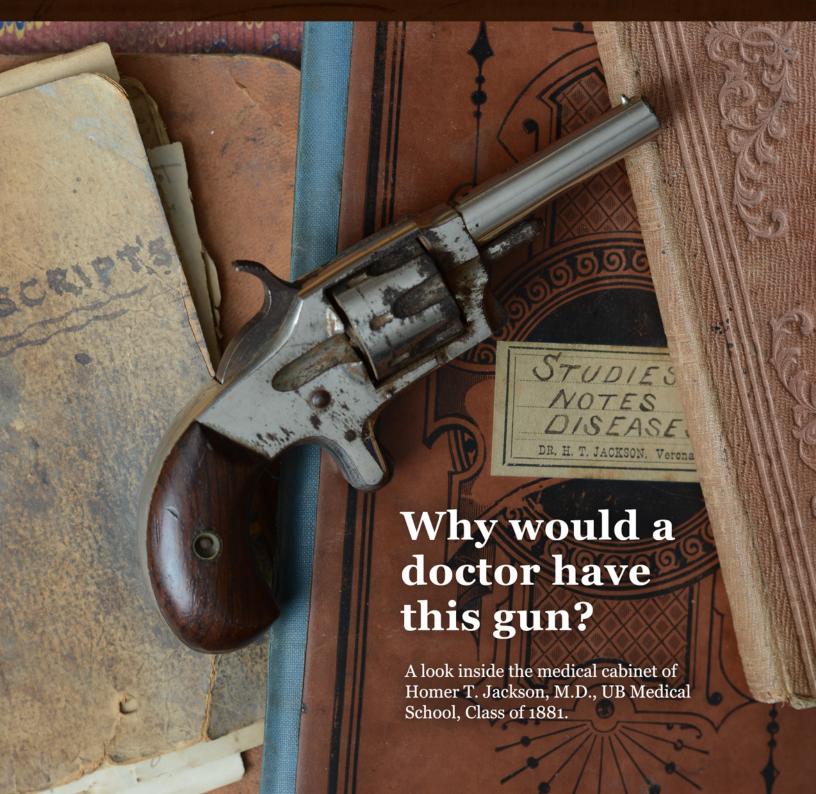
# UB LIBRARIES today

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO LIBRARIES

**FALL 2014** 



### **UB LIBRARIES** today

**FALL 2014** 

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 H. Austin Booth

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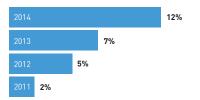
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generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning and discovery. To give to the University Libraries, please visit: library.buffalo.edu/support.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**



Mobile use of the Libraries website continues to rise every year.



### from AUSTIN



### **Building Partnerships**

The stereotype of the librarian shushing whispering students has vanished. Today's academic librarians are social animals. They connect with students and researchers via the web and social media; embed themselves in departments, schools and programs; collaborate with faculty on world-class research; and develop strong campus and community relationships. Building dynamic partnerships is what UB librarians do best.

In September, I visited Amrita University's Health Sciences Campus, one of UB's international partners, in Kochi, India. The selfless generosity of the Amrita faculty and staff mirrored that of the UB family; both are dedicated to bringing their expertise to bear on the most pressing problems of their local communities. This shared sense of values between our universities portends fruitful and productive partnerships in the future, particularly in the delivery of top-notch scholarly and health information to faculty, students, and community members.

If you would like to know more about the UB Libraries and the partnerships for the Libraries we are building daily, please read our stories or contact me directly at habooth@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-0983.



H. Austin Booth

Vice Provost for University Libraries



Polish Room curator Molly Poremski

# Na zdrowie!

Students, faculty and community members interested in Poland and Polish-American culture joined curator Molly Poremski on August 20, 2014 for Rediscovering the Polish Room, an event which celebrated recent improvements to the room's physical space on the fifth floor of Lockwood Library. "It was a great evening," said Poremski, "and we had an excellent turnout, including relatives of the original founders of the Polish Room."

For more information on the Polish Room please visit: library.buffalo.edu/polish-room



"

There's nothing better than petting a fluffy dog when you're stressed out!"

- Jill J., freshman linguistics major

"

It's amazing how just a few minutes with the therapy dogs can brighten your day."

- Sethleen A., senior nursing major



The snacks are just what I need to pick me up after my exam and power me through the afternoon."

- Cate S., senior history major

These are just a few of the many enthusiastic responses overheard during the UB Libraries' spring semester Stress Relief Days. Nearly 800 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the popular event, which took place in Lockwood and the Health Sciences Library May 12-15, 2014.

