

Guide to

MS 009

**Bob Wardell's
FSC Freshman Beanie
1954**

1 linear inch

Processed by: Amy Skillen

Summer 2021

Preferred citation: MS 009, Bob Wardell's FSC Freshman Beanie, 1954, Box # Folder #,
McKay Archives, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida.

***Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr. Archives Center
Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida***

Biographical Sketch:

Robert “Bob” Wardell is a Florida Southern College alumnus who attended from 1954 to 1958. While at Florida Southern, he was the Secretary and Social Chairman of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, Secretary of the Intramural Board, and a member of both Omicron Delta Kappa (honors society) and Future Teachers of America. Bob Wardell graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in History.

Scope and Content Note:

The red beanie cap (“rat cap”) is from his first semester at Florida Southern in the fall of 1954.

Note to Researchers:

Starting in the 1930s, Florida Southern College had a tradition of the “Rat Court” for incoming freshmen. For their first two weeks of college, freshmen were required to wear red beanie caps, also known as “Rat Caps,” and follow a list of specific rules set by upperclassmen. Such rules could include knowing the names of the entire senior class and faculty members as well as opening doors for all upperclassmen and faculty. Freshmen who did not follow the rules were brought up before the Rat Court to stand trial. The last Rat Court occurred in the fall of 1969 as Student Government voted the following spring semester to end the tradition in 1970.

Permission to Publish:

There is no copyright restriction on this beanie. Please inquire if you have questions at 863-680-4453.

Provenance Statement:

The red beanie cap was given to the Alumni Relations Office in 2019 and subsequently transferred to the McKay Archives in July 2021.

Box Inventory:

1	1	Red Beanie Cap (“Rat Cap”), 1954
---	---	----------------------------------