

# Student Projects from the Archives

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## Humans of UA: A University of Akron Unclass 2020

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## **Humans of UA: A University of Akron Unclass 2020**

Kaylie Yaceczko, *The University of Akron, Department of English*

**D**uring the fall semester of my final year as an undergraduate student at The University of Akron, I had the privilege of taking the Unclass Humans of UA, which was meant to be a deep dive into the University's archives to bring the marginalized voices in UA's history to light like the Humans of New York project. As an English major, I thought there would be no better place to find these voices than in the literary field, as writing and literature have been a haven for self-expression for as long as any of us can remember. I had been fortunate enough during my time as an undergrad to be heavily involved with the Upstart Crows writing organization and *AshBelt Journal*, so I wanted to look into the literary lives of University of Akron students through the school's history.

What surprised me most about the class was how quickly I became interested in using the Archives and actually researching for my project. It was rewarding being able to find everything I was looking for and more than I ever expected just by looking through old yearbooks and previous editions of *The Buchtelite*. The other aspect of the Unclass was incorporating the marginalized voices into modern conversations, so we utilized social media to share what we had found. The Zippy's Reading Room (@zippysreadingroom) Instagram account was where I posted about what I found about the University's three literary societies—which had their own Instagram accounts to demonstrate the lighthearted rivalry between them—the literary events, and the evolution of the literary journals throughout the University's history. The most helpful part of the Unclass was how collaborative it was throughout our research. While we worked on our individual projects, we could count on one another for feedback and help with our projects.

The blog *Humans of UA* was easily the most enjoyable part of the class because I was able to document my journey researching the literary societies and the literary journals as I discovered them (Figure 1). Going into my project, I had a general idea of where I wanted it to go, but the blog allowed it to evolve with the information I found. Before starting, I was worried that I wouldn't have enough to write about, but I quickly found that I was struggling to stop writing. I was able to cover the literary societies and everything they did on campus, and I

also went through the literary magazines over the years and was able to break down what students were writing about and how they were writing throughout the 150 years of The University of Akron.

You can enjoy the entire blog here: [Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://Humans of UA (uakron.edu)). Below are links to the individual posts made throughout the term. The titles offer a glimpse into the wide variety of approaches to campus literary life that the project pursued.

- “Introducing Zippy’s Reading Room.” [Introducing Zippy’s Reading Room – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://Introducing Zippy’s Reading Room – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “Two Decades of Literary Societies - and Rivalries - at UA.” [Two Decades of Literary Societies — and Rivalries — at UA – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://Two Decades of Literary Societies — and Rivalries — at UA – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “A War of Writers at UA.” [A War of Writers at UA – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://A War of Writers at UA – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “A Sisterhood of Akron Poets.” [A Sisterhood of Akron Poets – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://A Sisterhood of Akron Poets – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “It’s All There in Black and White: Beginning Student Publications at UA.” [It’s All Therein Black and White: Beginning Student Publications at UA – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://It’s All Therein Black and White: Beginning Student Publications at UA – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “Rolling on the River: The University of Akron’s First Literary Magazine.” [Rolling On the River: The University of Akron’s First Literary Magazine – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://Rolling On the River: The University of Akron’s First Literary Magazine – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))
- “Leaping Off the Page: Women and UA Publications.” [Leaping off the Page: Women and UA Publications – Humans of UA \(uakron.edu\)](http://Leaping off the Page: Women and UA Publications – Humans of UA (uakron.edu))



Figure 1: The Humans of UA homepage, at <https://blogs.uakron.edu/humansofua/>