The late George Mitchell Estabrook, for whom the Hofstra Alumni Association, Inc’s Distinguished Service Award was named in 1960, was closely associated with Hofstra, its faculty and students, during the University’s early years. To many he was known as “Mayor,” to others as “Uncle George,” but to all he offered a sympathetic ear and encouragement.

Mr. Estabrook was a prominent figure in the Village of Hempstead and Nassau County. A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he came to Long Island in 1907 as an engineer with the Charles J. Leavitt, Jr. Company. While at Leavitt Co., he was involved in the development of Garden City. Several years later, he formed and was president of Estabrook Construction Company. This firm was responsible for the construction of many buildings on the Hofstra campus as well as many public buildings throughout Long Island.

George Mitchell Estabrook was an active community member. He was mayor of the Village Hempstead and a member of the Hempstead School District Board of Education. He was founder of the Franklin national bank and served on its Board of Directors until his death in 1954. He was the founder and first commander of the Hempstead American Legion Post No. 390. Mr. Estabrook was married to Mary Adelaide Lynch of Cold Spring on the Hudson, in 1914. Together they had two daughters, Virginia Mary Custer, an alumna of Hofstra, class of 1941, and Barbara Estabrook who graduated Skidmore College, class of 1943.

THE AWARD

Working from photographic images, renowned sculptor, Jason Seley, created an original three-dimensional rendering of George Mitchell Estabrook. His work was the basis of the Estabrook award. This image is die cut, cast in bronze and mounted on a walnut plaque.

Each award recipient receives a golden medallion suitable for wearing. Both are presented at an investiture dinner in honor of our outstanding awardees.
GEORGE M. ESTABROOK DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

SERVICE: Recognition of any person (alumnus or non-alumnus) for services, through alumni activity to the University.

Evidence is required of tangible contribution to the Hofstra George M. Estabrook Alumni Association, Inc. and the Hofstra Alumni Organization or the University. The committee will be guided by, but not necessarily limited to the following criteria:

A. Long term service with substantial extra duty (as committee work) although not of elective office.
B. Successful execution of elective office.
C. Achievement of outstanding success in a particular assignment or project, as weighed by association with similar past activities, or by the uniqueness of the assignment or project.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: Recognition of an alumnus of outstanding achievement in his/her chosen field of endeavor. The committee will be guided by, but not necessarily limited to the following criteria:

A. Appointment of election to a post or position of substance.
B. Breadth of participation and recognition in activities in the nominee’s field.
C. Cumulative experience and reputation in the nominee’s chosen field.

GUIDELINES

SERVICE: Service need not necessarily be current with the nomination. A nominee will be recognized for outstanding service that has been provide or is being provided. Such service should be “extra” and “beyond” that which is normally given by an alumnus. Extraordinary achievement in a single activity or elected post might warrant the award. On the other hand, steady and consistent volunteer service over the years without elected post would be equally eligible. However, holding elective office or having good attendance at meetings and social affairs will not be considered eligibility. Regardless of the circumstance of the nomination, the nominee’s record of participation and interest in the Hofstra George M. Estabrook Alumni Association, Inc. and the University is paramount.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: A nominee for outstanding career achievement will have distinguished his/herself in his/her chosen field of endeavor by elective office, hoary post or through indication of hi/her reputation by contemporaries in said field. Titles count little. Election of office, for example, may count more heavily than appointment of the presidency of a family owned corporation. Long tenure in a chosen field does not necessarily qualify unless there is tangible evidence of recognition for long time contributions. (A professor who has recently written a book, which generate esteem and attention would qualify as fully as a businessman elected to any industry related post, such as president of a trade association.