finding ways to make someone's day a little easier. Whether that's assisting with

refining an inquiry, offering a solution I know about, explaining how to loan equipment, or troubleshooting software issues—I'm here for it!

My drive stems from both my work and my upbringing. My mom, a French African Dominican, lived through the April Revolution. My Russian Indian dad took on leadership early after losing his father. Both managed ADHD and autism. My mom and I are raising my sharp, sassy 10-year-old nephew. My family has taught me resilience, warmth and empathy—lessons I try to carry daily.

I've been ecstatic about this learning opportunity, and if you see me at the desk, I hope you'll say hello. I'd be thrilled to help and welcome you to the library!



# Preserve the Past. Inspire the Future.



UB is home to the world's largest James Joyce collection—and soon, new museum space will open it up to all. You can help bring this literary treasure to light—and make your impact really stack up—through the SUNY Endowment Match Program. For a limited time, New York State will match \$1 for every \$2 of a qualifying gift you make.

Your support expands access to this literary legacy—today and for generations to come.

**Explore how to make an even greater impact** ----->

