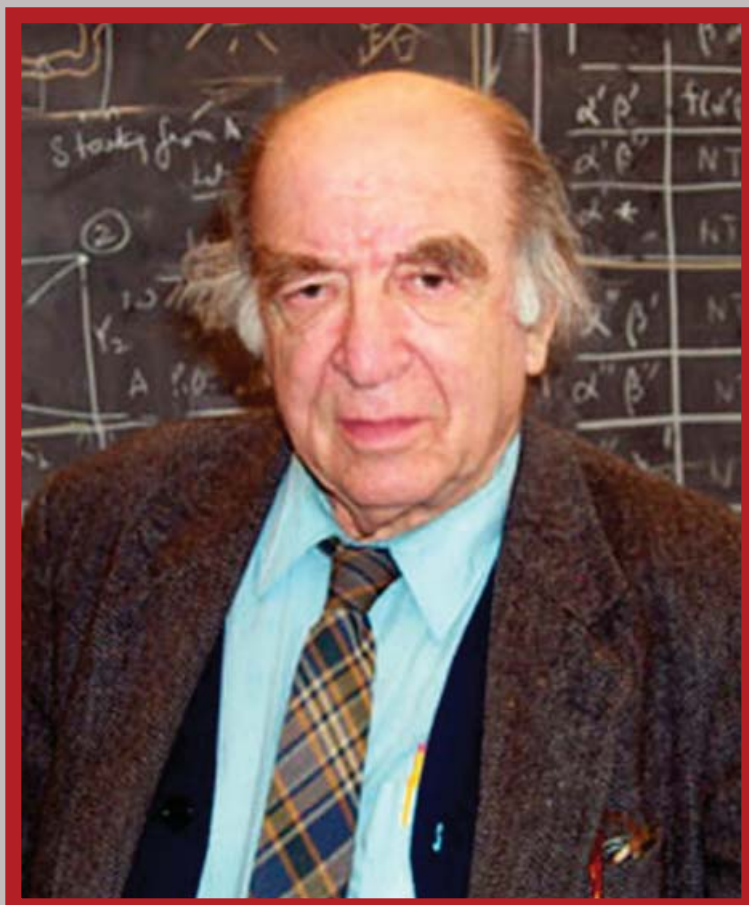# Perspectives on Leo Hurwicz

A Celebration of 90 Years

April 14, 2007

Leo Hurwicz: Highlights of the First 90 Years

1917   Born in Moscow, Russia where his parents had fled when Germany invaded Poland. They returned to Poland in 1919 where Leo had his early education.

1938   Magister Utriusque Iuris (LL.M.) University of Warsaw

1938   Student, London School of Economics

1939   Student, Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva, Switzerland

1940   Came to United States

1941   Research Assistant to Paul Samuelson at MIT

1941   Research Assistant to Oskar Lange at University of Chicago

1942   Research Associate at University of Chicago in Meteorology

1944   Married Evelyn Jensen

1944   Research Associate, Cowles Commission for Economic Research, Chicago

1946   Associate Professor, Iowa State College, Ames

1946   First child born, daughter Sarah

1948   UN Economic Commission, Geneva, Switzerland

1949   Second child born, son Michael

1949   Professor of Economics and Mathematical Statistics, University of Illinois

1949   Fellow, Econometric Society

1951   Professor of Economics and Mathematics, University of Minnesota

1951   Third child born, daughter Ruth

1953   Fourth child born, son Maxim

1954   Member, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences

1955   Visiting Professor and Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University

Leo Hurwicz: Highlights of the First 90 Years

1958 Visiting Professor, Stanford University

1959 Stanford Symposium, "Optimality and Informational Efficiency in Resource Allocation Processes," an early publication on mechanism design

1961 Chairman, Statistics Department, University of Minnesota

1964 Member, NSF Commission on Weather Modification

1965 Visiting Lecturer, Bangalore University, India

1965 Member, American Society of Arts and Sciences

1968 Minnesota delegate to the National Democratic Party Convention, and member of the national Democratic Party Platform Committee, Chicago

1969 President, Econometric Society

1969 Regents' Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota

1969 Visiting Research Professor and Professor of Economics, Harvard University

1972 Ely Lecture, AEA, a contribution to mechanism design

1974 Member, National Academy of Sciences

1976 Visiting Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley

1977 Distinguished Fellow, American Economic Association

1979 American Academy of Independent Scholars

1980 Doctor of Sciences (honorary), Northwestern University

1982 Visiting Professor of Economics, Tokyo University

1982 Council Member, Econometric Society

1984 Honorary Professor of Central China University of Science and Technology, Wuhan

1984 Distinguished Scholar, California Institute of Technology

1986 Lecturer, People's University, Beijing

Leo Hurwicz: Highlights of the First 90 Years

1987   **Information, Incentives, and Economic Mechanisms: Essays in Honor of Leonid Hurwicz edited by T. Groves, R. Radner, S. Reiter, University of Minnesota Press**

1988   **Visiting Professor, Northwestern University**

1988   **Visiting Scholar in Decentralization Theory, University of Indonesia, Jakarta**

1989   **Visiting Professor, Northwestern University**

1989   **Doctor Honoris Causa, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**

1989   **Curtis L. Carlson Professor of Economics, University of Minnesota**

1990   **Preferences, Uncertainty, and Optimality: Essays in Honor of Leonid Hurwicz, edited by John Chipman, Daniel McFadden, Marcel Richter, Westview Press**

1990   **National Medal of Sciences from President George H. W. Bush**

1992   **Inaugural Leo Hurwicz Lecture, Midwest Economics Association**

1993   **Doctor of Economics, honoris causa, Keio University, Tokyo**

1993   **Doctor of Laws (honorary), University of Chicago**

1994   **Doctor, honoris causa, Warsaw School of Economics**

1998   **Visiting Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara**

1999   **Visiting Professor, California Institute of Technology**

2001   **Visiting Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois**

2002   **Visiting Professor, University of Michigan**

2004   **Doctor rer. pol. honoris causa, University of Bielefeld**

2006   **Publication of Designing Economic Mechanisms, with Stanley Reiter, Cambridge University Press**

*Answers are partly contained in the two
fundamental welfare theorems.
But what was the question?*

- Leonid Hurwicz