### Descriptive Summary

**Creator Information**  
Legacy collection, creator unknown

**Title**  
Purdue University Astronauts collection

**Collection Identifier**  
MSP 168

**Date Span**  
1965-2003, predominant 1969

**Abstract**  
This legacy collection features items related to Purdue University’s alumni astronauts. The various items were collected before the advent of the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives. Included are clippings, Purdue University News Service press releases relating to Apollo 11 and Neil A. Armstrong and various Apollo 11 related newspapers and clippings. Also included are Purdue publications and shuttle mission decals, patches and a replica of a mechanical toy that was involved in a shuttle (STS-54) mission experiment.

**Extent**  
0.9 cubic feet (2 mss boxes)

**Finding Aid Author**  
Mary A. Sego

**Languages**  
English

**Repository**  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

### Administrative Information

**Location Information:**  
ASC

**Access Restrictions:**  
Collection is open for research

**Acquisition Information:**  
Legacy items; donors various and unknown, some clippings received from Purdue University Relations.

**Preferred Citation:**  
MSP 168, Purdue University Astronauts collection, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

**Copyright Notice:**  
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**Related Materials**  
“Purdue’s Place in Space: From the Midwest to the
Information:

Moon,” online exhibit that chronicles Purdue University’s role in aviation history and space exploration:
http://www.lib.purdue.edu/moon/

NASA – Microgravity: International toys in space:
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/microgravity/home/toys-in-space.html#.VAB8T6NReSp
Subjects and Genres

Persons
Armstrong, Neil A., 1930-2012
Grissom, Gus, 1926-1967
Chaffee, Roger B., 1935-1967
Voss, Janice, 1956-2012
Cernan, Eugene, 1934-
Covey, Richard O., 1946-
Blaha, John E., 1942-
Bridges, Roy D., Jr., 1943
Brown, Mark N., 1951-
Covey, Richard O., 1946-
Gardner, Guy S., 1948-
Payton, Gary E., 1948-
Ross, Jerry Lynn., 1948-
Shriver, Loren J., 1944-
Walker, Charles D., 1948-

Organizations
Purdue University
Flight Archives at Purdue University

Topics
Astronauts
Purdue University—Alumni and alumnae

Form and Genre Types
Artifacts
Clippings
Decals
Patches
Press releases
Publications

Occupations
Astronauts
History of Purdue's Alumni Astronauts

Purdue has been called the "cradle of astronauts" for good reason. Twenty-three Purdue graduates have been selected for space travel, including the first and last astronauts to walk on the moon, and two of the six American astronauts who have served on board Mir, the Russian space station. Purdue alumni have flown on about 37 percent of all human U.S. space flights. More than 40 space shuttle flights have had Purdue alumni on board. Many other Purdue graduates work for NASA and in the space industry. For more information related to Purdue’s alumni astronauts, see: http://www.purdue.edu/space/astronauts.html

Source:

Collection Description

Scope

The Purdue University Astronauts collection (1965-2003; 0.9 cubic feet) consists of items relating to Purdue's alumni astronauts that had been collected by various donors before the advent of the Barron Hilton Flight and Space Exploration Archives.

Included are newspaper clippings, Purdue University News Service press releases that had been written in regards to Neil A. Armstrong and Apollo 11, and various newspapers with Apollo 11 headlines and related clippings, Purdue University related publications featuring Purdue alumni astronaut stories; Purdue Alumnus, Purdue Engineer and a program from the Purdue Engineering Astronaut Alumnus Award Convocation, held September 29, 1989.

Also of note are Space Shuttle mission decals, patches and a Challenger commemorative coin. Among the artifacts is a replica of a mechanical toy, “Rat Stuff,” which was among the first 10 mechanical toys to be a part of a shuttle experiment on STS-54, which Purdue alums Gregory Harbaugh and John Casper were crew members, [http://ms.spacegrant.org/uploads/images/Education/Conferences/NASA%20s%20Toy%20Box/toys.in.space.pdf](http://ms.spacegrant.org/uploads/images/Education/Conferences/NASA%20s%20Toy%20Box/toys.in.space.pdf)

Types of materials include: artifacts, clippings, press releases, publications and a few miscellaneous items.

Descriptive Rules

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Some clippings containing images of people or color graphics, or front pages of newspapers, have been preserved for display purposes, with photocopies made available for research.
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Box 1 *Clippings, Press Releases and Publications, 1965-2003*

Folder
1. Clippings, related to Purdue astronauts, 1965-2003
3. Apollo 11 related newspapers and clippings (received from Purdue University Relations) 1969
4. Purdue publications featuring Purdue alumni astronauts, 1966-1989
5. Astronauts exhibit items (primarily text), 1991
6. Presentation, Air Force/Air University, “The U.S. Space Program,” undated

Box 2 *Mission Decals, Patches and Artifacts, 1985-1994*

Folder
   1. STS-34, Atlantis, 1989
   2. Galileo, 1989
   3. STS-51, Discovery, 1993
   4. STS-62, Columbia, 1994
   1. STS-51, Discovery, 1993
   2. STS-62, Columbia, 1994
4. Artifact, Commemorative coin, Space Shuttle Challenger, January 28, 1986