A MESSAGE FROM DEAN MATTHEW SHAW

The University Libraries is poised for an exciting future! We are fully committed to creating transformative experiences for diverse communities of learners at Ball State through excellent resources, expert research assistance, dedicated study and learning spaces, and innovative services and technologies for knowledge discovery and dissemination, lifelong learning, and community engagement. Your support allows us to continually advance this vital mission, which is so important to the success of Ball State students.

Renovation is a necessary response to innovation, and visioning work has begun to reimagine Bracken Library as a central Learning Commons to develop a multi-floor redesign for improved student and faculty access to research and learning services, collaborative and focused study environments, and cutting-edge digital technologies and tools for data exploration, analysis, and visualization. Learning is rapidly evolving, and Ball State needs library spaces aligned to the inventive support the Libraries provides for digital scholarship, emerging forms of content creation and scholarly communication, and information literacies critical to success as a student, professional, and lifelong learner.

The Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library is critical to realizing the bright future of the University Libraries, as we build on your proud legacy of support to leverage strong advancement and development networks to bring the compelling stories of the Libraries to friends and supporters able to join us as partners and advocates in the exciting transformations ahead.

DEAR FRIENDS OF BRACKEN LIBRARY,

I sincerely wish that you and your families have remained in good health throughout 2021.

Despite the many ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the students, faculty, and staff at Ball State University continue to persevere and thrive on our campus and in our communities. While medical advances have allowed a fuller range of academic, artistic, athletic, and social activities to take place in fall 2021, our University remains diligent and careful in protecting the health and well-being of our community members.

In spite of the hardships of the past year, Ball State University Libraries has remained a thriving, vital, and transformative physical and digital space to advance academic success and innovation. Increased use of virtual communication tools necessitated by the pandemic spurred our librarians and staff to employ technologies in creative and innovative ways to deliver programming and information services to new audiences. The Libraries’ decades-long commitment to building a rich, diverse suite of digital, full-searchable collection resources has allowed students and faculty to enjoy seamless internet access to these resources materials from any location.

As the fall 2021 semester has brought about a greater on-campus presence, students have flocked to University Libraries to connect and collaborate with classmates and friends, to explore new technologies and learn new skills, and to seek information and create new knowledge by engaging with a wealth of scholarly materials and platforms. This v

As Friends of Bracken Library, your generous and unwavering support remains crucial to our ongoing successes. Through financial contributions, gift-in-kind donations, and advocacy, you fulfill a truly essential role in sustaining the success of our Thriving Library and our active, engaged University Community. Thank you deeply for your ongoing support of Ball State University Libraries!

Sincerely,
Michael Szajewski
Executive Secretary

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Christopher Airriess, retired Professor of Geography, donated books, maps, and atlas which included resources on the topic of Asian geography.

Naim Gupta, Emeritus Professor of Educational Psychology, donated archival papers documenting the organization’s operations from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Dave Hamilton donated archival materials from 20th century Muncie children’s author Dorothy Hamilton which included typed transcripts of short stories and novelas as well as correspondence with publishers.

Tracey Phillips donated archival photographs, handwritten sheet music, family correspondence, scrapbooks, and other archival materials belonging to her late grandmother Lucina Ball Mosley, a musician, educator, and philanthropist and granddaughter of William C. Ball.

Mike Mezo, Assistant Professor Emeritus of Construction Management, donated books on the topics of construction, architecture, and design.

Lucina Ball Moxley, one of the founders of the University’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program, donated research materials and archival documents pertaining to Indiana-area Native American populations, national railroad systems, and his ancestor David Kilgore, a 19th century Indiana politician and civic leader.

Cindy Peters, Secretary for the League of Women Voters of Muncie, donated materials which included minutes, publications, maps and guides of the Muncie area surveys, planning notes, and materials documenting the organization’s operations from the 1960s to the 1990s.

Matthew Shaw, Dean of University Libraries

GIFTS-IN-KIND

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EDWIN BRUCE KIRKHAM (1938-2021)

With great sadness, Ball State University Libraries announces the passing of Dr. Edwin Bruce Kirkham, Professor Emeritus of English and founder of the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library.

Dr. Kirkham arrived at Ball State in 1968, joining the English faculty and rising to the rank of full Professor. A prolific scholar of literature, he published two major books, two concordances, and over 30 scholarly articles, chapters, and books reviews.

EDWIN BRUCE KIRKHAM (1938-2021)

INDY PARKS AND RECREATION DIGITAL COLLECTION NOW AVAILABLE

Through a collaboration with The Indianapolis Public Library, a vast collection of over 16,000 photographs, films, and archival records from Indianapolis Parks and Recreation held by Ball State University Libraries has been digitized and is freely accessible online.

The Indy Parks and Recreation Collection, available through the Indianapolis Public Library’s Digital Indy cultural heritage repository, highlights the rich civic value and cultural history surrounding the city’s parks system. The archive documents the many educational events, recreational opportunities, arts programs, civic meetings, and community gatherings that have taken place on the grounds of 86 Indianapolis parks and golf courses while highlighting the distinct and artful physical landscapes of these public spaces.

A multi-institutional partnership proved critical in the development and success of the project. The photographs and films in the collection were primarily created and collected by Rupert Daily, an Indianapolis Parks employee whose career spanned from 1945 to 1993. Subsequently, the collection was donated to Ball State University, where it is housed and preserved by archives staff in the Andrew Seager Archives of the Built Environment, a division of University Libraries located in the Birck Nanotechnology Center of Architecture and Planning.

In 2017, The Indianapolis Public Library initiated a partnership with Ball State University Libraries to develop an online collection of these materials. Through generous grant funding from the Lilly Endowment Inc., Public Library staff digitized the collection, making it fully searchable, discoverable, and accessible to community members and global scholars alike.

The Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Collection is one of over 70 distinct archival collections held in Ball State University’s Seager Archives, a unique resource dedicated to preserving the history of Indiana’s built environment. The Archives preserves and provides access to architectural drawings, landscape plans, blueprints, photographs, models, and building remnants that tell the stories of Indiana’s buildings, sites, and structures. Its collections are open for research to Ball State University students, faculty, and the general public.

In addition to supporting nearly 300 scholarly inquiries and providing numerous instruction sessions and community workshops each year, the Seager Archives advances nearly 75 professional and civic projects pertaining to the preservation and revitalization of the built environment across the state of Indiana.

The new online collection through Digital Indy also complements the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation Landscape Architecture Drawings digital collection, a Sea Grant initiative of Parks and Recreation Landscape Architecture.

A full press release announcing the Indy Parks and Recreation Collection can be found online through The Indianapolis Public Library News and Announcements feature.