



The Phi Sigma Tau

Bulletin

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PAD gets a "PADDL"

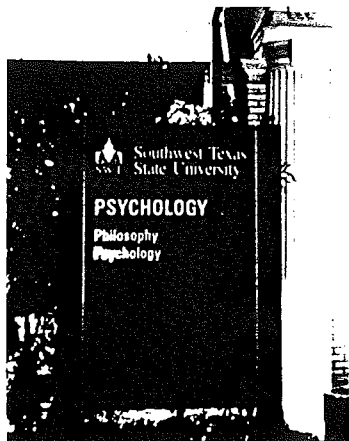
SWT Philosophy alumnus Alan Bates has funded a scholarship for a philosophy major to assist with department development. Shawn Soucie is the recipient and will serve as liaison to the department's alumni development board.

Philosophy Alumni Development (PAD) organized last fall to help the Department identify and fund projects that would serve alumni and the Department, projects like outreach activities of the Dialogue Room including community and alumni reading/discussion groups and radio/TV spots, guest speakers and authors, scholarships, an endowed professorship, the Teague lecture, and a discretionary account for the chair. PAD agreed that getting funding for development personnel was its highest priority. (Continued on Page 2)



PAD development liaison Shawn Soucie shakes hands with philosophy alumnus Alan Bates.

Mark your calendars! The Philosophy Department will have an open house all day on October 20th in Psychology 110. The Philosophy reunion banquet takes place that evening at 7pm.



The Philosophy Department has moved! Details on page three.



SWT students get a breathtaking view of the Great Wall of China. Details on page 2.

PAD gets a "PADDL" continued

It was PAD member Alan Bates who came up with the notion of giving "seed money for seed money." His gift provides temporary funding for a student on a scholarship to help with development. The goal is to create a permanent endowment for assistance with development whether it be a student on a scholarship or a professional development officer. Bates' company, Southwest Plumbing, donated the money for the scholarship Shawn now holds. A double major in philosophy and anthropology, Shawn worked the first half of the summer as a lifeguard for the City of San Marcos. He'll spend the second summer session in Belize on a dig. Shawn has worked on development projects for the American Red Cross, the Jewish Community Center of San Antonio, and Randolph Air Force Base. As development liaison (DL) to PAD, Shawn will do some preliminary work like updating records on philosophy alumni and announcing fund-raising goals before he "PADDLs" them for contributions next fall.

Philosophers return from China enlightened

Professors Rui Zhu and Jeff Gordon accompanied a group of SWT students to China for three weeks this past May. Students learned about Asian culture, went sightseeing, and studied at the prestigious Peking University (also known as Beijing University), which Zhu refers to as the "Harvard of China."

The students had a choice of taking an introductory Philosophy course or an upper level seminar in Asian Philosophy. Zhu, who coordinated the trip, spent much of his time in lecture, as well as being a tour guide. Gordon spent his time studying Chinese culture and philosophy. Some of our own philosophy majors went on the trip including Clinton Hopper, Taj Watkins, Stacy Hetchler and Jennifer Runnels.

SWT was one of a dozen other universities including such luminaries as Harvard, Stanford, and Columbia to be involved with Peking's intercollegiate exchange program. The trip was a great adventure for all involved. Kudos to Rui Zhu for all of his efforts in making this a success.

Letter from New Development Liaison

Hello Philosophy Alumni and Friends!

I'm very excited about helping with departmental development and honored to receive a department scholarship.

As the development liaison, I plan to encourage and promote philosophy at SWT through the new and exciting projects of the Department and the assistance of our alumni and friends.

The part of my role that I'm especially looking forward to is talking with you and even meeting you at one of our events like our homecoming banquet and open house in the fall. I'd like to hear about the Department when you were here and talk about what we'd like the Department to become. I'm close to becoming an alum myself, so I'm very interested in what the Department can do for me once I graduate.

We've got a Phone-a-Thon coming up in the fall which is another chance I'll have to talk with you. If you can help out with a donation, great! But keeping in touch and thinking of ways to build a community of alumni we're proud to be part of is what's really important.

Have a great summer,

Shawn Soucie

P.S. You can write to me c/o the Philosophy Department or call me there at 512-245-2285, and I'll get back in touch with you.



Professor Rui Zhu smiles for the camera during the stay in China.

