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## DuPont Guerry III was pioneering ophthalmologist

Ophthalmologist DuPont Guerry III, a 1934 Furman graduate whose research helped pave the way for the development of laser eye surgery, died in Richmond, Va., April 3 at the age of 92.

Guerry, a graduate of the University of Virginia Medical School, taught in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Medical College of Virginia for 38 years (1944-82) and chaired the department from 1953-73.

In an article in its April 5 issue, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported that in 1957, Guerry conducted an experiment to determine how small doses of bright light might affect damaged retinas.

The patient involved had a tumor on his retina that threatened his vision.

According to the newspaper, Guerry asked the patient to "train his right eye on a pinprick of light emanating from an odd contraption — a World War II Army searchlight aimed at a mirror that focused a light beam through a hole in a blackboard positioned two inches from the man's face. During two sessions held a week apart, bright light flashed briefly through the hole five times."

The result of the experiment: The tumor was destroyed and the patient's vision saved.

"By using light to operate on the retina," the paper said, "Guerry laid the groundwork for advances in what was to become laser surgery, which helps

save the sight of people with diabetes, glaucoma, torn retinas and tumors." He had developed his idea after taking part in an Air Force study examining how the brightness of atomic blasts might affect the vision of bomber pilots.

In 1987 the American Ophthalmological Society recognized Guerry's pioneering contributions to his field by presenting him its highest honor, the Howe Medal.

Guerry was active in medical associations on the state and national levels and was the first director of the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Eye Bank. As a pediatric intern he conducted award-winning research on the use of vitamin K to reduce hemorrhaging in newborns.

War II and taught aviation cadets at Presbyterian College from 1943-45. He went on to work in business management for 30 years, retiring from Acme Cloth Reel in 1977. He was also a reporter and weekly columnist for the *Tribune Times* in Simpsonville, where he lived for 43 years. He served on the boards of the Simpsonville Chamber of Commerce, Golden Strip YMCA and Old Ninety Six Girl Scouts. He worked with the United Way, was on the Greenville County Historic Preservation Committee, and was a member of the Simpsonville Rotary Club and the Greenville and Simpsonville Lions Clubs. In 1985 he was named Simpsonville's Citizen of the Year.

**James Austin, Jr.** '35, May 21, Honea Path, S.C. He retired from the Department of Defense after 33 years and later was employed by Corporation Trust Corp. in New York City. He was a member of the Honea Path Lions Club and was a member and soloist with choirs in several states. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

**Wilma Reeve Gentry** '35, May 2, Roswell, Ga. She was one of the founders of Roswell's Youth Day Celebration, which started in the 1950s, and was an award-winning dancer with

the Arthur Murray Studio in Atlanta. She was a member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

**Ernest "Johnnie" Jones, Sr.** '35, March 16. He lived in Rock Hill, S.C., for many years and worked as a coach, teacher, principal and administrator with Rock Hill School District 3.

**Jack Moody Purser** '36, April 9, Greer, S.C. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II and was retired from the Department of Defense.

**Albert Clarke** '37, May 18, Louisville, Ky. He was a retired national sales manager for Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation and had served as a trustee for Baptist Hospitals.

**Curran Earle Carr** '38, May 17, Essex Meadows, Conn.

**Ann Latham Easterling** '38, May 8, Columbia, S.C. She was employed in Greenville by Liberty Life Insurance Company and by Alice Manufacturing Company.

**Gladys Plowden Kennedy** '38, March 17, Due West, S.C. She worked in banking and was active in the YWCA and Meals on Wheels.

**Harold Audrey Smoak** '38, April 6, Charlotte, N.C. He was a naval aviator and flight instructor during World War II, after which he was a salesman for Pitney Bowes. In 1951 he started Telephone Answering Service, Inc., and served as president and general manager for 11 years. He was active in civic affairs in Charlotte and held leadership roles with the United Appeal and the Better Business Bureau. He was a member of the Bimacial Committee, was president of the North Carolina Mental Health Association and was governor of the Optimist Clubs of North Carolina. He later moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where he served as lay assistant and business administrator of the First Presbyterian Church. He returned to Charlotte in 1968 as president and treasurer of Carolina Child Care Center, Inc.

**Mary Wilton Earle Cleveland** '39, February 28, Columbia, S.C. She was a teacher in the public schools of Greenville and Easley, S.C. She was a member of the Greenville committee of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of South Carolina, the Junior League of Greenville and other organizations.

**Dorothy Burton Pericola** '40, March 22, Greenville. She taught school for 32 years, 28 of which were spent at St. Andrew's Elementary School in Charleston. She was a volunteer at the Children's Hospital of the Medical University of South Carolina and served as a tour guide for Charleston's historic homes.

**John Hugh Wofford** '40, April 9, Williamston, S.C. A member of the Furman Athletic Hall of Fame, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He retired from Mount Vernon Mills in Williamston after 32 years as general manager and also served as the original director of Saluda Valley Savings and Loan and as associate director of American Federal Savings and Loan. He was a school trustee for 12 years and a former member of the Anderson (S.C.) Chamber of Commerce.

**Elsie Aspin Simister Jones** '41, April 21, Greenville. She owned and managed Meadowbrook Farms and Ice.

**Herman Dwight McAlister** '41, March 24, Florence, S.C. He was pastor of First Baptist Church of Cheraw, S.C., for 19 years, and of several other churches for more than 30 years. He also taught school in South Carolina for 10 years