



**FINDING AID TO PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
THE DIVISION OF DANCE COLLECTION,  
1925- 2012**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
504 West State Street  
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2058  
(765) 494-2839**

<http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol>

© 2015 Purdue University Libraries. All rights reserved.  
Processed by: Margaret Sheble, April 15, 2015  
Revised by: Carly Dearborn, May 5, 2017

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Purdue University Division of Dance
<b>Title</b>	Purdue University, Division of Dance Collection
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	UA 10
<b>Date Span</b>	1925 – 2012, predominant 2008 - 2012
<b>Abstract</b>	The Division of Dance collection consists of material from Purdue University's dance department including scrapbooks, photographs (digital and physical) and videos of performances, posters, newspaper clippings, and departmental records.
<b>Extent</b>	2.25 cubic feet (3 large flat box) 312.38 GB (digital material)
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Margaret Sheble, 2015
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research. Electronic media in this collection have been processed and migrated to an archives server. Digital use copies can only be accessed onsite in the Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center. To request access, please contact us before coming to use the records.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	The material was donated by the Purdue University Dance Division via Division Chair Carol Cunningham – Sigman.
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20120329; 20120420
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	UA 10, Purdue University Division of Dance Collection, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University

Libraries

**Copyright Notice:**

Purdue University

**Related Materials  
Information:**

Online Exhibition, A History of Concert Dance at Purdue  
University 1931 - 2011: <http://dance.lib.purdue.edu>

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Bendito, Petronio  
Bryant, Rebecca  
Cunningham – Sigman, Carol  
Jaycox, Holly  
Sigman, David  
Simons, Mark  
Van Dyke, Mary Beth  
Wallace, Sally

### **Organizations**

Purdue University  
Purdue University. Division of Dance  
Purdue Contemporary Dance Company  
Purdue Repertory Dance Company  
Purdue Modern Dance Club

### **Topics**

Dance  
Purdue University. Yue-Kong Pao Hall  
Creative Arts  
Visual and Performance Arts  
Dance Companies

### **Form and Genre Types**

Color Photographs  
Digital Images  
Scrapbooks  
Digital Moving Image Formats  
Newspapers

## History of the Division of Dance

The first documented dance class taught at Purdue University was in 1931 when Dance was taught by the Women's Physical Education Department under Women's Athletics. It has been noted that dance was seen as one of the most popular activities during the indoor athletic season. In 1940 the Modern Dance club became the performance group associated with the PE department – their first performance was on February 23, 1962 at the Loeb Playhouse (instead of the Women's Gym). The performance included pieces such as "Sculptures in Space" and "Leaves." Additionally, an experimental piece titled "Sonic Contours" was performed which used synthetic sounds from a tape recording machine – starting the long tradition of the Dance Division to introduce new and experimental techniques into their performances.

In 1979 the Purdue modern dance club changed its name to the Purdue Repertory Dance Company and held its performance in Fowler Hall. Since 1983, the dance company has collaborated with various Purdue departments such as the Light and Sound Design Technology programs of the Theater Division within Creative Arts/Visual and Performance Arts.

In 1989 the modern dance minor was implemented at Purdue University. Additional DANC course offerings were added to the curriculum at the time in dance improvisation, fundamentals of dance composition, choreography, dance appreciation and production/performance practicum. Courses in the dance discipline were also added to the College of Liberal Arts aesthetic awareness core curriculum requirement.

In 1991 the dance courses and the student dance company, Purdue Repertory Dance Company, were administratively transferred to the Creative Arts Department and called the Division of Dance. The two dance studios remained on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Lambert Gym. At the same time the Creative Arts Department changed its name to Visual and Performing Arts Department. Since the implementation of the dance minor the faculty and students have focused on dance composition/choreography as their "research" area and have received numerous recognition awards at the American College Dance Regional Festival adjudication concerts. In 1996 and 1998 faculty works were selected for performance at the national ACDF Gala concert at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

In Fall 2002, faculty and students began collaborating on dance Technology performances using motion graphics and motion capture technology. Collaborators worked closely with Purdue's Envision Center for Data Perceptualization. Currently dance faculty create technology inspired work with faculty and students from the Electronic Time Based Art program in the Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts.

In the fall of 2003 the Division of Dance physically moved out of the constrained Lambert Gym teaching space and began conducting classes in two new dance studios in Pao Hall of Visual and Performing Arts. Performances are held in the Nancy T. Hansen Theatre and the Dance Studio Theatre. In recognition of their contributions of \$200,000 and \$5 million

respectively, a gallery in Pao Hall and the Department of Visual and Performing Arts were named in Honor of Patti and Rusty Rueff.