LAB REPORT-SUMMER 2000

Greetings from our new home in the Psychology building. We're all moved in, brand new computers are being put in place, and the computer lab should be fully functional by the end of the summer. Special thanks to Beverly Pairett and Matt Stone for all of their work in computer set-up for the department.

Philosophy and media—are these two words incompatible? Not for long we hope. Soon the SWT Philosophy Department will launch a series of promotional videos, radio spots and even a weekly newspaper column entitled *Mindwave*. *Mindwave* will serve three purposes: 1) to open the world of philosophy to the general public, 2) to publicize our Dialogue Series and 3) to be used as instructional videos to stimulate discussion with Philosophy 1305 students in the Dialogue Room. The program will consist of a very brief philosophy lesson—perhaps a one minute blurb on Plato's theory of justice, or an overview of utilitarianism—followed by an announcement of upcoming events in the Dialogue Series. The long range goal is to have the series appearing in all three formats—video, audio, and in local newspapers. We are now completing production of a “demo” version of the video in the hopes that we will receive grant funding for the continuing production of the series.

If you have any questions about the Critical Thinking Lab, the Philosophy Dialogue Series, or any of our projects in the department, you can contact me via email at pw08@swt.edu or by phone at 245-2403. Feel free to stop by my office in Psychology 102H. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

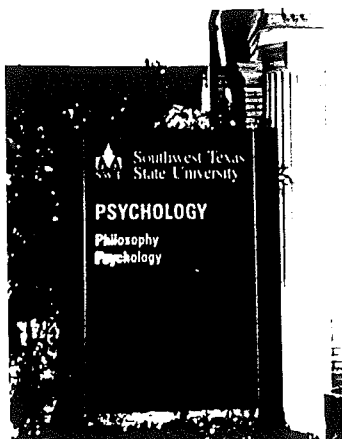
Paul Wilson
CTL Coordinator

The *Phi Sigma Tau* Bulletin

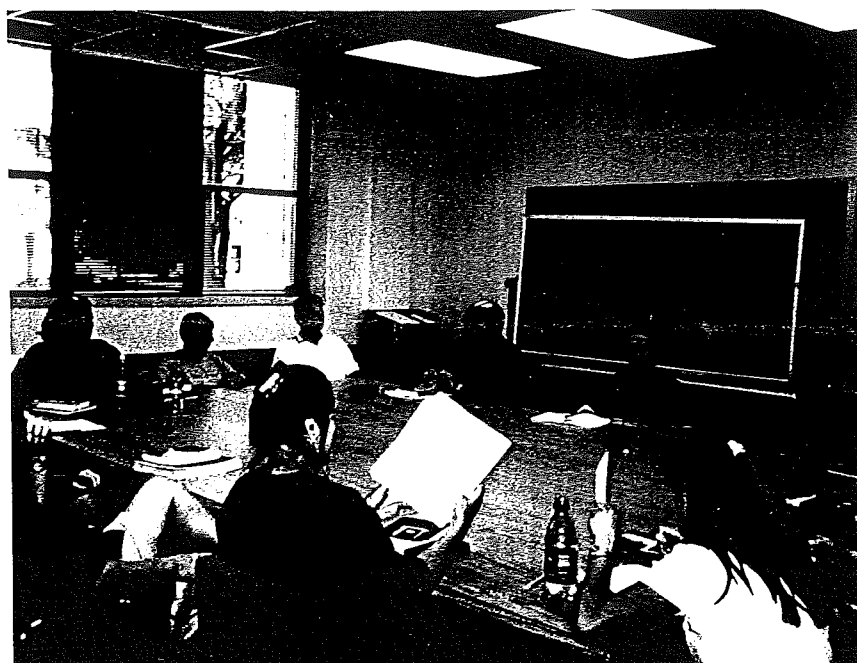
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NEW LOCATION FOR PHILOSOPHY



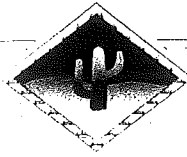
We're enjoying our new quarters on the first floor of Psychology. Our main office is in 110, we have suites of faculty offices in 102 and upstairs in 312, and our Critical Thinking Lab and Dialogue Room flank the west and east corners of the building. There was a time many moons ago when the entire department was located in the 102 suite—and some faculty members have their old offices back! We look forward to the rest of our stay in the Psychology building.



Professor Jeff Gordon enjoying discussion with his students in the Philosophy Department's new seminar room, Psychology 126.

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PHILOSOPHY WEB PAGE
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