Librarians in both locations arranged for certified therapy dog teams to visit the libraries, and encouraged students to take a break during one of the most stressful weeks of the semester. Also on offer during Stress Relief Days: snacks, puzzles, coloring, knitting, Lego-building, and several alternative therapies, including chair massage, reiki and reflexology. Jeevan Suparmaniam, senior mechanical and aerospace engineering major, appreciates having a chance to de-stress: "This program makes me feel better as a whole, especially the dogs. Please keep doing this on a regular basis. Thank you so much!"



### **News** and **Notes**



### HI-HO, SILVER!

Fran Striker (1903-1962), creator of the iconic Lone Ranger character, was a Buffalo native and a student at the University of Buffalo for three years before leaving to pursue a career as a radio scriptwriter. In 1955, Striker donated original scripts for the first five years of The Lone Ranger radio series to UB. Following Striker's death, his widow, Janet, deposited more of her late husband's work with the UB Archives, including the first six years of The Green Hornet radio series and Striker's Remington Standard typewriter. In a 1967 letter to then University Archivist Shonnie Finnegan, Mrs. Striker wrote: "My husband was born in and lived a great part of his life in Buffalo. I know he was proud of his association with the University. We feel this is where some of his manuscripts belong."

### **UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES TRIVIA**



### Can you identify this man?

This early 20th-century businessman worked for the Larkin Soap Company and was a client of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Answer: tinyurl.com/kh7tmah



Elliot McNally's current assignment: cataloging the editorial and business records of eleven poetry magazine archives.

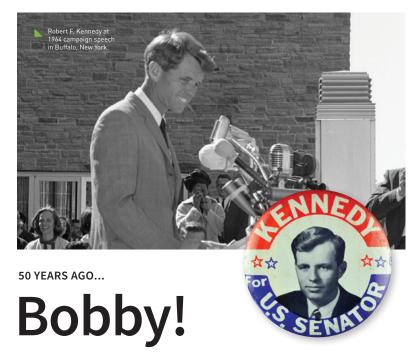
# Poetic History

Archivist documents 50 years of poetic history

Last year, the Poetry Collection received a \$150,600 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to catalog and create online finding aids for the editorial and business records of eleven poetry magazine archives. Representing a wide variety of poets and poetic communities, these magazines include Boss, Buckle'/Buckle &, Chain, Drafting, Fire Exit, First Intensity, Lost & Found Times, Manroot, Osiris, Score and The Wormwood Review.

Work on the project is under way, led by Elliot McNally, Project Archivist. "I am very excited to be able to help make these collections available to researchers," says McNally, who faces the daily challenge of processing eclectic materials by many innovative writers. "I am constantly amazed at the range of work being uncovered," she adds. "Some of my favorites include the hundreds of Charles Bukowski letters and illustrations sent to Marvin Malone, editor of *The Wormwood Review*; negatives, mechanicals and cover art documenting the mimeograph production process of *Score*; and original manuscript submissions from hundreds of poets and artists such as William S. Burroughs, Bernadette Mayer, Fanny and Susan Howe, Robert Creeley, Diane Di Prima and Larry Eigner."

"One of the most challenging aspects of processing has been preservation," observes McNally, who worked previously as manuscripts processor at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. "From butane lighters and Play-Doh, to artist books and 3-dimensional concrete poetry, my job is never boring!"



An enthusiastic crowd of more than 3,000 students cheered Robert F. Kennedy during his visit to UB on Saturday, October 3, 1964. Kennedy was campaigning for the U.S. Senate seat against incumbent Kenneth Keating, who also visited UB that fall. During his drive out to the University, Kennedy spotted a wedding party and stopped his motorcade in front of St. Mary's School for the Deaf on Main Street. In full campaign mode, Kennedy hopped out of his convertible, kissed the bride and wished the groom well before quickly returning to his car.

Speaking from the terrace of Norton Union, (now Squire Hall on UB's South Campus), Kennedy scored an immediate hit with UB students when they asked who he planned to root for in the UB/University of Massachusetts football game to be played later that day. Flashing a wide grin, the Massachusetts-reared Kennedy quickly replied, "I'm for the University of Buffalo," (Alas, UMass won the game, 24-22).



The RFK photos are featured in the Prominent Visitors to Buffalo Digital Collection: library.buffalo.edu/collections/prominent-visitors

## What We're Reading

UB Libraries' Book Group

Members of the Libraries' book group read one book each month, and discuss the selections using www.goodreads.com. Students, faculty, staff and community members are welcome!



