Upper Iowa University’s roots have run deep since 1857, as the University grew from the inspiration of our founder, Elizabeth Alexander. From a one-building campus to the global University it has become, UIU owes its growth to the many inspiring men and women who have led Upper Iowa for approximately 160 years.

To enable others to enjoy the memorabilia that tell the rich history of Upper Iowa University, UIU is creating a permanent archives collection on the Fayette campus that honors the traditions of the past while building the future. The archives collection will ensure that the University’s history is rightly catalogued, interpreted and presented to future generations of UIU students, faculty, staff and community members.

**Foster Cass Archives Walk**

In keeping with his passion for UIU’s history, alumnus Foster Cass (Class of 1941) has bestowed a gift to support the creation of the University Archives. In recognition of Foster’s generosity, the University has named the Foster Cass Archives Walk on the Fayette Campus in his honor.

Born Feb. 6, 1919, Foster Cass attended Fayette High School. After graduating from UIU, he served his country during World War II and recalls countless stories from his naval service, including his time as a “plank owner,” a member of the first crew of the USS Fayette. After military service, Foster pursued a career in public education in Iowa and California. He now resides in Los Alamitos, Calif.

Throughout his life, Foster Cass maintained a deep love for Upper Iowa University and the Fayette community. He has given generously to UIU over the years, including his most recent pledge to support the Archives Walk.

Foster’s devotion to his alma mater has been made evident by his many writings about his time on the Fayette campus, including stories of meeting his late wife in the then David B. Henderson library, participating in training flights that took off from the UIU airfield in the ’40s, and working in the UIU broom company formerly located on campus.

To donate to the University Archives, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement & Alumni Development at 563-425-5388, or by email at alumni@uiu.edu

To donate Upper Iowa University artifacts to the University Archives, please contact Becky Wadian, Director of Library Services at 563-425-5270, or by email at wadianb@uiu.edu
Henderson-Wilder Library (first floor) – The University Archives, housed in the library, pay homage to all things UIU. The assembled historical documents, collections and memoirs date back to 1851 with the trunk brought to the Fayette area packed with $18,000 in gold by Robert Alexander, founder of Fayette and Upper Iowa University. A few of the tools utilized in the 1855 construction of what has become known as Alexander-Dickman Hall are also available for viewing. Among other permanent and rotating exhibits are:

- A salute to the Upper Iowa University Recruits Company C and the Civil War
- Peacock Spirit (Homecoming buttons, Pete the Peacock, etc.)
- Traditions
- Yearbooks and Class Robes
- The Arts
- Dr. C.C. Parker – medical supplies (Coming soon)
- UIU silver, porcelain, and chinaware
- Founders
- Peacock brooch collection

Alexander-Dickman Hall (first floor) – Built in 1855, this limestone structure housed the University's original classrooms, student rooms, administrative offices, and the president's quarters.

Hall of Presidents (foyer) – A showcase of portraits of the University's Presidents – from Rev. L.H. Bugbee (1857) to Dr. William R. Duffy II (current).

World War II exhibit (first floor elevator lobby) – This display salutes UIU students and alumni who served here and abroad. Among the donated memorabilia are items from Archives Walk supporter Foster Cass, other alumni, and family members whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Parker Fox – The Upper Iowa University Welcome Center, a historic selection of University photos from the early to mid 1900s, and the Class of 1910 clock.

Dorman Memorial Gymnasium – Opening in 1963, Dorman Gym was named in honor of John “Doc” Dorman and his wife Aurilla Cassidy Dorman, both Upper Iowa alumni. Doc turned down a contract offer from the Detroit Tigers to open a dental practice in Fayette and to coach the Peacocks for more than 50 years.

Dorman Exhibit (lobby) – A life-sized statue of Doc Dorman stands in the Bob and Betty Firth Lobby. In addition to recognizing other UIU coaches and athletes, the area features a large collection of memorabilia dedicated to Doc and his teams’ achievements, their primary victories, and the Peacock coach’s own induction into the Helm’s Athletic Hall of Fame and Des Moines Register Sports Hall of Fame.

Andres Center for Business and Education – These displays salute UIU entrepreneurs, past and future.

Parking Meter (second floor) – Carlton Cole Magee, who received his M.A. from UIU in 1896, filed the first commercially successful patent of a parking meter. Magee worked with Oklahoma State University engineering professors on the design of a coin-operated machine to alleviate parking problems in Oklahoma City.

The Brooms of UIU (second floor) – The display includes actual items of the broom factory, which employed many UIU students and provided manufacturing and marketing instruction for approximately three years beginning in 1936. Additional “self-help projects” of the era included auto repair work, laundering, cleaning and pressing, art products, and printing.