



Arthur DeBerry

Arthur DeBerry was born in Tarboro, North Carolina and first came to Chapel Hill in 1950 to visit his then girlfriend and future wife Martha. It was at that time that he became captivated by the beauty and charm of Chapel Hill.

Having earned a Management degree from North Carolina State University in 1951 and serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, Arthur returned to Chapel Hill to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law. Due to his great enjoyment of law school, he put himself onto what he refers to as a “decelerated program,” making sure to enjoy the beautiful summers and give himself free time to swim and to be in the outdoors. Although he earned his J.D. in 1957, he worked in life insurance and became Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company’s award-winning general agent for Eastern North Carolina.

In his early years as a Chapel Hill resident, Arthur lived on the east side of the UNC campus, and the quickest route to visit his girlfriend was through Coker Arboretum. As he walked in the arboretum, he fell in love with the natural beauty, the native plants, and the graceful paths.

After the death of his wife, he honored her with an endowment in her memory to help restore the campus cherry trees.

Arthur's charitable support and involvement with the Coker Arboretum and the North Carolina Botanical Garden have led to numerous donations, endowments, and fund-raising efforts to help sustain the beautiful environment he has enjoyed from his first years in Chapel Hill. He has served as president of the Botanical Garden Foundation and continues to recruit support for both the Garden and the Arboretum. His current wife Mignon shares his commitment to maintaining the natural beauty of the area.

Chapel Hill became a passion for Arthur. He watched the town blossom and grow over the years, becoming substantially larger than the population of 6,000 people it boasted when he first arrived. His continued love of the community and his hopes that it will retain its charm set Arthur apart as a man who has truly taken the time to see the beauty of Chapel Hill and to find happiness in this North Carolina town.