### The Angola Horror by Charity Vogel

"What I loved best....was how well the historical record was integrated into the story; I really felt as if we got to know the passengers, in as much as it could be possible, through careful snippets of interviews and the author's cautious recreation of scenes, in a way that seemed authentic and respectful." — Nancy Babb, Law Library

### The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker

"There's a quote from the book that stuck with me about possibilities and disappointments: "How much sweeter life would be if it all happened in reverse, if, after decades of disappointments, you finally arrived at an age when you had conceded nothing, when everything was possible."

— Amy Vilz, University Archives

### The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer

"I like the way the author addresses larger issues of aging, friendship, self-image and life expectations.... The whole idea of keeping secrets from those with whom we share our closest relationships, and the things that linger from our adolescent selves into adulthood, I find intriguing."

— Lori Widzinski, Multimedia Collections & Services

BY THE NUMBERS...





# Asking the Experts

Local author Charity Vogel received help from UB's expert librarians while researching her book, *The Angola Horror*.

By Mary Cochrane, Associate Director, UB Development Communications Photos by TJ Pignataro

As a longtime newspaper reporter, Charity Vogel naturally was skeptical about an 1877 account of a train wreck in Ashtabula, Ohio. Vogel, author of *The Angola Horror*—an historical narrative about the derailment of an express train on December 18, 1867 that killed at least 49 people—includes the account of the Ashtabula wreck in her book to portray the impact of the earlier tragedy. Vogel's skepticism—and the rest

of her journalism training—served her well during the five years she researched and wrote the book. A Buffalo News staff writer since 1997, Vogel had no need to "take liberties" to hold readers' attention, relying instead on time-honored journalistic precepts—painstaking research and clear writing with skillful use of detail—to bring alive the riveting, 147-year-old story.

The UB Libraries are among several regional institutions that played an important role in assisting Vogel in her research, which presented one of the biggest challenges, given the dearth of resource material to draw from. For example, there are no photos of the Buffalo & Erie Railroad express train's journey from Cleveland to Buffalo, nor of the grisly aftermath of the crash, only a few illustrations that appeared days and weeks later in various newspapers and magazines.

Undaunted, Vogel sought and found help from experts, officials and friends from Angola to Washington, DC: librarians, historians, museum curators, public records personnel, cemetery staff workers, researchers, tour guides and archivists, to name just a few. Vogel recently talked with *UB Libraries Today* about researching the book and how the UB Libraries helped her along the way.

### Once you decided to write about the train disaster, how did you begin your research?

In a project like "The Angola Horror," there are many sorts of research and discovery happening – from the very earliest stages – in an ongoing way. I put tremendous amounts of time and effort into tracking down and reading news coverage of the wreck from the time it happened, in newspapers and periodicals from across the country and New York State, as well as the

daily papers published in Buffalo and its environs. I wanted to read about the wreck from the perspective of someone at the time, seeing news of it playing out, day to day, in a daily paper.

In addition, I uncovered as many existing railroad company records having to do with the Buffalo and Erie Railroad as I could. I also searched for traces of the wreck that had survived to the present day: photos of survivors and rescuers; family memories and lore; letters and journals. One fortunate thing that happened, early in my work on the project, was that I met terrific librarians and archivists who became important aids to my work. Mary Soom at UB's Lockwood Library is a fine example.

### What sources were you hoping to find but never did?

My dream sources would have included jurors' own notes, jotted down during the inquest into the Angola Horror, during the courtroom testimonies of railroad company officials and eyewitnesses to the wreck after the disaster. Those, to my knowledge, have not survived. I never give up hope, however, that such things may someday turn up – because research into history is always surprising!

### What was your most exciting discovery?

It's hard to name one part of my project as the most exciting. But on the short list for that distinction would be uncovering the life story of Romaine J. Curtiss, the Angola doctor and Civil War veteran, age 27, who cared for the victims after the disaster.

Another exciting part was meeting one of the descendants of the Angola man, Josiah Southwick, who with his wife, Huldah, cared for victims in his village home. Feeling such a connection to those who worked selflessly to help the wreck's victims was a humbling, beautiful experience.

