

MY CREDENTIAL STORY



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Earning my ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) credentials as a young woman was very exciting and gratifying. The long-term opportunities that certification offered were life-changing. I began my college career at the University of Georgia campus in Atlanta (later renamed Georgia State University.) At that time, you could take the ASCP BOC examination after successful completion of the course curriculum and an internship at an accredited hospital.

I completed my internship at Crawford W. Long Hospital in Atlanta in the pathology lab headed by Dr. Daryl Ayer. The coursework and internship were rigorous. One day, I returned to my parents' home and found a letter addressed to me. I had passed my certification exam! I was recruited by several Atlanta hospitals, but chose to accept Dr. Ayer's offer to stay in his lab.

My high school sweetheart, Arthur, was in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, stationed at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C., as a staff sergeant assistant instructor in the Division Training Battalion. We married in 1952, and I joined him in Columbia. I needed employment if we were to live off base. My ASCP certification opened doors, and I got a job at the South Carolina State Health Department Laboratory in Columbia.

We returned to Atlanta in March 1954, so Arthur could complete his engineering degree at Georgia Tech. I was welcomed back to Crawford Long. Arthur graduated with a B.M.E. in June 1956. (In a separate ceremony, wives of World War II and Korea Conflict veterans were awarded a "PHT"—Pushing Husband Through—diploma for our contributions to our husbands' success.)

Arthur's graduation was imminent, and I was expecting our first child. We didn't have the savings for me to stay at home, so I continued to work in the lab. Our son, Steve, was born before Arthur's graduation, and I soon returned to work. I didn't want to put Steve in daycare.

Arthur's widowed sister-in-law, "Snooks," had two small children and offered to care for Steve in the mornings. Dr. Ayer allowed me to work half days, starting early in the morning and on weekends when Arthur was not in class. Snooks and I helped each other.

My ASCP came to the rescue—again! After Arthur's graduation, there was a hiring frenzy for engineers in the post-World War II and Korean Conflict era. Arthur accepted Carrier's offer in the air conditioning industry. This allowed me to become a full-time mother.

There was a tearful farewell with the wonderful professionals at Crawford Long. I later had two more children at the hospital. Arthur worked for Carrier for 8½ years. With a growing family, we needed greater earnings to fund future college educations. We moved to Macon, GA, for an opportunity. It led to Arthur eventually joining another Georgia Tech graduate in a business, which grew into a world-class engineering consulting firm.

Years flew by. Arthur encouraged me to return to college and earn the degree I had put off. With five children—two in college and three in elementary and high school—I contacted Wesleyan College about its new Encore Program, which encouraged women to complete their undergraduate degree.

I earned my bachelor's degree in medical technology in 1972, two weeks before our eldest child graduated from Furman University. As his gift to me, Arthur established the Jane S. Brook Scholarship for Wesleyan Encore students. I went on to earn a master of education from Mercer University.

Our family was named the State of Georgia Family of the Year by the Federated Women's Clubs of Georgia while I was enrolled in Wesleyan College to earn my B.S.-M.T. degree. This shows that those entering this rigorous professional experience can enhance the opportunities for participation in wide and important parts of society and the community as a whole.

My ASCP certification has allowed me to work, so Arthur could finish his engineering degree and go on to a successful engineering career. Thanks to the ASCP BOC, the late Dr. Daryl Ayer, and so many others in the medical, educational, and engineering fields, our family has been richly blessed.