



The Connection

One of the most prestigious martial arts organizations in the United States

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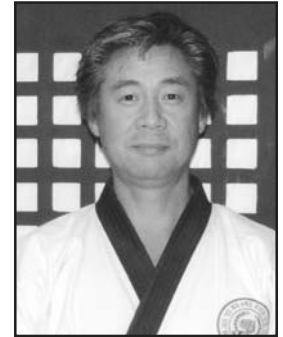
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Our Identity

Those of us who have Soo Bahk Do studios often refer to our studio members as students and assume that everyone means the same thing when they say that. In this article I would like to share ideas about three different kinds of membership. My three basic types are the "client," the "student," and the Jeh Ja—a Korean term that means something like "disciple" in the sense of total dedication (and not as a religious follower). These three types have helped me to think about different training relationships and the ways that we spread Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.



For me, the relationship between Sa Bom and Jeh Ja is the best model, but it is easier to understand this relationship by comparing it to other possibilities. Take clients, for example. The clients or customers come to the Do Jang with the intention of buying a product and may expect gratitude from the business owner. This economic relationship gives the customer a certain control because it is their demands that must be met in order to keep them training. The Sa Bom, or seller, has less control. He or she must offer a program or personality that meets client demand, or the clients leave. The limits on the potential for human relations are pretty obvious.

We use the words "instructor" and "student" all the time and take their meaning for granted. The kind of student type I am referring to here comes to the Do Jang to achieve a goal but also comes with conditions. He or she is anxious to learn new techniques, attain higher rank, and often trains very hard. Yet many students separate their Soo Bahk Do practice from any moral values. They tend to leave when they have finished the program (passed their dan test), and carry with them no value beyond the techniques themselves.

When an instructor treats a participant as a student, he or she concentrates mostly on techniques and the information that is required to pass tests. The instructor may grade the students in the sense of labeling who is "good" or "great" or "not that good," based on their technique. There is distance in the human relations and no passion or moral value in the practice. The instructor may encourage selfishness and competitiveness as the student is taught to measure himself or herself against others and to always try to top them. The instructor is self-centered, taking credit not only for "my student" but also for the accomplishments of the student as "my information" or "my techniques."

The Jeh Ja is very different from both the client and the student. In Korean, Jeh means brother or sister, and Ja means child. The tern Jeh Ja suggests that the junior is part of the family, the Moo Do family, with a Sa Bom who acts as a parent/brother or sister. To the extent that the Jeh Ja is a disciple, he or she is a disciple of Soo Bahk Do—just as the Sa Bom is a disciple of Soo Bahk Do. The responsibility of the Sa Bom is to provide the connection to the Art and to always work to deepen that connection.

Any martial arts school can have client/owner or student/instructor relations. The Sa Jeh relationship (Sa from Sa Bom, Jeh from Jeh Ja) only happens in the Moo Do world, within the Moo Do philosophy; it is an unconditional relationship between two Moo Do In (Moo Do practitioners) and it is at the heart of our art.

Our Identity continued from page 1

Again, contrast can help me to explain my thoughts. The client and the studio owner do business with the techniques and the philosophy. Though the senior may provide informational materials, neither client nor owner really practice the philosophy; the owner wants the client to buy it.

With the student and the instructor, the relationship is based in the authority of the instructor and the instructor's power to label one student as better than another or to neglect or even dismiss a student for not meeting the instructor's demands.

With the Sa Jeh relationship, the primary duty of the Sa Bom is to nurture without conditions and to learn from the nurturing. The Sa Bom learns from the mistakes of the Jeh Ja; he or she does not show disappointment or create conflict. Kwan Jang Nim Hwang Kee wrote that the purpose of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan is Hwal, a Korean word that suggests the cultivation of life in both moral values and physical values. Both practitioners work on this cultivation as the Sa Bom helps the Jeh Ja to identify with the art—in the words of Kwan Jang Nim Hwang, to find "the Art and I." The Sa Bom shares the history and philosophy as well as the techniques in order that the Jeh Ja may help to strengthen the traditions.

All of us have had rewarding relationships in Moo Duk Kwan, but we also know that growth and change can be very challenging at times. The Sa Jeh relationship is not always easy. Maybe there is a time that the Jeh Ja wants to pull away from the Do Jang. It is up to the Sa Bom to believe in the relationship and continue to nurture Moo Do values. Both sides walk on the same path, together in their loyalty to each other and to the Moo Do philosophy. If the junior goes against the wishes of the Sa Bom, the need is to somehow guide the Jeh Ja back to Moo Do values, while not enforcing dominance for its own sake.

At the same time the Sa Bom must have the courage to be forgiven by the Jeh Ja if he or she makes a mistake. Such courage makes it easier for the Sa Bom to forgive—an act that is difficult but necessary to nurturing. The Sa Bom cannot love selectively, just as the Moo Do In cannot select only one or two of the Eight Key Concepts to observe. He or she must give all to his or her juniors (even if they act like clients) in the effort to create trust and integrity and to connect juniors and senior as Moo Do practitioners.