# What did the UB Libraries offer you that other libraries or resources did not?

I used the UB Libraries as sort of a home port during my research. I mostly used Lockwood and also the microfilm readers elsewhere

on North Campus. I contacted the library staff for research help and advice, and I borrowed many books from the university collection. Interlibrary loan became my path to reading newspapers, periodicals, company records, and other documents from all over. What I love about the UB Libraries is the generosity of the people, facilities, and policies. I borrowed books for lengthy periods, drew on the expertise of many people who work in the libraries-and met with uniformly kind, encouraging, supporting and engaged people during my work.



Retired UB librarian Mary Soom (left) chats with author Charity Vogel (right) following a discussion of *The Angola Horror* in the University Libraries Special Collections Reading Room, May 8, 2014

### Did you use the libraries as much as a student at UB?

As a student at UB, working on my master's degree and then my PhD, I made extensive use of the libraries, particularly Lockwood. My dissertation was on 19th-century American literature and art, with a focus on images of women. Sometimes it feels I have personally checked out every last book in Lockwood. But there must be a few still to go!

# How do students conduct research today? How are their approaches different than yours?

Younger scholars now, including students, may in some cases tend toward a different way of looking at research and learning. So much is digital and virtual; I, too, find those things easy and fast. Yet I love an actual thing: a century-old newspaper article, an old book, a vintage magazine picture in *Godey's Ladies Book* or *Frank Leslie's Illustrated News*. The best case scenario for me is that I encounter the text or picture in pretty much the same way as folks at the time did. Not everything about scholarship, even in 2014, is going to be rapid. And that's OK.

# Library Artifacts

The University at Buffalo Libraries is filled with artifacts from around the world.



### **WWI Backpack**

The Poetry Collection is home to the World War I knapsack of poet and novelist Robert Graves. Graves served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, an infantry regiment of the British Army, and was severely wounded at the Battle of the Somme. His memoir of the Great War was first published in 1929 as *Good-Bye to All That* and the manuscripts for the book are also part of the Poetry Collection's Robert Graves Collection.



### **Tear Gas Canister**

This tear gas canister is part of the University Archives' "Campus Unrest" collection. Assembled in the late 1960s and early 70s by then University Archivist Shonnie Finnegan, the collection documents the many student protests, teachins and anti-war demonstrations which took place at UB during that period, on subjects such as the Vietnam War, the ROTC presence on campus, racial bias in athletics, and the Department of Defense research (Project Themis).



### **Medicinal Whiskey**

The History of Medicine Collection houses several medicinal whiskeys, including the bottle on the right which was made in 1914 and bottled in 1927. The label emphasizes that the whiskey was manufactured prior to January 17, 1920 when prohibition began, and was for medicinal purposes only. The distilleries listed on the bottle, Old Stone, Mattingly, and Hill & Hill, were located in Daviess County, Kentucky, and all played a role in the production of this whiskey.

# A Fighting Spirit Colorful. Controversial. Courageous. UB Alumnus Gustin L. (Gus) Reichbach was never afraid to take a stand on issues ranging from antiwar activism to the legalization of medical marijuana.

### By Sarah Pinard, Processing Archivist, University Archives

UB Alumnus Gustin L. (Gus) Reichbach (Class of '67) was a successful lawyer and judge for many years. But tragedy touched his life in unexpected ways. Reichbach was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2008, and his only child, a daughter named Hope, died suddenly in 2011 at the age of 22. Reichbach passed away in 2012, but thanks to the generosity of his wife, Ellen Meyers, his personal and professional papers now have a home in the University Archives.

Born in 1946, Reichbach was a proud Brooklynite. His social justice sensibilities, nurtured during his undergraduate days at UB during the tumultuous 1960s, remained strong throughout his life. After graduating magna cum laude in 1967 with a BA in political science and earning Phi Beta Kappa honors, Reichbach enrolled in Columbia University School of Law, and was soon leading protests with the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). During one campus protest, Reichbach was arrested for disorderly conduct, and placed on permanent disciplinary probation. He was ultimately acquitted, but because of his SDS involvement and subsequent co-authorship of The Bust Book: What to Do Till the Lawyer Comes, his admittance to the New York State Bar Association was delayed by the Association's Committee on Character and Fitness. After an unprecedented eighteen months of hearings, Reichbach was finally admitted to the New York State Bar. Reflecting on the experience, he later wrote that, "under the very real threat of being denied the career I had sought all

my life, I had refused the invitation to recant and was able to triumph on my own terms."

Elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York in 1991, Reichbach served for a short time as a night court judge, and established a controversial HIV testing and counseling program, for which he was dubbed "The Condom Judge" by the *New York Post*. He was elected to the NY State Supreme Court in 1999 and presided over several significant trials, including the well-publicized trial of FBI agent Lindley DeVecchio. Reichbach's bench notes, court transcripts and trial evidence, including a Brooklyn mobster family tree, are now housed in the University Archives.

As an International Judge for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Supreme Court in 2003 and 2004, respectively, Reichbach presided over war crime trials and appeals. Returning from Kosovo, he resumed work on the Supreme Court, serving in this capacity until his premature death in 2012. At his funeral, friends and colleagues praised Reichbach's remarkable creativity, insight, and his ability to meet adversity with courage.

Through newspaper clippings, correspondence, published legal opinions and private reflections on the judicial process, the University Archives' **Gustin L. Reichbach Papers** document a remarkable personal life, a significant professional career, and a matchless point of view.





# A GIFT FROM THE PAST

The Medical Cabinet of Dr. Jackson.

By Linda Lohr and Keith Mages, History of Medicine Collection Photos by Nancy J. Parisi

t began with a phone call on a chilly February afternoon. San Francisco-based architect, Brian Grant, telephoned Linda Lohr, manager of UB's History of Medicine Collection, and relayed a message from his father-in-law, retired family physician, Dr. Kenneth Felch (UB Medical School, 1961). Grant explained that Dr. Felch had some items he wished to donate to the History of Medicine Collection, including a cabinet which had originally belonged to Felch's grandfather, Dr. Homer Truman Jackson, an 1881 graduate of UB's Medical School who practiced medicine for many years in the small town of Verona, New York.

Felch had kept his grandfather's cabinet in the waiting room of his own office for decades. "Everyone seemed to enjoy looking at it," said Felch, "so I asked my son-in-law, Brian Grant, to look on the internet, and he located the UB History of Medicine Collection website." Along with the cabinet, Felch had also saved many of his grandfather's medical books and personal items, including a surgical kit, a handwritten "stock prescription" notebook, and Dr. Jackson's black beaver top hat.

Felch thought these items might be interesting additions to the History of Medicine Collection, and Lohr was quick to respond. "Phone calls like this always excite us," she says, "and I made arrangements to visit Dr. Felch in order to determine if we could accept his donation for UB's History of Medicine Collection."

On a lovely June day, Lohr and her colleague, senior assistant librarian Keith Mages, drove to Dr. Felch's home in Lansing, NY, on the shore of Cayuga Lake. "Before enjoying lunch with Dr. and Mrs. Felch, we examined the items in the collection," says Lohr. "We agreed that the cabinet, medical books and other items would make fascinating and important additions to our History of Medicine Collection."

During the visit, Dr. Felch shared additional details about his grandfather, including the fact that in addition to serving as the town doctor in Verona, Jackson was also a church elder and an avid gardener. He grew herbs and medicinal plants such as



Homer Truman Jackson, M.D., [1846-1926] graduated from the University of Buffalo Medical School in 1881 and practiced medicine in Verona. NY for 40 years.



Turn-of-the-century medical instruments, prescription books and other items, including this small pistol, fill the shelves of Dr. Jackson's cabinet.

foxglove, poppies, garlic, basil and thyme, and used his mortar and pestle and the small scale [to prepare his medicines].

"I never actually knew my grandfather, as he died when I was two," Felch explained, "but I did know my grandmother and stayed with her when my parents were on vacation. I also learned about him from my mother. [She] talked of hearing the bells on his sleigh jingle when he went to deliver a baby in the winter. My grandfather's office was in his house and had a private entrance. His office was also his library. He was a great reader. One of his favorite books was *The Leather Stocking Tales* by James Fenimore Cooper. (I still have the 5-book collection)."

One month later, on a hot, humid summer day, Lohr and Mages returned to Dr. Felch's home. Their task: to carefully pack



### **Pocket Watch and Home Medical Device**

Based on its serial number, this pocket watch was manufactured in 1858 by Appleton, Tracy & Co. The watch would have originally had a metal ring through the knob on the top along with a key to wind the watch. The wooden box houses a "No. 4 D.D. Home Medical Apparatus," a device used to treat various physical ailments by applying an electrical current to the affected area.





### Dr. Jackson's Pistol

This .22 caliber pistol was most likely manufactured between 1870 and 1890 by the Southron Company. It belonged to a class of gun called "suicide specials," a reference to the fact that these guns were cheaply manufactured, not very reliable, and had the potential to fire one shot before breaking apart and possibly injuring the shooter!



