Mississippi State University Archives

Presidential Papers/Executive Documents Record Group

A 79-39

Dean W. Colvard, 1960-1966

Restrictions: None

Extent: 24 cubic feet


Biography:

Dean Wallace Colvard was born July 10, 1913 in Ashe County, North Carolina. He attended Berea College, in Kentucky, graduating in 1935. He met and married his wife, Martha, at Berea, and after graduation he began teaching at Brevard College, in North Carolina. He then earned his master’s degree from the University of Missouri in 1938 and his PhD from Purdue University in 1950. Colvard then joined the faculty at North Carolina State College where in 1948 he was named Dean of the School of Agriculture. He remained in that position until 1960 when he was named the President of Mississippi State College (later University). During his tenure at MSU, Colvard helped the university through the tumultuous civil rights movement. In 1963, he allowed the men’s basketball team to defy the “unwritten rule” that Mississippi teams would not compete against integrated squads and he oversaw the quiet integration of the university with the admittance of its first African-American student, Richard Holmes, in 1965.

Colvard left MSU in 1966 and, in 1967 he helped found the University of North Carolina’s Charlotte branch. Colvard was the first chancellor of UNC-Charlotte and he remained in that
position until 1978. During this time, Colvard was also instrumental in the founding of the North Carolina School of Science in Math. Dean W. Colvard died June 28, 2007.

Scope and Content Note:

The Dean W. Colvard Papers consist of 24 boxes of materials. The files are arranged alphabetically by title and include both general correspondence and subject files. Topics include: Board of Trustees, Committees, Extension Service, Departmental files, and the University’s decision to allow the men’s basketball team to participate in the NCAA tournament against integrated teams.

Preferred Citation:

Dean W. Colvard Papers (A79-39), University Archives, Mississippi State University Libraries.

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Related Materials:

A85-120, Dean W. Colvard Faculty Papers, Mississippi State University Archives (Includes Inauguration Materials and Mixed Emotions NCAA Tournament Correspondence)


DEAN WALLACE COLVARD

1960-1966

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24 cu ft

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<th>Collection:</th>
<th>Donor:</th>
<th>Size:</th>
<th>Restrictions:</th>
<th>Description of Collection:</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>A85-120</td>
<td>8/24/1972; 5/2/1985</td>
<td>Personal Collection: Dean W. Colvard</td>
<td>President’s Office/D. W. Colvard</td>
<td>.6 cu ft</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Should include but not limited to if any Record Group, Sub Group, Inclusive Dates, Location of Collection in the Stacks, brief summary of person(s) or department(s) the collection is regarding, types of materials included ex. correspondence, lecture notes, meeting notes, workshops, seminars, organizations, etc. and if this collection is added to, part of, or in cahoots with other collections by same person(s) or department(s).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

President Dean W. Colvard Inaugural Greetings Collection.

D.W. Colvard miscellaneous files.

Basketball Team NCAA Tournament 1963 files.

***The above collections were previously A85-120 and A85-203. They were merged by the University Archives Department and are listed under A85-120.***
DEAN WALLACE COLVARD
1960-1966
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Program of Dean Colvard’s Inauguration
Congratulatory Notes from Other Universities

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D. W. Colvard-Miscellaneous

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