

## **Biography of Sidney Jourard from University of Florida Psychology Department**

A grant program in the newly established College of Nursing in 1958 led to the employment of Sidney M. Jourard as Associate Research Professor in the College of Nursing, with the objectives of determining how the field of psychology might be brought into application to the training of nurses in a medical center setting, and how a psychologist might relate to a nursing college faculty. Dr. Sid Jourard, born Jan. 21, 1926, took his Ph.D. at Buffalo in 1953, was at Emory University 1951-56 and the University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham 1956-57. In the year 1957-58 just before coming to Florida he was in private practice. Although the grant program with which Sid was employed entailed working within the College of Nursing, he readily and rapidly identified himself with the Psychology Department and found the fellow psychologists here to be his primary colleagues. When the grant expired he came over to the Department staff and budget as an "In House" member, while at the same time Dr. Wilson Guertin, who had had a similar position there in Nursing, went over to the College of Education. The popularity of Sid Jourard's courses was a reflection of his colorful personal approach and the excitement he brought to the things he did. It delighted Sid to be thought charismatic. The popular articles and the highly successful paperback books, which made his name so well known, wafted ever greater attention to his existential, humanistic approach to the theoretical study of the Self. Always an individualist, he was a force unto himself within the Department, but an insider looking out rather than an outsider looking in. In 1964 Sid was promoted to Professor. His death in an emotionally unacceptable accident one spring morning in 1974 [Dec 2] while he was at home working on his car, left the Department, both students and faculty shaken and almost unwilling to understand that he was gone at 48 years of age. Not since the also unexpected and shocking death of Henry Wunderlich at 47 had the Department sustained such a sudden loss. Currently there are two annual prizes awarded to students in Sid Jourard's memory, but his unique originality is gone.

(Richard J. Anderson, *The Department of Psychology University of Florida: A Fifty-Year History 1930-1980*, Gainesville, Florida, 1980, pp 49-50)