Paul C.L. Tang (1944-2013)

Paul Chi Lung Tang, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at California State University, Long Beach, died on July 27, 2013, after a long illness, at the age of 69. A member of the faculty for twenty-two years until he retired in 2008, he served as Chair of the department in 1988-94 and Graduate Advisor in 1997-2001. He also taught in the Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies, the University Honors Program, and the Department of Science Education.

Paul was the son of a world-renowned biochemist in China and a mother who earned a doctorate in pharmacology. A native of Vancouver, Canada, he received his Bachelor of Science with High Distinction in Zoology and Biochemistry from the University of British Columbia in 1966; his Master of Arts in Education from Simon Fraser University in 1971; and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis in 1975 and 1982, respectively. His doctoral dissertation, directed by Richard S. Rudner, was “An Epistemological Study of the Gene Concept in Biology.”

He also received a Certificate in Bioethics from the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University in 1983 and a Diploma of Associateship from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, with Honors in Piano, in 1962. Throughout his life, he loved playing his spinet piano at home and regularly attended musical concerts at the CSULB campus. While in St. Louis at Washington University, he worked as the music critic for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, writing hundreds of reviews.

His major teaching specialties were philosophy of science, philosophy of social science, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, history of science, logic, Wittgenstein, Quine, Goodman, aesthetics, and Asian philosophy. His introductory course in Critical Thinking was legendary on campus and always filled to capacity with long waiting lists. Prior to joining the CSULB faculty, he taught at Grinnell College, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Washington University, and St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

Paul edited the *Philosophy of Science Association Newsletter* from 19986-90 and the *Philosophy of Science Academic Journal* during 1972-75. He also was guest editor for a special issue of the *Social Science Journal* in 1999. He was the co-author of the *LSAT Preparation Guide* in 1990 and a revised edition in 1992. He was active in publishing throughout his career, with 36 major articles and many other articles, book reviews, and conference presentations.

He was especially active in the graduate MA program at CSULB, assisting students in the organization of numerous major conferences and serving for many years as faculty advisor for the Student Philosophy Association. He chaired the MA thesis committees for 45 students, several of which won the “Outstanding Thesis” award from the college, and he was a member of 10 additional thesis committees at CSULB. He was especially proud of co-authoring with graduate students numerous papers presented at conferences and published in journals, both here and abroad. Even after serious illness forced him to retire, he continued to tutor graduate students at his apartment near campus and assisted them in developing their thesis projects.

Paul is survived by a sister, Mei, in Washington. He was a gracious, tireless, and trusted colleague. He inspired life-long devotion in many students, which is the best memorial that so wonderful a teacher may receive.