The characters above were created by Mencius—a student of Confucius, to represent the essential philosophical values necessary for human relationships to flourish. When these values are shared and practiced by both the Sa Bom and the Jeh Ja, the result is a harmonious Sa Jeh connection

In the Sa Jeh relationship, both sides have the responsibility to care for each other. They breathe together, they sweat together, they can smell each other in the sense that one Moo Do In recognizes and is drawn to another. In this way the Moo Do In together create the true Pyung Ahn, the human relations that lead to peace. This is how I understand Oneness. The bond between the Sa Bom and the Jeh Ja, between the Art and I, must be one. The Art does not abandon anyone; Moo Duk Kwan has never abandoned me, no matter how I have been. It only nurtures and encourages me.

What makes me think I can talk to others about these things? It is part of the way that I connect myself to the art. I

believe I must have the Sa Jeh attitude toward all members of our Do Jang and the larger Federation because this is the most direct way to practice our philosophy and create the trust and loyalty to maintain our traditions. I feel I owe it to my Moo Do family to help strengthen connections, but it also makes me happy in a way that money or even techniques cannot do.

Yet it is also true that time is critical; we cannot postpone our efforts to accomplish Mission 2000. The late Kwan Jang Nim Hwang Kee worked throughout his life to share his tremendous love for the Art. He left his philosophy to his son and to all his other children of all ages and backgrounds. Kwan Jang Nim H.C. Hwang grew up with the love and trust and loyalty of Moo Do, which helps to explain why we all admire him so much. There are no separations between his personal life and his public life; it is all the same, all Soo Bahk Do. He keeps nothing to himself, but like his father, lets the clear, clean stream of Moo Do philosophy flow.

We must picture the whole length of the stream and allow Moo Do values to touch us all, to nurture us all, to enrich the connections between us, to help us love each other and create Oneness now. We must be careful not to dam up branches of the stream to keep knowledge for ourselves and cut off the flow to people downstream. Though we work to pass the baton of Moo Do to the next generation, we cannot wait for them to strengthen our traditions and ensure our history. We must accomplish our goals in our time—member to member, Sa Bom to Jeh Ja, the Art and I. Together we can strengthen the Moo Do values that will sustain our Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan.

Dae Kyu Jang

Sites and Schedule for Major Events through 2011

In order to give our members ample time to make arrangements to attend national events, the Board of Directors has approved tentative timeframes and locations for the National Championships and the Ko Dan Ja Shim Sa/Moment with the Masters events through 2011. Noted below are the events for 2005 and 2006 for which we have secure dates and locations. A complete list is available at www.soobahkdo.com.

July 21-23, 2005 National Championships
Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, FL

September 30-Oct. 2, 2005 Moo Duk Kwan
60th Anniversary
Lotte Hotel Jamsil in Seoul, Korea

August 10-12, 2006 National Championships
Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, CA

Board Director and Officer Elections Completed

Listed below are the results of the elections held for the director positions for Regions 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Also included is a list of the Board Officers for 2006.

Region 1	Master John Maihos
Region 4	Kyo Sa Lee Dykes
Region 5	Sa Bom Wilton Bennett
Region 7	Sa Bom Robert Diehl
Region 8	Sa Bom Lee Schumacher

Chairman	Sa Bom James Donnelly
Vice Chairman	Sa Bom Robert Diehl
Treasurer	Kyo Sa Lee Dykes
Secretary	Sa Bom Curt McCauley

A list of all 2006 Board of Director members and contact information is available at www.soobahkdo.com or through headquarters at 1-888-SOO-BAHK.

Contributions to Growth and Recognition

Advertising Options Available

Three separate and significant opportunities are currently available for members and non-members to contribute to the growth and recognition of Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk KwanSM. The first two options are being offered for the first time.

Plans are underway to publish a full-page national advertisement announcing the Moo Duk Kwan's 60th Anniversary event in Korea. If you would like to become one of only ten sponsors featured in this national ad, call HQ at 1-888-SOO-BAHK. The deadline is approaching and there are a limited number of sponsorships available, so call now. This is a great way to directly increase the public awareness of our Art.

A limited amount of advertising space is being offered in each issue of The Connection. Ads will be accepted from member and non-member individuals and businesses, and are available in four different sizes. If you or anyone you know would like to submit an ad to be placed in the next issue or for more information, contact communication@soobahkdo.com.

Every year space is offered in the 2005 National Championships Program. In the past, members and studio owners have used this opportunity to print advertisements, good luck wishes, photos, and spirit messages. Local businesses are also interested in purchasing ads. Ask your instructor for information about how to purchase or sell ads for the 2005 National Championships Program or contact HQ for information. Selling ads to businesses outside the Soo Bahk Do community achieves both our fund-raising objective and our goal to enhance the public recognition of Soo Bahk DoSM and the Moo Duk KwanSM.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers of all ranks and ages are needed to fill openings on three important committees. The National President's Vision Tour Committee welcomes individuals who would like to lend their efforts to the committee members in their quest to advance the President's Vision for the growth and future of our Art. The central aspect of this growth is to find the ways and means to bring Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan to the public and to increase new membership.

