

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Lyn Stiefel Hill '67, MA '72, CUNY PhD '85

Like many Queens College students, Lyn was the first in her family to go to college, but she was far from the last to find a home at Queens. She accepts this award on behalf of all members of her family who were connected to QC.

Lyn earned a BA in Communication Arts and Sciences in 1967 and a master's degree in 1972. Later she completed a PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center. Lyn's two sisters, Amy Stiefel Cooperstein and Jane Stiefel, graduated in 1971 and 1972, respectively. After graduate school, both became elementary school teachers. Amy, who died in 1998, married Bruce Cooperstein, '70, also a Queens College graduate, who became a professor of mathematics at UC Santa Cruz.

Lyn's mother, Erica Gorin, earned a BA in Comparative Literature from QC in 1977. Erica's high school education was interrupted in 1939, when, at the age of 15, she left Nazi Germany on a Kindertransport train. She emigrated to New York and worked as a nursemaid and a secretary. After raising children, she attended QC's Adult Continuing Education (ACE) program for adults who were previously unable to finish college. Erica graduated with honors and did post-graduate work at the CUNY Graduate Center. In retirement, she gave lectures to local groups on a variety of topics in literature, history, and politics.

While working on her PhD, Lyn was an instructor in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences at QC. Her husband, Forbes I. Hill, was a senior faculty member in the department. For several years they team-taught a large multimedia course, *The Role of Rhetoric in American Society*.

Forbes had a long and successful career at QC, teaching courses ranging from Classical Rhetoric to Media, Law and Ethics for over 40 years. He loved the work so much that after he retired, he went back to QC as an adjunct. He was still teaching a class just a few weeks before his death in 2008. Forbes published in his area of specialty: Aristotelian rhetoric. For many years he served as chair of the QC chapter of the Professional Staff Congress and for two years as chair of his department.

Lyn eventually left teaching to become a public relations professional. She had a 30-year career at New York-



Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, retiring as vice president for communication and external affairs in 2017. In her roles as hospital representative and as a community activist, Lyn served numerous professional, educational, social service, and community organizations. She currently supports budding entrepreneurs as a SCORE mentor, is on the boards of Park Slope Schoolhouse and Brooklyn's Independent Neighborhood Democrats, and volunteers on the Looted Books project, a program of the Leo Baeck Institute and the Museum of Jewish Heritage. She is also an avid quilter.

Along with their three children, Harry, Stephanie, and Tim, Lyn established the Forbes I. Hill Scholarship, and a second fund, the Forbes I. Hill Faculty Development Fund, to provide assistance to emerging faculty members for professional development. A plaque in Forbes' honor hangs outside Room 150 in Kiely Hall, where Forbes and Lyn taught together. After Erica's death at the age of 98, Lyn created a fund in her mother's honor to benefit the German Department.

Lyn is happy to help the college which meant so much to her family to continue to support and educate a new generation.