

## **Barbara Pincus Klein, PhD**

(December 30, 1936 – February 17, 2015)

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition remembers and celebrates a lifetime of scholarly contributions, professional mentorship, and deep friendships as we honor the passing of Barbara P. (Bobbi) Klein, PhD. She died on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at her home in Champaign, surrounded by her loving and devoted family.



Dr. Klein was raised in the Bronx, New York, where she graduated from the Bronx High School of Science at the age of 16. She then attended the New York State College of Home Economics at Cornell University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Nutrition in 1957. She completed the Master of Science degree in Food and Nutrition at Cornell University in 1959.

After living in Europe with her husband, Miles, and daughter, Cindy, she moved to Champaign, where her family grew, with the birth of Gail, and thrived. While raising her young family, Barbara earned the Doctorate of Philosophy degree in Home Economics, with an emphasis in Foods and Nutrition and supporting areas in Biochemistry and Animal Sciences, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1974. She was subsequently hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition at the University of Illinois, representing one of the earliest 'dual-career' couples at the institution. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1980, and she completed a sabbatical at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel, in 1981. As an Associate Professor, she served as the Acting Head of the Department of Foods and Nutrition and Chair of the Division of Foods and Nutrition at the University. She was promoted to Professor in 1985. She was a Member of the Division of Nutritional Sciences, Functional Foods for Health Program, and Co-Director of the Illinois Center for Soy Foods. Barbara was a Professor Emerita of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

The author or co-author of over 100 peer-reviewed, original research and review articles, over 10 book chapters and textbooks, and more than 200 presentations, Dr. Klein was an internationally renowned scientist in the area of sensory sciences. She contributed to our understanding of flavor, phytochemical, and nutrient changes during food processing, preparation, and storage. She advanced the knowledge of soy protein chemistry and soy foods acceptability by consumers.

Dr. Klein taught 15 different undergraduate and graduate courses in foods and nutrition, as well as short courses for working professionals. She trained nearly 45 Master of Science and Doctorate of Philosophy students, as well as several Postdoctoral Research Associates. In addition,

Dr. Klein served on the advisory committees for a number of other graduate students. She offered research experiences to numerous undergraduate students. She was a highly

valued and sought after mentor and counselor for students, junior faculty, and departmental and college advisory groups. Dr. Klein served as a consultant to the Canned Food Information Council, Steel Packaging Council, Frito-Lay, Kraft, Cargill, General Mills, and Archer Daniels Midland Company. She served on several Institute of Medicine Advisory committees for the National Academy of Sciences, in addition to serving a 4-year term as the Associate Scientific Editor of the *Journal of Food Science*.

She provided service to several national competitive grants panels and review programs. Dr. Klein was a member of the American Institute of Nutrition, American Chemical Society, American Dietetic Association, Institute of Food Technologists (Fellow), and the University of Illinois Alumni Association. In 2014, Barbara received the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association's Award of Merit. Fittingly, this award represented Dr. Klein's life as she lived it – demonstrating outstanding professional achievement, outstanding leadership or service, and significantly enhancing and improving the lives of others.

Dr. Klein built relationships and friendships that were enduring. She and her husband were married for 58 years. Together, they raised two amazing daughters and embraced and adored their grandchildren and extended family. They entertained often, supported the arts and humanities, specifically the Krannert Center and public radio, and gave generously of their lives and talents to the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation. In a letter written by Gail Klein, days before her mother's passing, she depicted Barbara as powerful, bright, intelligent, and beautiful. This description will be everlasting.