

Sidney Baldwin  
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, EMERITUS

B.A., Wesleyan University; M.P.A., Ph.D., Syracuse University  
California State University, Fullerton, From 1967 to 1986;  
Birth: June 8, 1922; Death: December 20, 2003

Sid Baldwin joined the Fullerton faculty in the late 1960s. Previously he had worked as a consultant in Latin America, run a family business and served bravely in World War II. To most students he was the personification of the academic intellectual, well read in a variety of fields, drawn to theoretical concerns and appearing as the personification of the Ivy League intellectual. Those who got to know him learned that he was all of that and much more.

His gifts to us and particularly the students were many. As a fine writer himself he worked to improve students writing skills, often demanding several re-writes of assignments. His marginal marks on their papers became legendary. He was a scholar of high quality works. His dissertation **Power and Poverty** was a detailed analysis of the New Deal poverty efforts. It remained in print into the early 1970's. His text **Public Administration**, co-authored with Ivan Richardson, was highly respected and frequently adopted. He imported his research interests to his students requiring clarity of thought and careful analysis.

As a founder of our Masters program in Public Administration, his major gift was the development of high academic standards and formidable expectations. His Ph.D. from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, where Public Administration began, put him in contact with many of the giants in the field. He conveyed this education to others and gave the students a sense of the history of the discipline.

Sid's practical background often surprised our more practically minded students. When accused of having his "head in the clouds", he delighted in relaying part of his background. "Yes I have balanced a budget" he would respond when accused of detachment from the, "In fact, the steel business I ran supported a lot of people." And indeed he had. When accused of insensitivity to the rigors and dangers of the students jobs he would add "Yes I have dealt with matters of life and death. I used to defuse bombs in Britain during the War." And he had.

The faculty remembers Sid most for his passionate but good humored arguments about the politics of the day. An ardent Zionist, he often took deviant positions from those of his colleagues. He was a tough one to argue with; conceding points with great care, but always ending on a good natured note. He maintained the respect of his most ardent critics; and he always knew when to laugh!

Submitted by  
Alan Saltzstein  
Professor-Chair Political Science, Emeritus  
August 2010