MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
LINCOLN ELLSWORTH MOSES
(1921-2006)

Lincoln E. Moses spent 60 years at Stanford as a student and faculty member, and served as teacher, mentor, researcher, consultant and administrator. He had an imposing bearing that covered a gentle soul, and was beloved by students and the many faculty whom he helped with data analysis.

Two years after his birth on December 21, 1921, in Kansas City, Missouri, his family relocated to California, where he remained nearly his entire life. Lincoln obtained an A.B. in 1941 and a Ph.D. in statistics in 1950, both at Stanford. After serving in the US Navy during World War II, he resumed his education in 1947, and subsequently was on the faculty of Teacher’s College, Columbia University, from 1950 to 1952 before returning to Stanford. Here he held a joint appointment in the Department of Statistics and in the Department of Preventive Medicine, and later in the Department of Health Research and Policy. Lincoln spearheaded the development of biostatistics after the Medical School moved to the Stanford campus in 1959.

Lincoln was a superb consultant and expositor, and often taught elementary classes. He had a knack for clarifying complex ideas in an understandable manner. His book *Elementary Decision Theory*, coauthored with Herman Chernoff, was designed to introduce decision theory at an undergraduate level. Another book, *Think and Explain with Statistics* was written for a medical audience. The title says it all.

His theoretical work centered on nonparametric methods, especially for comparing two groups. These consisted of two-sample graphical procedures, rank tests of dispersion, and goodness-of-fit procedures. Some of these methods were applied in a major National Halothane Study, which was designed to determine whether a new anesthetic, halothane, was injurious to the patient. The study provided procedures for the federal government to rank hospitals in terms of the quality of surgical and therapeutic outputs.

As an early advocate of energy conservation, he noted in 1979 that the public and the press had trouble in understanding the energy problem, and that we needed to “bear some of the responsibility for not putting out facts with maximum clarity.” He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to be the first administrator, from 1978 to 1980, of a new independent agency, the Energy Information Administration. In this capacity the agency published data related to energy, perhaps for the first time, and Lincoln became a member of a Stanford faculty group in Washington that included Dick Atkinson, Hans Mark, and Don Kennedy.

Lincoln served in many capacities at Stanford, as chair of the Statistics Department and of the Biostatistics Division, as Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences and from 1969 to 1975, as Dean of Graduate Studies. This led him to suggest a new discipline to be called “decanometrics.” As Dean he recognized the shortage of women students in 1972: “It is regrettable that the proportion of women today is less than it was 40 years ago.”
An activist against war and an advocate for peace, he helped develop an interdisciplinary course that focused on the meanings, impediments, and efforts towards peace. Begun in 1980, this “peace studies” class is still taught today.

An avid hiker in the Sierra Nevada, he trekked annually in Yosemite National Park. These trips fostered and were enriched in return by Lincoln’s abiding interest in bird-watching, an avocation in which he became widely recognized as an expert. One occasional companion wrote of the Moses birding contingent, “If birding were basketball, these guys would be playing above the Rim!” After retirement he trained to be a docent at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, which expanded his horizons from birds to plants. Lincoln had a pleasant singing voice, which he exercised in Stanford productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and in carols at the annual Statistics Department Christmas party. Dressed as Santa Claus, he created quite a striking image.

Lincoln’s contributions were nationally recognized as a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, an L.L. Thurstone Distinguished Fellow, University of North Carolina, and a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Institute of Medicine. In 1980 he received the Distinguished Service Medal of the Department of Energy.

Lincoln spent most of his life at Stanford, and was dedicated to the University. He died on December 17, 2006, at his home in Portola Valley and is survived by his second wife, Mary Lou Coale Moses; a sister, Marilyn Garren of Pasadena; five children and four stepchildren; 15 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.