



Preparing for UB's Centennial Celebration

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Mission

The mission of the University of Bridgeport Centennial Committee is to promote the university's proud legacy while emphasizing the role of that history in shaping a bright and promising future. By organizing events, initiatives, and celebrations, we will honor the university's 100 years of academic excellence, tradition, and contributions to society. We aim to foster a sense of pride, unity, and anticipation among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community.

Our UB History

In 1927, local teacher E. Everett Cortright and his friend Dr. Alfred Fones, founder of the world's first dental hygiene school, decided to create a two-year junior college, the first one in New England.

On May 5, 1927, the state charter was signed and that fall Fones bought the first college building on Fairfield Avenue, while Cortright hired faculty and enrolled students. In January 1928, the first students began their first semester.

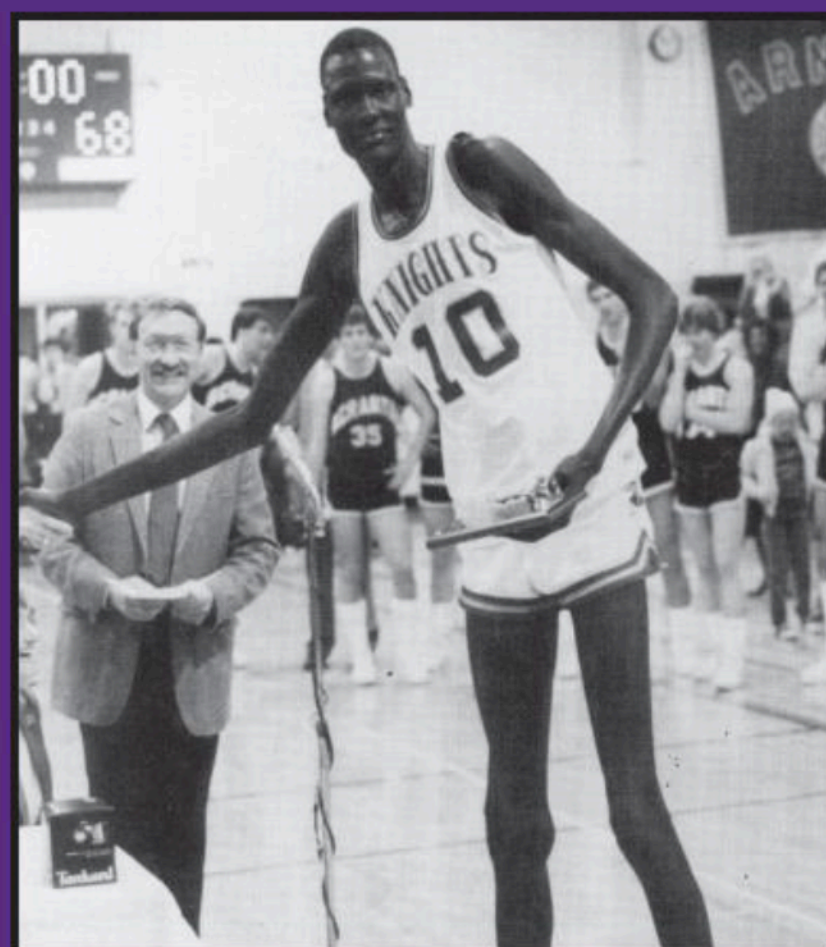
By 1947, the school became a full-fledged University, moving to the former Barnum estate adjacent to Seaside Park. Enrollment grew and from the 1950s through the 1970s, the university was one of the largest and most popular in the northeast. New programs brought students, faculty, staff, and guest speakers like Martin Luther King. In the 1980s, UB built on a strong tradition of global outreach to enroll one of the highest percentages of international students in America.

In the 1990s, the longest higher education faculty strike in American history left the UB community devastated. And yet, the school rose again, building top-notch health science and engineering programs, and innovating for the challenges of the 21st century.



Committee Accomplishments

- Designed and framed 11 UB Historical Signs on 6th Floor of Wahlstrom Library
- Created "UB 100" photo and videos
- Began UB Archival Project, gathering and sorting through historical materials
- Began to create documentary videos of notable alums, beginning with alums Dick Whitcomb, Russ Landau, Bob and Barbara Brilliant, and Claire Criscuolo
- Created Centennial Webpage
- Approved new Centennial Logo/Seal



Originally from South Sudan, 7-foot, 7-inch Manute Bol arrived at the University of Bridgeport in 1984, leading the Purple Knights basketball team to the NCAA Division II New England Regional Tournament. After a decade playing in the NBA, he returned to his native country to try to help achieve peace, using his money and fame to try to build schools. "I want every kid to go to school," he said. "That would be the best thing I did for my people." Today, Bol's jersey is displayed in the Harvey Hubbell Gymnasium, and his work as an ambassador of peace will continue to inspire every student at the University of Bridgeport.



Beginning with the merger with physical education school Arnold College in the 1950s, UB's sports teams have won hundreds of awards over the past ten decades, from a perfect football season in 1972 to a national championship in women's soccer in 2018 to an incredible seven national titles by the women's gymnastics team.

2025 Action Plan

- Fundraise for upcoming projects, including digitization, documentary, and lecture series
- Initiate awareness campaign
- Design, produce, and distribute Centennial-themed merchandise
- Work with local and regional historical organizations to promote the UB Centennial
- Complete Archival Project
- Begin digitizing historical photos
- Complete UB Mural Project
- Continue documentary filming
- Create campus historical displays



UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT

Centennial Celebration: 1927/2027
100 Years of Academic Excellence

Committee Members

- Eric D. Lehman, Chair
- Yvrose Romulus '99, '16, Vice Chair
- Julie F. Demers, Vice Chair
- Elena Cahill '88, '91
- Stephanie Staffey
- Susan Miklos '11
- Lorraine Galow '11, '13
- Douglas House
- Kristy Huntley
- Abhilasha Tibrewal '01
- Phillip Wax '94, '09, '22
- Scott Hughes
- Tania Armellino
- Meredith Gaffney
- Art Landi '74
- Bill Moran '74

Get Involved

