

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**Eliot S. Hearst**

July 7, 1932-January 30, 2018

Eliot Hearst spent his life pursuing his twin intellectual loves—chess and psychology—and was a remarkable contributor to both. He was a devoted father, raising three children.

Born in New York City, Eliot Hearst spent his childhood, adolescence, and youth gaining experience in that urban mecca, sampling a wealth of cultural opportunities. He became interested in chess at an early age, joining the Marshall Chess Club at age 12, and pursued it seriously throughout the 1950s and early 1960s. Among his tournament successes were victories in the Eastern Open, New York State, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. championships, and several top-5 finishes in U.S. Open tournaments. He had a well-known tournament win over Bobby Fischer, another chess prodigy from New York. Hearst gained the titles of senior master and life master from the U.S. Chess Federation. In addition, he was the captain of the U. S. Olympic Chess team (1962), a vice-president of the U.S.C.F., an organizer and director of many tournaments, and a featured columnist for *Chess Life* in the 1960s. He once remarked that he devoted more time to serious chess than to academic psychology until he was about 30 years old.

Hearst became a psychology major at Columbia University and received his B.A. *summa cum laude* in 1953. He began the graduate program in experimental psychology as a Harry J. Carman Fellow in 1953-54, served as teaching assistant for Fred S. Keller in the introductory laboratory course, and received his M.A. in 1954. For the next two years, he continued his doctoral training under William N. “Nat” Schoenfeld as a teaching and research assistant. “His vast knowledge of the sciences and humanities was impressive,” Hearst recalled, “and he was the best teacher I ever had.” Hearst’s dissertation investigated effects of time-correlated reward schedules in the pigeon, and was awarded in 1956, only three years beyond his baccalaureate degree. He spent the next two years on active duty in the U.S. Army, stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, where he worked in the departments of experimental psychology and of neurophysiology.

Staying in the District of Columbia until 1964, Hearst was a senior experimental psychologist at the Clinical Neuropharmacology Research Center, a joint unit of the National Institute of Mental Health and Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital. His experimental work expanded to include pharmacological, neuroanatomical, genetic, and biochemical correlates of behavior as well as classical and instrumental conditioning. In 1964-65, Hearst took up a NIMH fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, under John R. Vane (a future Nobel Prize winner) in the Department of Pharmacology. On one occasion, after dinner at Vane’s residence, Hearst played blindfold chess with Vane as well as his two daughters simultaneously. Returning to the U.S., he was recruited by the University of Missouri, where he was appointed a full professor of psychology. In 1966, he was awarded his first NIMH grant, to study “Basic Processes in Learning and Behavior Change.” His still-ardent interest in chess was on display in the second issue of *Psychology Today* in 1967, where he contributed a thoughtful review (and the journal cover motif), “Psychology Across the Chessboard.” After five years at Missouri, where he supervised four Ph.D. dissertation students and published over a dozen research papers, he moved to Indiana University in 1970.

At Indiana's Department of Psychology, he continued his experimentation on conditioning in pigeons, and taught both graduate and undergraduate courses on animal behavior, learning theory, and history and systems of psychology. An approachable yet demanding mentor, he patiently guided hundreds of students, teaching them scientific methods and effective writing techniques. Augmenting his experimental work, Hearst's reputation for scholarly synthesis and integration was growing, and he published several review essays. In 1974, Hearst co-authored a monograph with Herbert Jenkins that reviewed behavioral studies on the relations between stimulus and reinforcement.

As the centennial of the founding of the first laboratory of experimental psychology—in 1879 at Leipzig by Wilhelm Wundt—approached, the Psychonomic Society commissioned Hearst to organize and edit a major volume containing historical assessments of the major subfields of psychology, written by research scientists. The nearly 700-page book, *The First Century of Experimental Psychology*, was published in 1979, and contained an introductory essay by Hearst. Garnering positive reviews, the book was reprinted multiple times, including a paperback edition.

Hearst's expertise in psychology was avidly sought, and he served on several editorial boards from 1963 to 1985 and served as a reviewer for many other publications, while successfully resisting offers to become the editor of other journals in favor of his own writing projects. Elected to the governing board of the Psychonomic Society, he served from 1977-82. During his Indiana years, Hearst was awarded prestigious fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation (1974-75) and the James McKeen Cattell Foundation (1981-82) and was elected to the Society of Experimental Psychologists in 1981. He was a fellow of five divisions of the American Psychological Association: Experimental Psychology, Physiological and Comparative Psychology, Experimental Analysis of Behavior, History of Psychology, and Psychopharmacology.

In 1984, IU honored him with the title of distinguished professor of psychology. The citation noted Hearst's wide range of topics, including the nature of reinforcement and punishment, discrimination and generalization, learning, cognition, memory, and biological constraints on behavior. "His modus operandi is to enter an area under dispute, identify the critical issues, and, with a few deftly crafted experiments, resolve the principal controversies," an admiring colleague stated, adding, "this is all the more amazing when one considers the diversity of the topics he has researched." His penchant for synthetic review was on display again in 1988, when he contributed "Fundamentals of Learning and Conditioning" to the second edition of *Steven's Handbook of Experimental Psychology*, an authoritative classic first published in 1951.

Regular renewals of his NIMH grants continued until 1988, until he decided to devote more time to library research and writing, although he continued to have an active lab until retirement. Hearst supervised 10 doctoral dissertations at Indiana and served as committee member for 20 other Ph.D. candidates. In 1988, he spearheaded the organization of the centennial celebration of the IU psychological laboratory and co-edited a centennial monograph containing data on every graduate degree in psychology, lists of faculty and department administrators, and a narrative history.

After 26 years, Hearst retired from Indiana University in 1996, and the department hosted a "Hearst Fest" with a dinner reception that included his former students. Returning to New York, he served as an adjunct professor at Columbia University, his *alma mater*. He received a grant in 1998-99 from the Harvard University McMaster Fund to study blindfold chess. Moving to Tucson in 1999, where his sister

was on the faculty of the University of Arizona, Hearst obtained another courtesy appointment there in the psychology department, where he continued to advise students.

Along with a co-author, John Knott, he published his chess *magnum opus* in 2009: *Blindfold Chess: History, Psychology, Techniques, Champions, World Records, and Important Games*. The book was well received in the chess world, and Hearst wrote occasional blog postings on blindfold chess into his 80's. In 2013, he returned to Bloomington to attend the 125th anniversary (quasiquicentennial) of the IU psychological laboratory. After a brief illness, Eliot Hearst died in Tucson on January 30, 2018, at 85 years of age.

The contributions of Eliot Hearst to Indiana University and to scientific psychology will be commemorated through an endowed professorship in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, generously funded by Hearst and given in memory of his daughter, Nicola Jane Hearst (1971-1999). Former students, colleagues, and friends have endowed the Eliot Hearst Lectureship, inaugurated in 2019.

This memorial resolution will be presented to the Bloomington Faculty Council and become part of the minutes. Copies of this resolution will be sent to his daughter Jennifer Hearst, son Andrew Hearst, former wife Marion Glanville Hearst, sister Marlys Witte, and partner Elaine Rousseau.

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