



Special Collections and University Archives

**Manuscript Group 239
Michael Hood Drama Collection**

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**Indiana University of Pennsylvania
302 Stapleton Library
Indiana, PA 15705-1096
Voice: (724) 357-3039
Fax: (724) 357-4891
Website: www.iup.edu/archives**

**Michael Hood IUP Collection of Drama; Manuscript Group 239
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collection and University Archives
1 box; 1 linear foot**

Biographical Note

Michael Hood served as the Dean for the College of Fine Arts at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) from 1998-2018. He oversaw the expansion of Cogswell Hall, IUP's music complex, and the transformation of Waller Hall and Fisher Auditorium into the single Performing Arts Center. Responsible for a variety of curriculum enhancements, Michael Hood led IUP's effort to become an All-Steinway School and the establishment of the university's Center for Wood Art, as well as the establishment of the IUP Community Music School. He oversaw the addition of the Pogorzelski-Yankee memorial organ to the IUP campus and has been an active proponent and participant in the direction and development of IUP's University Museum.



In addition to his on-campus achievements, Michael Hood maintained a commitment to his profession off campus. He participated frequently as a mentor in the Association for Theater in Higher Education Leadership Institute and for the National Association for Schools of Theater, as a member and board member of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans, and as member and currently president of the National Theatre Conference. In 2014, Michael Hood became an American Theatre Fellow. Investiture in the College of Fellows of the American Theatre is one of the highest honors bestowed upon educators and professionals of the theater. He has served as guest and featured artist for productions throughout the United States and abroad in Indonesia and China.

Michael Hood has been active in the local and regional community, having served as a member of the board of the Indiana Arts Council, as a member, board member and president of the Indiana Rotary Club, as a member of the board of Artworks and now Bottle Works—Arts on 3rd Avenue in the Cambria City section of Johnstown, and as the chairman of the 2016 Indiana Borough Bicentennial Celebration. He has twice been named a finalist for the Indiana County Civic Leader Award and was selected Indiana Rotary Rotarian of the Year in 2016.

Before Michael Hood came to IUP as the Dean for the College of Fine Arts, he taught at the University of Alaska – Anchorage for 22 years.

New Dean of Fine Arts appointed

By Sonya Barclay

The stained coffee mug is empty, the spoon clanking against the side, as the lanky bearded man turns it around. The logo reads "Who's Who in American Teaching, 1998."

"This is one of my greatest accomplishments," he says with a smile. The man behind the mug is Michael J. Hood, the new Dean of the College of Fine Arts at IUP. Three weeks into his new position, Hood replaces Dr. Charles Cullum, who served as the Interim Dean. Hood served for 22 years at the University of Alaska/Anchorage on the faculty. Even as far away as Anchorage, IUP has a great reputation. "I have colleagues at the University of Alaska, who earned degrees at IUP. On my way out the door they told me that I would love the school and I would love the town." So far, Hood says he has been favorably impressed with the university and the community.



Michael J. Hood

Hood is excited about learning this administrative aspect of university life. He served as an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Anchorage for two separate three-year terms, but this is his first opportunity to serve as dean. With a background in theatre, Hood likens his new responsibilities to being a director of a play. "I learned early in my career as a director that the best director is a facilitator, and that the best plays are done by a collaborating team rather than by single visionaries. Our idea is always better than mine; it's stronger than mine alone because you own it too." That is precisely the way he intends to approach his new task as dean of fine arts. He wants to encourage "the tremendously gifted

faculty" to set their own goals. He wants to help make those visions become a reality. "I want to help define and refine the collective dream for the college of fine arts," he states. In that way, he believes that the college will become the flagship of IUP, although he admits that every other dean probably has the same goal. "The point is, that is what we should be aiming at — the very best academics, the very best art, the very best community."

Hood has a range of experience to help him bring his unique style to IUP. He received his master's degree in Fine Arts, Drama and Communications, from the University of New Orleans in 1975, after earning his undergraduate credits in Theatre at Arizona State University. He began teaching at the University of Alaska/Anchorage in 1976, the first year that UAA became a four-year institution. Hood has directed summer stock theatre in Alaska and California, created programming to take theatre into the public schools, and recently worked with a professional theatre group in Russia. A well-rounded director, Hood has received honors and awards for his stage productions. He also has a special interest in choreographing stage combat, especially theatrical fencing. Academically, he is also well respected. He was recently a finalist for outstanding faculty research at UAA and was given an award for distinguished teaching last year.

In addition to encouraging faculty to achieve their goals, Hood is intent on making himself accessible to the students at IUP. He has already been delighted with the level of students' artwork at IUP, as well as theatrical and musical productions. One of his major goals is to attend every event that his college produces, a lofty goal in itself. "It's heaven," Hood said. "I get to go to every one of them, admire the work of the students and the faculty and then pat myself on the back and say, 'That's my college!'"

In another local connection, Hood's wife, Kitty, is happy to be in the area. An avid amateur genealogist with a number of area ties from the early 1800s, she has already spent numerous hours searching local cemeteries and records in pursuit of her hobby.

Scope and Content

This collection includes publications donated by Michael Hood including illustrated editions of works by William Shakespeare and publications about Shakespearean performances and costume design.

Provenance

This collection was donated by Michael Hood in 2019.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open and available for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs.

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Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on November 7, 2022.

Container List**Box 1 Michael Hood (4 folders)**

1. Michael Hood: Biographical Information and Correspondence
2. Publication: Shakespeare's Heroes and Heroines, dedicated to Henry Irving, no date (1891) disbound
3. Publication: Shakespeare Rare Print Collection (prints only) same as Folder 4
4. Publication: Shakespeare Rare Print Collection, Parts I-XII, Published for Private Circulation, 1900 (complete folio), no cover (available full-text)