A. Robert Sherman – Senior Lecturer Emeritus 2005

A. Robert Sherman earned his B.A. in Psychology from Columbia University, and his M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1969) in Clinical Psychology from Yale. Fresh from earning his Ph.D., Bob ventured west to California, taking a faculty position at UCSB in the Department of Psychology, where he remained throughout his distinguished career.

Bob’s research program began under the tutelage of Neal Miller and his first publication investigated “fear-motivated behavior in the rat.” This interest in behaviorist principles fueled a long and productive clinical and research career devoted to the study and use of “Behavior Therapy” in the treatment of human behavior disorders. During the 1970s and 1980s he published studies and gave numerous invited lectures on the nature of the underlying factors critical to the successful application of behavior therapy. Throughout his career at UCSB Bob maintained a clinical practice as a licensed psychologist - work that undoubtedly enriched his classroom teaching.

Bob demonstrated a keen interest in undergraduate and graduate education, championing the use of hands-on “field studies” as a means of introducing students to the world of applied/clinical psychology. Indeed, his own course, Fieldwork Experience in Psychological Settings, has for decades been among the Department’s most popular classes. Bob also created a popular Seminar on Teaching of Psychology that has been a campus model for TA training. Bob’s commitment to undergraduates, the Department, and the discipline is reflected in his 25-year service as advisor for UCSB’s chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology.

A. Robert Sherman will be remembered by those with whom he came into contact as a soft-spoken gentleman, with a keen sense of humor and a love of teaching and learning.