

# Providing for the Future



Dr. Vera Hyman, a retired Pathologist with Pee Dee Pathology, has set an example locally for women in the medical field since 1955. Desiring to ensure the future of the program that encouraged her to pursue her dreams, Dr. Hyman is leaving a legacy gift for future students.

While attending the University of South Carolina, Dr. Hyman realized that science came easily to her and so she chose to major in biology and declared herself pre-medicine. At a time when few women considered this career path, Dr. Hyman's father encouraged her to follow her dreams. However, it was in the 1950s and when she married the late Peter Hyman and he wanted to open his legal practice in Florence, she put her dream of becoming a physician on hold.

Peter supported his wife's wish to work in the medical field so he enrolled her in the Medical Technology program at McLeod. Medical Technologists direct laboratory analysis for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Lab tests are performed on blood, body fluids, and tissue using complex precise instrumentation. The Medical Technologist then provides the physician with accurate, reliable and rapid results to assist them in making decisions about the patient's medical care.

Through this program, Dr. Hyman was able get a closer look at the medical profession which inspired her even more to become a physician. After having three children in four years and with Peter's encouragement, Dr. Hyman applied and was accepted to the Medical College of South Carolina. She recalls that there were only two women in her class and she was the only one to graduate.

Dr. Hyman went on to complete her residency at Massachusetts General in Boston before returning to Florence to practice with Pee Dee Pathology in 1973.

During her career at McLeod in the early 1970s, the hospital, like many others across the country, often experienced difficulty finding qualified Medical Technologists. Dr. Louis Wright, Director of McLeod Laboratory Services, asked Dr. Hyman to re-establish the McLeod School of Medical Technology in 1977. Dr. Hyman agreed and served as the school's Medical Director until her retirement in 2004.

"Dr. Hyman always had a vision of what a professional Medical Technologist should be," said Vicki Anderson, the former Program Director for the McLeod School of Medical Technology. "One of her greatest assets was her ability to evaluate situations and people. She always set high goals for the students and fully expected them to achieve those standards. Dr. Hyman also inspired us to try new things, to change, and to work hard to reach the potential she saw in each of her students."

To ensure the future of the program, Dr. Hyman recently established a scholarship to assist McLeod Medical Technology students. "This is how I began my medical career which has given me great satisfaction and rewards."

Since 1977, 187 graduates have been inspired by Dr. Hyman's legacy and now many more will have the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.