Boyd Ennis Jr. is a pharmacy owner. And a very grateful son.

Looking back on his childhood in the Birmingham, Ala., area, he remembers that his parents, Arthur Boyd Ennis, now 78, and his mother, Anne, now 72, always provided well for him. “I pretty much had everything I ever needed,” he says.

His dad was a pharmacist, and Boyd grew up in the store. He didn’t pursue a pharmacy career when he went to college, but eventually he was drawn back to Payless Drugs. He returned to school and graduated from Samford McWhorter School of Pharmacy. He now owns four Payless Drug locations.

Recently, Boyd was thinking about making a donation to Samford and he hit upon the idea of working with the school to create an endowed scholarship in honor of his parents. His father also graduated from Samford, back when it was named Howard College. Boyd didn’t run it by them, he says with a laugh. His modest parents would have turned down the idea.

He forged ahead, working with the advancement office at his alma mater. Together, they created the Arthur Boyd and Anna Ennis Scholarship, an award that will go each year to a second-year pharmacy student who is an NCPA member.

Why the NCPA requirement? Boyd himself was a student intern at NCPA in 1998. When he graduated in 1999, Douglas Hoey, now NCPA’s CEO, hired him to come back. He stayed several years in various roles, including working with student pharmacists across the country.

“Community pharmacy … that’s where my heart has been,” Boyd says. “I hoped by making that a requirement, it will get people thinking about community pharmacy.”

Once the scholarship was set up, Boyd and his wife Jo-anne kept the secret, inviting his parents to a luncheon at Samford, telling him that he wanted him there because he was receiving an award. But the secret got out by mistake, and his parents were reluctant to go. They didn’t want a fuss, Boyd says. But he talked them into it, and it turned out to be a nice day. They were treated to lunch and a personal tour of the pharmacy school.

He’d like to issue a challenge to other NCPA members to create scholarships at their own alma maters, with the requirement that the recipient be an NCPA member. “We should try to get that interest early,” he says.

Jayne Cannon is NCPA director of communications.
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Arthur Boyd Ennis and Anne Ennis admire the framed recognition establishing a scholarship in their name at Samford University. They were joined by Michael Crouch (far left), dean of the Samford McWhorter School of Pharmacy, along with their son Boyd Ennis Jr. and his wife Dr. Joanne Rossman.