

Office of the President Bill Lee Atchley Records 1974-1985

Overview

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| Repository: | Clemson University Special Collections Clemson, SC |
| Series # | 20 |
| Title | Bill Lee Atchley Records |
| Abstract | This series consists of records of the President that President Atchley transferred to the University Archives at the end of his administration in July 1985. |
| Dates | Inclusive 1974-1985; bulk 1982-1984 |
| Quantity | 2.25 cu. ft. in 5 boxes |
| Access: | Part of this series with files about University personnel and students is restricted in compliance with state and federal law. |

Scope and content

These records of the President consist of correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, and budgets that President Atchley transferred to the University Archives from the Presidents House at the end of his administration in July 1985. The records concern matters which received his personal attention and include the Athletic Department, the College of Engineering, the Fire Department, the President's Council, and the Strom Thurmond Institute. There is considerable material related to investigations as well some material related to the budget, program development and the Board of Trustees. Correspondents include Horace Fleming, R.W. Robinson, and members of the Board of Trustees

There is an inventory to this series.

Additional Collection Information

Preferred citation

Cite as: Description and date of item, Office of the President, Bill Lee Atchley Records, 1974-1985, Series 20, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson SC.

Biographical Note

Bill Lee Atchley was born 16 February 1932, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to William Cecil and Mary Bicket Atchley. He was both president of the student body and captain of the football team at Central High School in his home town. After a brief career as a pitcher for the New York Giants, 1951-1952, and a brief stint in the U. S. Army, 1952-1954, Atchley embarked on a career in civil engineering; he earned the bachelor and master of science degrees from the University of Missouri at Rolla in 1957, and 1959, respectively, and the doctorate from Texas A&M University in 1965. Atchley returned to the University of Missouri to teach civil engineering and later serve as Associate Dean of the College of Engineering. In 1975 he went to West Virginia University as Dean of the College of Engineering.

In 1978, Atchley interviewed for the presidency of Clemson University; was selected in February 1979, and inaugurated in April 1980. Atchley brought about a number of changes such as encouraging faculty and students in the University's governance; the reorganization of University administration; the renovation of Tillman Hall; the upgrading of computer facilities; and the creation of the Calhoun Honors College. His attempt to reorganize the Athletic Department after an investigation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1982 was met with opposition within the Department, from athletic supporters, and from the Board of Trustees. The conflict between the Trustees and President Atchley culminated in his resignation on 1 March 1985.

After leaving Clemson University, Atchley served as President of the National Science Center for Communications and Electronics Education Foundation. In July 1987 he assumed the presidency of the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and served there until his retirement in 1995. In retirement, Dr. Atchley returned to South Carolina, living with his wife Pat Limbaugh Atchley at Murrells Inlet. He died of a heart attack on February 18, 2000 while attending a rally for John McCain.

Information for this biographical sketch is from Clemson University Archives Series 19 and 38 and "The Outsider: Bill Lee Atchley, 1979-1985" by William F. Steirer in *Tradition: A History of the Presidency of Clemson University*.

Detailed Description

| Folder | Title |
|--------|---|
| 1 | Academic Affairs, 1979 |
| 2 | Administrative staff, 1981 |
| 3 | Administrative Policy on Alcohol Consumption and Fraternity Rush, 1984 |
| 4 | Air Travel and Surface Transportation Survey, 1980 Athletic Department |
| 5 | Block C Audit, 1983 |

- 6 Coaches salaries, 1983-1984
- 7 IPTAY audit and financial information, 1983-1984
- 8 Misc. financial and ticket information, 1979-1984
- Reorganization
- 9 1982-1983
- 10 Atchley Personal notes
- 11 Correspondence, 1982-1983
- 12 Volunteer coaches, 1983
- 13 Board of Trustees: April 1983 meeting
- 14 Budget, 1982-1985
- 15 Capital Fund Raising Campaign Plan Action, 1985
- 16 Charge to Task Force on Clemson Athletic Affairs, 1983
- 17 Clement Stone, 1982-1983
- 18 College of Engineering, 1982-1983
- 19 College of Sciences, 1984
- 20 Computerization in the College of Engineering, 1985
- 21 Continuing Education Center and adjacent
multi-family residential facilities, 1984
- Contracts
- 22 Ellis, Cliff, 1984
- 23 Ford, Danny, 1984-1985
- 24 McLellan, Bill, 1979
- 25 Correspondence, 1979-1985
- 26 Faculty personnel matters, 1979-83 (Restricted-Removed)
- 27 Fire Department, 1974
- 28 Incidences of Fraud/Defalcation, 1979-1984 (Restricted-
Removed)
- Investigations
- ACC
- 29 Confidential Report, 1984 (Restricted-Removed)
- 30 Correspondence, 1982-1984
- 31 Alleged rape, 1985 (Restricted-Removed)
- 32 Athletic Department, 1982-1983
- 33 Brummit, James, 1984 (Restricted-Removed)
- 34 Byars, Edward, 1980-1985 (Restricted-Removed)
- 35 Fire Department, 1983-1984 (Restricted-Removed)
- 36 Found money, 1985
- 37 Jaspers, Stijn, 1985
- 38 Johnson, J. Karl, 1982-1983 (Restricted-Removed)
- 39 Jordan, Homer, 1982 (Restricted-Removed)

- 40 McFadden, Banks, 1985
NCAA
- 41 Atchley's statement to NCAA Board, 1982
- 42 Confidential report #176, 1982 (Restricted-
Removed)
- 43 General, 1982-1983
Official inquiry
- 44 Correspondence, 1982
- 45 Correspondence and memos, 1982-1983
- 46 Official Inquiry to the Chief Executive
Officer of Clemson University, 1982 (Restricted
-Removed)
- 47 Response of Clemson University, 1982 (Restricted
-Removed)
- 48 Report of the Committee Appointed by Atchley to
Review NCAA Allegations, 1982 (Restricted-
Removed)
- 49 Owen, Charles, 1981-1985 (Restricted-Removed)
- 50 Items to see Dr. Maxwell about, 1982
- 51 Oklahoma State faculty salary survey, 1983-1984
- 52 Pearson, Paul David, vita, 1984
- 53 Permanent improvements, 1979-80
- 54 President's Council, 1973-1985
- 55 President's performance appraisal, 1984
Salaries
- 56 Increases in excess of 9%, 1983-84
- 57 Proposed distribution, 1983-1984
- 58 Supplements, 1981-1982
- 59 State auditor's report, 1982
Strom Thurmond Institute
- 60 1983-1984
- 61 Alternative Development Financing Strategies, 1985
- 62 Founder's Notebook, 1982
- 63 Transition and Reorganization Recommendations, 1985
- 64 University executive compensation, 1981, 1983

Index Terms

Subjects:

Clemson University—Administration

Clemson University—Alumni

Clemson University—Athletics
Clemson University—Faculty and Staff
Clemson University—Fire Department
Clemson University—History
College sports—South Carolina

Added entries

Barnet, Melvin
Fleming, Horace
Ford, Danny
McLellan, H.C. “Bill”
Robinson, R.W. “Bobby”

Administrative information

Provenance: Transferred by Bill Lee Atchley, accession 85-69

Processing: Michael Kohl, Head, Special Collections, 1986 revised 2005