MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
ALBERT HASTORF
(1921-2011)

Albert "Al" Hastorf, a pioneer in the study of social perception and interaction and a much-admired member of the Stanford administration, died September 26, 2011 in Palo Alto. His contributions to Psychology, to Stanford University, and to higher education in America were wide-ranging.

Raised in Westfield, N.J., Al enjoyed a happy childhood, highlighted by summers at Lake Champlain in Vermont. While an undergraduate history major at Amherst in 1942, he met Barbara Reck, a student at nearby Mount Holyoke. They married the following year, beginning a loving partnership that lasted until his death. From 1942-1946, Al served with the U.S. Army Air Corps Aviation Psychology Program, conducting research on the selection and training of aircrew members. Following his military service, he earned a master's degree and doctorate at Princeton. Al's teaching career began at Dartmouth in 1948, where he moved quickly through the professorial ranks to Chair the Psychology Department from 1955-1959. Two leaves of absence at Stanford—the first in 1954 as a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, the second in 1958 as NSF Fellow in Residence—launched his association with the University over five decades during which he played a major role in the rise to eminence of the Psychology Department and of Stanford University as well.

Having joined Stanford's faculty in 1961, Al served as Chair of the Psychology Department from 1961-1970, and helped found the University's Interdisciplinary Human Biology Program, whose growing popularity as a major made it an attractive gateway for students interested in health, medicine, or environmental policy. Al's unique gifts as an administrator were apparent to all who knew him. His sound judgment, personal graciousness, good humor, and unquestioned integrity made him a natural choice as Dean of the School of Humanities & Sciences from 1970-1974, and as Provost from 1980-1984.

This latter role was not something he sought. In 1980, new President Donald Kennedy asked Al to serve as Acting Provost while the University sought a successor to fill that now-vacant position. Al had agreed to "pitch in" for a year to provide time for a proper search. But after his extraordinary performance, the search committee unanimously chose him as Stanford's Vice President and Provost.

After a sabbatical that gave him ample opportunity for his favorite pastime, fly-fishing with Barbara, Al rejoined the faculty in a new role: as Director of the Terman Study of the Gifted, a groundbreaking longitudinal study of the lives of intellectually promising children that Terman had begun in 1920. Under Al's leadership, this classic study became a prime resource for researchers studying successful aging.

Despite his extensive administrative duties, Al nevertheless published 50 chapters and articles and two important books. His famous early study, coauthored by Hadley
Cantril, *They Saw a Game*, was published in 1954 in the Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology. That landmark study, documenting how differently partisan Princeton and Dartmouth supporters saw and interpreted the rough play in a memorable football game between the two schools, paved the way for a continuing stream of research by later investigators on the impact of motivational and cognitive biases on perception—an undertaking that earned the label the “New Look in Perception.” Much of that work was featured in Al’s 1970 book *Person Perception* (with David Schneider and Judith Polefka) and a revised second edition (with Schneider and Phoebe Ellsworth) in 1979. Later, Al investigated the impact of physical deviancies and disabilities on social interaction. Using clever experimental manipulations, he and his students were able to study the negative social consequences of such stigmatizing characteristics and explore strategies for overcoming their effects. His groundbreaking book, *Social Stigma: The Psychology of Marked Relationships* (with Ned Jones, Amerigo Farina, Hazel Markus, Dale Miller, and Robert Scott) was published in 1984. Al was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1990.

After retiring in 1990, Hastorf continued to teach occasional seminars and stayed in touch with colleagues. The esteem in which Al was held by the Stanford community was recognized with a succession of awards, including the Dinkelspiel Award for Outstanding Service to Undergraduate Education and the Richard W. Lyman Award for unique and dedicated service to the University. Presenting the latter award in 1987, President Lyman cited the inscription commending Al “for the joy he brings to every branch of the Stanford family as its quintessential university citizen and ambassador of good will.”

A final fitting recognition of Al’s extraordinary contributions to Stanford came in 2004, when he received the singular title, “Emeritus Standing Guest of the Faculty Senate,” a designation permitting Al to respond with characteristic thoughtfulness on issues that came before his Senate colleagues. Although Stanford’s Psychology Department was obliged to share Al with the rest of the University, his contributions to that department were profound: Graduate students benefited enormously from his friendship as well as his mentorship. Young faculty colleagues marveled at the ease with which he commanded the classroom, and their elders universally respected Al’s good judgment and skill at moving the group to consensus on important decisions. Al and Barbara also contributed scholarship funds both at Stanford and Mount Holyoke. Al Hastorf was indeed a singular man. In addition to his wife Barbara, Al is survived by his daughters Elizabeth and Christine and a grandson Nicholas.

Committee:
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