

# the Collection

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

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## In Memoriam: Charles Wilson Capps, Jr.



A lifelong Cleveland resident, Charles Wilson Capps, Jr., is one of our most highly regarded native sons. For over 80 years, Capps aided our community, whether by serving in the military, legislature, or a variety of civic organizations. Capps' imprint on our community is a lasting one.

Capps' ardent dedication to the area is clear when looking back at his life's work. Capps was a World War II veteran, former Sheriff of Bolivar County, District 28

Representative in the Mississippi House of Representatives, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, President of Delta Council, farmer, and real estate broker—just to name a few. His accomplishments are staggering. He was well-known for being firm and fair with the Mississippi budget while gaining respect as an able and dedicated legislator, effectively representing the citizens of his District and State. His lifetime dedication to the Delta speaks volumes about his love for Delta residents.

The feeling, it seems, is mutual. One look around the Delta, and you are bound to see Representative Capps. Many area landmarks and buildings have been dedicated in his honor. Whether fishing at Lake Charlie Capps or visiting Delta State's own Capps Archives and Museum, the community's love and appreciation for Capps is evident.

We here at the Capps Archives are proud of our namesake. Mr. Capps often came to our events, parking his red convertible outside the front door. Event planning at the Archives can sometimes get stressful, but his presence always helped put us at ease. He never failed to grace us with a good story, make us laugh with his unfailing sense of humor, or bless us with kind words of encouragement and approval. His presence will be sorely missed by us, along with the rest of the Delta State community.

To say Charlie Capps was a dedicated man is an understatement. The Mississippi Delta, the City of Cleveland, and Delta State University have all benefited from his generosity, tenacity, and hard work. It is with a heavy heart we bid Mr. Capps farewell, but with great joy that we celebrate his accumulated history, which will doubtlessly continue to impact our region for many generations to come.



## A Compassionate Eye: Photography by William Anderson

7 February - 30 April 2010



William Anderson, a retired Professor of Fine Art at Morehouse College, has spent the past four decades documenting the lives of impoverished African Americans in the Southeast. His photographs are said to “reveal a hidden truth” and “celebrate the beauty of human life,” and are included in many prominent collections, including the Wadsworth Atheneum Amistad Collection, Corcoran Gallery, and the High Museum of Art, among others. Anderson’s art will be on display beginning February 7, 2010, ending on April 30, 2010.

### **A Compassionate Eye Opening Reception**

**Sunday, February 7**

**2:00 - 4:00 pm**

*Refreshments will be provided*

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## Nature of the Delta: Photography of Patty Smith

1 April - 31 May 2010

The Capps Archives and Museum is proud to host Patty Smith, a native of Helena, Arkansas, who brings her photography collection to the Capps Archives this spring. Smith, a retired educator and self-taught photographer, offers up her collection of 50 photos, which showcase the majesty of Delta wildlife. Smith began photography as a hobby after being forced into retirement due to an illness, and is now beginning to receive recognition for her art. Her work has been featured in the 2009 Mississippi Outdoors calendar published by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. *Nature of the Delta* opens on April 1, 2010, and runs through May 31, 2010.



*Photo courtesy of the Tunica Times*

*All exhibits and special programs are free and open to the public.*

“The past is not the property of historians; it is a public possession. It belongs to anyone who is aware of it, And it grows by being shared. It sustains a whole society, which always needs the identity that only the past can give.”

Dr. Walter Havighurst

## 2009 Donations to the Capps Archives

<u>Collection</u>	<u>Donor</u>
Roberts Family Genealogy Papers (manuscript materials, maps, photographs, unpublished manuscripts)	Mrs. Mary Helon Roberts
Mu Phi Epsilon Collection (manuscript materials, organization membership)	Margaret Erwin
Feldbaumer Papers (manuscript materials)	W.C. Feldbaumer
Cleveland Woman’s Club Collection (scrapbooks and organizational history)	Phyllis McCalop
McCory Garrett Papers	Maggie W. McCrory Garrett
Cleveland Italian Festival Collection (newspaper clippings, photographs)	Vicki Fioranelli
Dixie Division Veterans Collection (correspondences, newspaper clippings, newsletters, etc.)	Gene L. Bagwell
McConnell Papers (manuscripts related to the “A Cast of Blues” exhibit)	Sharon McConnell
Shaw, MS Video Collection	Julia Moore
Murphy Papers (photograph of Pace Mercantile, 1910 & narrative)	Lawrence Murphy
1994 Ice Storm Collection (manuscript materials & photographs)	Vicki Fioranelli
Taborian Hospital Collection (manuscript materials)	Dr. David Beito
1927 Flood Photographs Collection	Meredith Spencer
Fletcher Papers (books)	June Fletcher
Dave “Boo” Ferriss Baseball Collection (signed softball, 13 December 1946)	Sunny Turner
Signed Portrait of Eudora Welty, Thalia Mara, & Margaret Alexander	Carolyn White Manning

# Backyards & Beyond: Mississippians and Their Stories the First Year After Katrina

*Exhibit runs through 31 January*

Lunch & Learn Lecture  
*Views from the Grassroots:  
Disaster & Community Building  
on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*

by Dr. John Green  
19 January 2010 @ noon  
Capps Archives & Museum  
Howorth Seminar Room



*Backyards & Beyond is sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council,  
DSU Special Programs Committee, DSU Year of the Arts, and the AAUW.*

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