

Susan Pang 50 Year ASCLS Anniversary

By Sheri M. Gon

At the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting of ASCLS and AGT, Susan Pang was recognized by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) for her 50 Year Membership. This meant, she has been a continuous member since 1968. Susan and I sat down for a little reminiscing about her past 50 years. Here are highlights.

She recalled that the University of Hawaii at Manoa Medical Technology Program Director, Pat Taylor encouraged all the students to join ASCLS. At this time, it was known as the American Society for Medical Technology (ASMT). Susan joined in 1968. There were activities to join in like local state meetings and Susan even went to several national meetings. She discovered that she liked the continuing education and meeting colleagues from across the nation.

In 1969, the Hawaii Annual Meeting and Exhibits was held at the Royal Lahaina, Maui. Susan recalls the students were enlisted as entertainment. These ASCLS State meetings were a great resource. It provided continuing education and provided a venue for local laboratory professionals opportunities to network and create great memories. In a future Annual Meeting, Pat Taylor dressed in kimono and sang Kokoni Sachi Ari (Here is Happiness). Attendees were hard pressed to recognize her in kimono and makeup.

After graduation, Susan went to Colorado for seven years to work for a Catholic Hospital along with friends Sheila Ouchi and Shirley Nakamoto. Colorado is where these island girls first learned about snow, but after seven years of scraping ice off the car windshield, Susan decided to return to Hawaii.

When Susan returned to Hawaii, she worked at Straub under Grace Kagawa and Edith Maeda. Susan was attracted to the Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) while working at Straub. After Clinical Laboratory of Hawaii (CLH) acquired Straub Lab, Susan was instrumental in converting the Straub Lab database to the CLH lab database. She also helped to network automated lab instrumentation to the CLH network. After the Straub Lab was networked to the CLH server and the Straub server was shut down, Susan moved to the IT Department of CLH located in Ewa.

When Susan returned to Hawaii, she became close friends with Pat Taylor and Takeyo Saito. In July 2008, Pat Taylor suffered a serious stroke that affected the right side of her body and affected her ability to speak. Having no family of her own in Hawaii, Susan and Takeyo became Pat's advocates and helped with her medical decisions. Pat was placed in long-term care and received loving care by both Susan and Takeyo until Takeyo's untimely death. Pat Taylor recently passed away this year.

After ten and a half years of providing support for Pat Taylor, Susan is now retired. She is currently planning a trip to Kenya to photograph wildebeest migration. This is in continuation of all the traveling adventures she shared with Pat Taylor.

Susan has seen the profession evolve from three-cell Coulter Counters, manual requisitions to Laboratory Information System (LIS), flame photometry to ion specific electrodes, mouth pipettes, and spit strings used in Thoma pipet dilutions, and so much more. She counts 26 years as a Med Tech and 22 years as a Laboratory Information System specialist. The profession may change but her dedication to providing the best laboratory service possible is reflected in her 50 years as an ASCLS member. When you see Susan out and about, congratulate her for 50 years of hard work and dedication in the medical laboratory profession.

