



Elizabeth Drumtra Hughes

Elizabeth Drumtra "Betty" Hughes, wife of former Academy president, Dr. Roscoe D. Hughes, died of pneumonia Friday, October 6, 1999, in a Richmond area nursing home at age 93. Mrs. Hughes, an Easton, Pennsylvania native, earned a bachelor's degree from Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa., and a master's degree from Columbia University, where she also completed course work toward a Ph.D.

Mrs. Hughes, a biologist interested in botany, retired as head of the Collegiate School science department in 1979 after teaching science there for about two decades. For decades into her retirement, she continued as a volunteer with the Science Museum, which named her Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 1985. She was a founding member of the Bloemendaal Society and worked to found the library at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

Mrs. Hughes was one of the first members of the Science Museum's liaison committee, which honored her as its first lifetime honorary member in 1992 and had been a longtime donor to the museum's annual fund and endowment. Dr. Roscoe Hughes, who was instrumental in founding the museum and who served as the first chairman of its board of trustees, died in 1976. Betty Hughes has carried on the work to make the project a reality. The museum's Night Visions exhibit bears a plaque honoring her contributions.

Mrs. Hughes was a member of the Virginia Academy of Science, the Woman's Council of the Virginia Museum, the Hanover Woman's Club and the board of Imperial Plaza Library.