Cheracol: cough/cold syrup first manufactured by the Upjohn Company in the 1920s. Ingredients in this formula included alcohol codeine phosphate, chloroform, and ammonium chloride in a "cooling vehicle of White Pine and Wild Cherry Bark." Cheracol exists today in a different formula.

**Moulded Hypodermic Tablets** (in red box): physician's samples. Medications including morphine, atrophine and strychnine sulphate tablets are meant to be dissolved in water for injection.

**Nembutal Sodium (phentobarbital)** (small bottle with cork): used to treat insomnia, as an emergency treatment for seizures, and to cause patients to fall asleep for surgery.

**Boneset** (Eupatorium perfoliatum): herbal treatment. From the package: "Properties: Tonic, Diaphoretic, Febrifuge; used in Periodic Fevers, Colds, etc." Administered in an infusion.

### **Notebooks**

Dr. Jackson's handwritten notebooks cover various topics, and include notes from his days as a UB Medical School student, treatments for a variety of illnesses, and a formulary with instructions on compounding pharmaceuticals.

the collection items into boxes. "Our first challenge was moving the heavy, glass-fronted cabinet from the second floor to the first without destroying the stairs, the cabinet, or our backs!" Lohr recalls. "We placed a blanket underneath the cabinet, and carefully slid the cabinet down the stairs, one step at a time. Luckily, we accomplished our task without incident, but after hoisting the cabinet onto the dolly we'd brought along, we faced another hurdle: getting the cabinet safely up a steep incline and into the car. Despite several near mishaps and a couple of bruised arms, we successfully loaded the cabinet into our SUV, and soon pulled away with our new materials piled high to the roof."

Returning to UB, Lohr and Mages carefully unpacked, sorted and cataloged each piece in the collection, including one of its most unusual items, the .22 caliber pistol that Dr. Jackson carried with him on house calls as a precaution. "Dr. Jackson, like many other rural 19<sup>th</sup>-century physicians, had to be prepared for anything," says Mages, "including wandering highwaymen who looked to take advantage of travelers on lonely country roads." To ensure that the pistol would be displayed safely, Lohr contacted the University Police for permission to display the weapon in an approved manner. "The UB police were very helpful," she reports; "they even gave us a lock for the gun!"

Now safely installed in the UB History of Medicine Collection, Dr. Jackson's cabinet houses a selection of his medical instruments, along with family photographs and personal items, offering visitors, students and researchers a unique glimpse into the life of a country doctor in the early 20th century. In addition to the items displayed in the cabinet, the Homer T. Jackson Collection also includes handwritten notebooks from Jackson's medical school classes, along with his suggested treatments for medical conditions and the preparation of medications, and his comments on articles from medical journals.

"My grandfather was in his 80's when he died of natural causes; he had practiced medicine for 40 years," recalls Dr. Felch. "When I went to UB, we already had two children. Buffalo's training inspired me to become a general practitioner because of its diversity. I will always be grateful for the excellent professors and the family-centered orientation." Linda Lohr is grateful, too. "We're absolutely thrilled that Dr. Felch donated his grandfather's wonderful collection to the History of Medicine Collection," she notes, "We're planning to create a digital collection in order to share these materials with a global audience. Stay tuned!"

For more information on the items in Dr. Jackson's Cabinet please contact Linda Lohr, Manager, History of Medicine Collection at (716) 829-5737 or via email: lalohr@buffalo.edu.



The Clash, 1984 at UE

### from THE ARCHIVES

# "The Only Band That Matters"

April 1984 was a busy month on the Buffalo music scene. **Echo and the Bunnymen** played Buff State, **Thompson Twins** and the **Eurythmics** were at Shea's, and **Culture Club** performed at Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium. UB offered stellar lineups at its annual Folkfest and Springfest events: **Arlo Guthrie**, **The Band**, **Cyndi Lauper**, and **Stevie Ray Vaughan**.

But on April 28, 1984, 4000 UB students with \$9 to spare purchased tickets to a concert featuring **The Clash**, a group widely referred to as "the only band that matters." By that point, the explosive punk rock band was somewhat diminished, with just two original members, prompting a reference in UB's Spectrum student newspaper to "this year's refurbished Clash."

No matter! Concert-goers in UB's Alumni Arena witnessed Paul Simonon and a white-suited, day-glo mohawked Joe Strummer burn through a playlist that included "London Calling," "Safe European Home," "White Man in Hammersmith Palais," "Tommy Gun," and "Brand New Cadillac."





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