

ΦΣΤ

Phi Sigma Tau

Connecticut Alpha Chapter

International Philosophy Honor Society



Phi Sigma Tau was founded at Muhlenberg College in 1930 as Alpha Kappa Alpha, with chapters at colleges in Maryland and Pennsylvania. It remained in this regional status until October of 1955, when it was incorporated as Phi Sigma Tau, a National Honor Society in Philosophy. Its essential purpose was and is to promote ties among philosophy departments in accredited institutions and students in philosophy nationally. Both on the local and national levels, Phi Sigma Tau considers its organization as instrumental: a means for developing and honoring academic excellence as well as philosophical interest. In addition to providing a means of awarding distinction to students having high scholarship and interest in philosophy, the Society also promotes interest in philosophy among the general collegiate public.

Growth

In 1955, Phi Sigma Tau included twelve chapters in Ohio, Tennessee, Maryland, Washington, D.C., New Mexico, California, and Louisiana. By 1958 ten additional chapters had been added, including those which had formerly constituted Alpha Kappa Alpha; and the date of the latter's founding was taken as Phi Sigma Tau's founding date. In 1958 the Society was admitted to full membership in the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), and by 1969 its chapter network included 55 chapters in 32 states. The Society became international in 1991 with the installation of its first Canadian chapter; and, as of September, 2005,

its chapter network includes over 200 chapters. The chapter here at Fairfield University was established in 1973 and it is currently the only chapter in Connecticut.

Government

The National Officers consist of President, Vice-President, and Executive Secretary. The Phi Sigma Tau Executive Council consists of these three National Officers, plus four Area Council Representatives.

Chapter Organization

Local chapters retain a high degree of autonomy, and are often associated with philosophy clubs on their college campuses. Chapter membership is open to qualified graduate and undergraduate students, teachers of philosophy, and those who qualify as honorary chapter members. At the national level the Society has also established a Laureate Chapter (whose members are distinguished philosophers throughout the world), and a National Alumni Chapter (for graduated Phi Sigma Tau members who wish to continue their affiliation with the Society).

Minimum Qualifications for Membership

You must have earned at least 45 credit hours. You must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25. You must have taken at least two courses in Philosophy. Your average in your Philosophy courses must be above a 3.0. You must declare a Philosophy Major or Minor (Don't forget that a Philosophy Minor only requires you to take two Philosophy course in addition to the three you might normally take as part of your core requirements).

Membership Costs and Benefits

A one time initiation fee of \$25.00 entitles members to certificates, membership card, all current issues of *Dialogue*, and the *Phi Sigma Tau Newsletter* (sent to the chapter advisor for distribution to members), as well as a one-year membership in the National Alumni Chapter (NAC) after graduation.

Insignia

The Society's emblem is a pentagon with the letters *Phi Sigma Tau* at the center. Each of the angles contains a word representing one of the five streams of world thought: Chinese, Indian, Islamic, Hebrew, and Greek. The seal of the Society is the reverse side of the Athenian silver tetradrachma (B.C. 480-400), which bears the owl, olive spray, and small crescent. The margin of the seal carries the legend, *Phi Sigma Tau, 1930*.

Phi Sigma Tau Key and Stole

The Phi Sigma Tau Key is currently available for \$13.60. A Phi Sigma Tau graduation stole is currently available for \$21.50.

Publications

Since 1956, the Society has published twice yearly an official journal, *Dialogue*, publication in which is open to all students in philosophy. *Dialogue* appears in October and April of each academic year. The 2005-06 academic year marked the appearance of Volume 47. The *Phi Sigma Tau Newsletter*, which appears two or three times yearly, had its 115th issue in 2005.

International Office

The headquarters were originally at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., moved in 1959 to Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, in 1970 to Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in 2005 to Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.