Ewart Thomas was born in Guyana, and earned his BSc in Mathematics (1963) at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and his PhD in Statistics (1967) from the University of Cambridge, England. After research and teaching posts at University College London and the University of Michigan, Ewart joined Stanford’s Psychology Department in 1972, becoming department Chair in 1983, and Dean of the School of Humanities & Sciences in 1988.

His research interests include the development and application of mathematical and statistical models in many areas, such as, signal detection, motivation, inter-rater reliability, parent-infant interaction, sociolinguistics, law as a social science and, more recently, the origins of English-based Creole languages, and the characterization of glandular function in Cystic Fibrosis patients. Working with many collaborators, he tries to develop model-based descriptions of behavior and, in this way, construct theoretically meaningful summaries of data sets that are sometimes quite large. His teaching was recognized at Stanford by a Distinguished Teaching Award from the ASSU (2002), a Bass University Fellowship in Undergraduate Education (2013), and a Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching (2016). Thomas was a Visiting Professor of Mathematics at the University of Guyana in 1977, and at the University of the West Indies in 1995. In 2008 he was the Ralph and Claire Landau Visiting Professor of Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
Representative articles


Fairness, evidence evaluation and decision making in voting rights cases. Law and Human Behavior, 2006, 30, 543-560. (with Angela P. Cole)


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