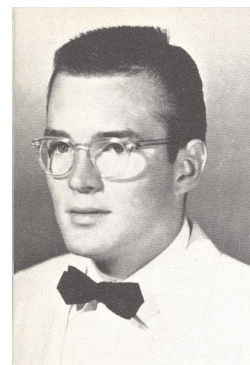




Mr. Dale Sechrest

Class of 1957



The following memories were provided by fellow teachers.

Some people have a vibrancy that makes them appear to be larger than life. Undoubtedly this is why it has taken the faculty at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) so long to come to terms with the loss of one of our distinguished member, Dale Kenneth Sechrest, or as he preferred to be called, “Uncle Dale”. He passed away unexpectedly at Loma Linda Hospital on November 12th, 2011 from cancer-related complications.

Dale was born in Taft, California, on April 22, 1939. Enlisting in the Army in 1957, Dale monitored Soviet radio and missile activity from Turkey. Upon returning state-side, he used the G.I. Bill—obtaining a B.A. in Psychology (1964) and a M.S. in Sociology (1966) from San Jose University. Following a short stint as a Deputy Probation Officer with the Contra Costa County Probation Department in El Cerrito, California, Dale worked through a sequence of applied research positions.

Officially, Dale spent a couple of years with the Joint Commission on Correctional Manpower and Training in Washington, D.C. Several years later he found his way back to California to join the American Justice Institute in 1971. From 1973-1975 he served as a Project Director with the Center for Criminal Justice, at Harvard Law School. Dale’s tenure with applied research organizations culminated in a 10 year relationship with the American Correctional Association. And, somewhere in the middle of it all, Dale completed a D. Crim. from the University of California at Berkeley, in 1974. Shortly thereafter the program was disbanded. (No one is certain what to make of this coincidence!)





Always on the go, Dale jumped into the academic world with a faculty position at Florida International University. An active Californian, Dale soon left the humidity and mosquitoes, returning to his home state and settling in at CSUSB. Dale's passion for correctional research never waned during his 21 years at CSUSB. As director of the Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJRCSUSB), Dale mentored countless students and faculty on the art of applied research.

Generous to a fault, Dale's opportunities became your course release or Master's thesis as he drew everyone in around him to help with the research. Dale was always "just trying to get organized", and though he frequently lamented that he was "maligned and misunderstood", he was beloved by all.

His legacy extends far beyond the countless publications and research reports he completed. Dale is survived by his ex-wife, Judy Sechrest; three children, Stephanie Conner, Alan Sechrest and David Sechrest; 6 grandchildren, two nephews, and 1 great grandchild; and, many colleagues.

It is no exaggeration to say that Dale touched thousands of lives. Never at a loss for words, Dale's wit and occasional limerick, continues to echo in our hearts. He is greatly missed. Dale's dedication to supporting the scholarly development of students and faculty will be honored with the Dale Sechrest Memorial Fund and a research lab named in his honor. This Hall of Fame induction is the newest honor bestowed upon Dale.