New York University Will Honor the Memory of Prof. John William Draper, Who Took the First Human Likeness When Daguerre Failed to Do It.

On April 30, 1839, Dr. John William Draper, who was then at the age of 26, took the first photograph in the United States. He had been studying the new photographic process when he decided to test it on himself. The result was a remarkable likeness that was later published in the American Journal of Science.

The photograph was taken on a wooden table in Draper's laboratory, and the subject was lit with a candle. The exposure was 10 minutes, and the plate was developed in a darkroom. The resulting image was then transferred to a daguerreotype, which was later displayed at the New York Academy of Sciences.

Draper's photograph was a significant milestone in the history of photography, and it paved the way for the development of the daguerreotype process. Today, his work is celebrated as one of the greatest contributions to the field of photography.

Dr. John William Draper was a physician, chemist, and photographer who is credited with taking the first photograph in the United States. He was born in Philadelphia in 1811 and died in New York in 1882. His contributions to the field of photography were recognized by the New York University, which has established the John Draper Medal in his honor.