Matthew Ballard, Director of Library Services at the Golisano Library, received the Recent Alumnus Award from The College at Brockport’s Alumni Association on October 20, 2017. The award recognizes graduates who have received their degree within the last 15 years and who have developed positive relationships with the Alumni Association, The College at Brockport, or those who have given outstanding community service and shown outstanding professional achievement. He graduated in 2010 with a B.S. in History and is one of two to receive the award this year.

Matthew was recognized for his ongoing community service and dedication to the preservation of local history in Orleans County. At the age of 18 he assumed a leadership role within the Orleans County Genealogical Society, serving as the organization’s treasurer for over 10 years. In 2010 he was selected as chairman of the Village of Albion’s Historic Preservation Commission and after graduating with his M.L.S. from the University at Buffalo was hired as the Director & Curator of the Cobblestone Society and Museum in Albion, New York.

After accepting a position as Collection Services Librarian at Roberts, he was elected to a one-year term as president of the Board of Trustees for the Cobblestone Society and served as chairman of several committees with that organization. During his time with that organization he led efforts to create a traveling exhibition on the First World War, oversaw efforts to restore a significant artifact mounted by world-renowned taxidermist Carl Akeley, and led the organization through strategic planning efforts in 2016. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1330 in Albion, where he served terms as secretary, treasurer, and president of the organization while overseeing the establishment of a scholarship program for high school graduates.

As the Brockport Alumni Association noted, “while balancing his schoolwork and various job demands, Matthew has published more than 120 weekly columns regarding various local historical events and activities.” He is pursuing a second master’s degree in American History at SUNY Brockport, was inducted into the Phil Alpha Theta National History Honor Society in April of 2017, and is serving as the historian for Orleans County.