In 2009 the Purdue Repertory Dance Company changed its name to Purdue Contemporary Dance Company.

In 2011, the Liaison Librarian for Dance and the Data Services Specialist met with the Division of Dance faculty. During this initial meeting, the Dance faculty expressed an interest in preserving and sharing their creative output with others. Over time an opportunity arose to not only display the research of the Division of Dance but to also construct a Purdue Libraries “digital humanities template”: an immersive web presence to be used across multiple disciplines within Purdue University.

In early 2012, construction of a digital dance history began. The project involved multiple stakeholders across the Libraries as well as faculty from the Division of Dance. The aim of the project was two-fold: first, to create an online retrospective showcasing the cultural history of concert dance at Purdue from 1931-2011; second, to research the process of creating digital humanities projects within Purdue University Libraries. In order to complete this task, a sampling of concert dance history and research was integrated into a website.

The site was launched in June 2012 after four months of collaboration and development. The result, “Curiosity + Collaboration = Choreographic Expression,” includes a mixed media archival collection, original video compositions, and faculty interviews. The project resulted in a better understanding of digital humanities utilization within Purdue Libraries. More importantly, the immersive online presence promotes the history and scholarly research of the Division of Dance on a global scale.

*Source:*

*"Curiosity Collaboration = Choreographic Expression: A History of Concert Dance at Purdue University 1931-2011."* Purdue University. Web.

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Purdue University Division of Dance Collection consists of scrapbooks, articles, tickets, brochures and pamphlets, gallery schedules, and photos and videos of performances. The collection is arranged into two series.

### Arrangement

#### 1. Scrapbooks, 1925; 1960 – 2012 (2.25 cubic feet, 3 large flat box)

The scrapbooks are housed in large flat boxes and contain but are not limited to photographs, fliers, articles, posters, newspaper clippings, and other information relating to performances. Highlights includes the first Purdue Repertory Dance Company logo and articles concerning the dedication of Yue-Kong Pao Hall.

#### 2. Dance Productions, 2002 – 2012 (.15 cubic feet, 1 folder) (312 GB digital material)

This series consist Purdue Contemporary Dance Company programs and digital photos and videos of full performances and dress rehearsals. Items have been arranged according to year and season and include accompanying choreography notes for some performances. A portion of the digital items arrived to the archives on CDs and DVDs. Those files have been transferred to an archives server for ease of access and preservation. Contact an archivist for a detailed inventory of digital files.

**Descriptive Rules** Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition / Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Processing Information

The scrapbooks are in their original format but the first scrapbook has been dismantled and the material has been digitized for preservation reasons. Digital photos and videos have been arranged according to year and season. Digital media transferred to the archives via CD or DVD have been transferred to an archives server for preservation and ease of access. The archivist has maintained the order as received and as such, the title and type of carrier media (CD or DVD) has been listed although the physical disks are no longer the source of access.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Series 1. Scrapbooks**

**2.25 cubic feet (3 large flat box)**

#### **Box 1**

Scrapbook 1; 1960s

Scrapbook 2; 1976 – 1983 [Labeled “Purdue Repertory Dance Company”]

#### **Box 2**

Scrapbook 3; 1983 – 2004 [Labeled “Purdue Repertory Dance Company”]

#### **Box 3**

Scrapbook 4; 2004 – 2012 [Labeled “Purdue Repertory Dance Company”]

### **Series 2. Dance Productions**

**.15 cubic feet (1 folder)**

**312 GB (digital material)**

#### **Box 3**

Programs and clipping, 2006-2011

#### **Digital Files**

Dance productions, audio, photos, and videos (311 GB), 2002-2012

*DVDs and CDs have been processed and the files are available for access in the reading room. The physical disks have been removed from the collection for preservation purposes.*

Uncanny Alley Photos/Posters, CD-R, undated

HIDEF hand-in-hand, Bunrakustudy 4:00, Bunraku Carol, Carol Cunningham –sigma, CD-R, undated

“Entropy” Bendito- Cunningham, DVD-R, undated

Carol Cunningham 2003 Exoskeleton Motion Capture Loeb Playhouse, CD-R, 2003

Interplay Dance 2006 on the Bank Packet creek, video, photo, article, poster, DVD-R

Poster, Articles, Other, 2006 Dancing on creek, CD-R, 2006

PRDC Spring Concert, CD-R, 2007

Winter 2009 Dance. PCDC Photos & Poster, CD-R, 2009

Winter 2010 PCDC. Poster & Photo by David Sigman, Photos of Dances, Mark Simons, CD-R, 2010

Spring 2011 PCDC, Photos Mark Simon, CD-R, 2011