

PROFESSIONAL CAREER OF DR. DANIEL E SHEER

This website is devoted to Daniel E Sheer, PhD, Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas from 1956 until his retirement in 1988 when he became Professor Emeritus. I, like many others, were one of his students who knew him and appreciated his complex nature. As a result, I have been asked to provide a brief, not exhaustive introduction about him on this website devoted to him, and request his former students like myself contribute their own testimonials on this website, some of which may be later selected for publication in a book in his honor.

Just to get us started the following are a some factual reminders of his life and accomplishments to be followed by testimonials of his former students, family, colleagues, friends and those who knew him.

To get us started the following four paragraphs containing some reminders of Dr Sheer's educational background and profession activities:

Dr. Sheer started his life in Baltimore, Maryland where he grew up and completed educational requirements for a B.S. at John Hopkins in 1943 before moving to Ann Arbor to completed the PhD at the University of Michigan. However, it was possible at that time, for him to come to Texas in 1950 and joined the Psychology faculty of the University of Houston as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. After receiving a PhD he was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology in 1951 and advanced to full Professor of Psychology in 1956. Notably he remained at the University of Houston for his entire professional career.

A decade later, in 1966, he had completed the requirements and was granted Diplomate status in Clinical Psychology. As a result he served as a clinical consultant for a business one day weekly for a period of time during his academic career. He remained interested in Research, both in Physiological Psychology and Clinical Psychology and because of these interests he was the ideal person to develop and pioneer a Doctoral Program initially called Clinical/ Experimental and later called Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Houston that has remained with the support of other faculty members to achieve national recognition.

Research work of Dr. Sheer focused on behavior in relation to brain activity measured electro physiologically. It may be hard to realize in this day and age with advancing and ever-changing Neuroimaging Techniques, but at the time of his research, EEG was the cutting edge, a major electrophysiological technique for understanding brain functioning. His research findings let him to believe 40 Hz EEG measurements played a major role in understanding of brain functioning. He edited at the time an important book containing foremost writings of most major electrophysiological contributors. The book was entitled: "Electrical Stimulation of the Brain," and published for the Hogg Foundation of Mental Health by the University of Texas Press in 1961. Dr. Sheer also served as President of the Southwestern Psychological Association in 1968-69.

Dr. Sheer was able to apply for and receive research funding throughout his career as faculty member in the Department of Psychology at the University of Houston. We students assisted him in carrying out the research. He was the original director of the Clinical Neuropsychology Program at the University of Houston in 1973 until his retirement in 1988 when he was appointed Professor Emeritus at the University of Houston. To his credit with all his activities he was able to publish 30 original articles, 15 book chapters, 3 books and 1 book in progress at the time of his death from sarcoma in 1991.

Written by: Barbara P Uzzell, PhD