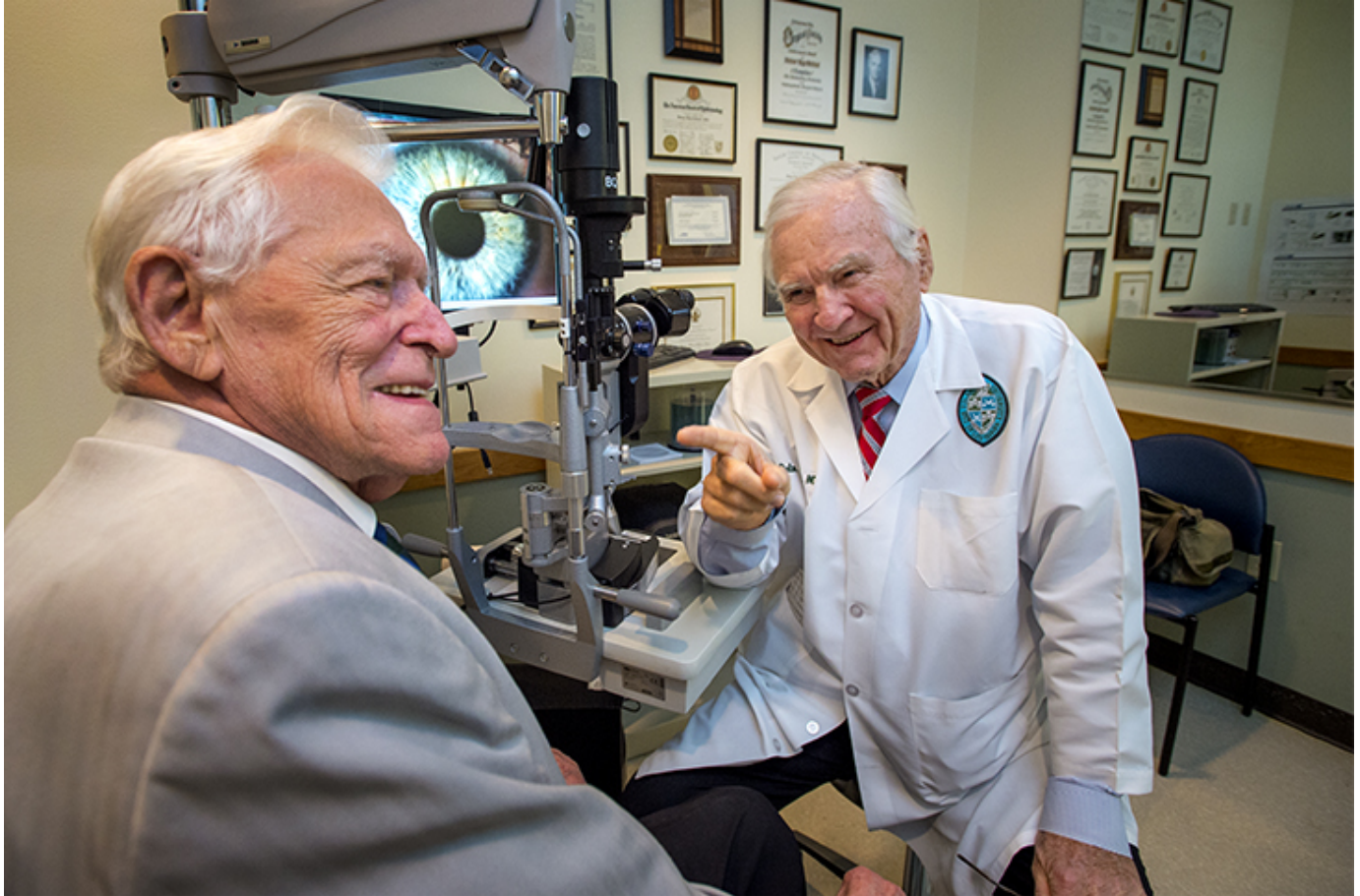


## **Veteran regains his vision**

November 16, 2015 8:45 AM Kirby Messinger  
kmessing@tulane.edu



Dr. Delmar Caldwell, right, chats with John Young, whose eyesight he restored, during an eye examination at a clinic follow-up visit. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

John Young's life was shattered after a routine eye operation left him blind.

"You lose everything," says Young, a Gulfport, Mississippi, resident. "I never want anyone to go through that."

Complications from an intraocular lens implant, a common procedure after cataract surgery, caused the former Army paratrooper's cornea to bulge, resulting in a rapid

deterioration of his vision. Always self-reliant, Young could no longer cook for himself, watch TV or even navigate sidewalks.

"I never realized how bad sidewalks could be," Young says. "I had to rearrange my entire house just so I could get around. I lost 20 pounds because I couldn't cook. Honestly, you think about suicide."

But everything changed when a neighbor suggested Young contact the ophthalmologists at the Tulane University School of Medicine. Young met with Dr. Delmar Caldwell, professor and chair of the Tulane Department of Ophthalmology. Having performed thousands of eye operations, Caldwell is considered an expert in the field of refractive surgery, glaucoma and the cornea, and he has travelled the world teaching and presenting on his surgical techniques.

Through several operations, Caldwell helped the veteran significantly regain his vision.

Although Young's eyesight is still not perfect, he has gained his life back. He is now able to meet with his friends to catch his favorite jazz bands. Having lived all over the world because of his military career, Young is grateful that he settled along the Gulf Coast near the Tulane doctors.

"Dr. Caldwell walks on water in my book," says Young, as he confidently walks down a Gulfport street.

"We're taking it slow to make sure that I'm healing. It's been wonderful to come back."

Thanks to the excellent care he received from the Tulane ophthalmologists, Young has left a large portion of his estate to the [Department of Ophthalmology](#).

"I hope my gift enables the Tulane doctors to continue their great work," says Young. "It was a traumatic experience for me, and I hope I can make a difference in someone's life."

*Kirby Messinger is a communication/marketing officer in the Office of Development Communications.*