The current objective of the National Committee is to provide information and support to encourage the formation and success of a local Vision Tour Committee in each dojang. No special talent is required, just a few hours a month and a desire to contribute and give something back.

The Communication Committee is looking for assistance with any of the following groups: The Connection newsletter staff, the Instructor Advisory Group, the Member Recognition Group, and the Online/Cyber Group.

The Finance Committee is looking for people who have expertise and experience to offer in the areas of sales, marketing, and/or fund-raising.

To receive information on how to volunteer to help in any of these areas, please send an email to communication@soobahkdo.com.

Strengthening Our Foundation Through the President's Vision Tour Committees

A Strong Foundation was poured with love by our Founder, Kwan Jang Nim Hwang Kee. Now, the foundation can be strengthened by orange belt Nikki, by green belt John, by US.

Eight year old **Nikki Touchinski** is an assistant in a new Tiny Tots class being offered. Her mother, Carole, is training with their Sa Bom to learn the art of teaching Tiny Tots, like Nikki's brother, Ricky. Nikki is excited to be a model for 4 year old Ricky and a helper to her Mom.

John Olesnavage, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist who has a special appreciation of the discipline, respect, and boundaries that our art teaches. John is in training with a Kyo Sa mentor, preparing to offer a satellite introductory class in his small community, miles from the main studio.

But, what can we do to strengthen the foundation of a worldwide martial art? Join the local President's Vision Tour Committees (PVTC) in your studio. Some studios already have their President's Vision Tour Committees in operation, and some studios are in the formation phase. If your dojang doesn't have a PVTC formed yet, talk to your instructor about starting one. Each studio's local PVTC can be formed of representatives from all groups of people crucial to a dojang: gup and dan members, parents/family of practitioners, and community members. All age groups have valuable input, networks, and connections to offer that can increase the visibility of our Art, which is the main objective of the committees.

During his Vision Tours, the Kwan Jang Nim stirred us to action. Action today helps guarantee that our unique art will thrive for another 60 years. The action he spoke of was for us to create a PVTC in every dojang that will help us expose others to our Art. As more people are exposed to our art, instructors, and studios, the words "Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan" will have deeper meaning for schoolmates, business associates, and community leaders. The five Moo Do Values of tradition, history, discipline/respect, philosophy, and technique that we study today will be vibrant for generations. Kwan Jang Nim Hwang has confidence in our focused energy. He predicts that in 2005 alone, the U.S. Federation Membership will increase by 10% through the efforts of the Vision Tour Committees formed at each dojang.

After your studio PVTC is formed, the volunteers can contact the National Committee members for support. The committee members and contact information are listed below. Soon, every studio PVTC will receive a materials packet from the National Vision Tour Committee (NPVTC), featuring examples of visibility efforts across the Federation. This packet will contain information on topics including starting a PVTC, approaching the media, offering demonstrations to public schools, starting introductory classes, fundraising events designed to make the Art more visible, and more. These materials will also be made available on a special webpage devoted to the PVTC efforts and achievements.

Initially, the PVTC can meet to examine the current and potential visibility the studio/the art has in the immediate community and in the neighboring communities. Next, an Action Plan of ideas, activities, events, and member support of the events can be created and presented to the Studio Owner/Chief Instructor for consideration. The PVTC should keep meeting notes that can be shared with other studios via the NPVTC Website or at Vision In Action forums. Studio Owners or Local PVTC Chairs are encouraged to contact their regionally assigned NPVTC Member by April 30, 2005, and provide a brief update of their activities.

Kwan Jang Nim Hwang oversees the NPVTC through Technical Advisory Committee Member Sa Bom Nim Phillip Bartolacci. The NPVTC members are Chairperson Mr. Stan Odle, Sa Bom Larry Greenberg, Sa Bom Joyce Tredeau, and Sa Bom Catharine Minichino.

Mr. Odle was appointed by Kwan Jang Nim Hwang and is an Il Gup from Region 10. Mr. Odle's background as a professional writer and producer of documentaries brings organization and depth of thought to the NPVTC. He can be reached at sodle@soobahkdo.com.

Sa Bom Catharine Minichino acts as the NPVTC's liaison to the Board of Directors. She is a studio owner from Region 1 and the Federation's Communications Chair. She can be reached at cminichino@soobahkdo.com.

Sa Bom Larry Greenberg is an instructor and a business owner from Region 1, and he serves as the contact person for Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10. He can be contacted at lgreenberg@soobahkdo.com.

Sa Bom Joyce Tredeau is the contact person for Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. She is a studio owner from Region 5, and she can be reached at jtredeau@soobahkdo.com.

Nikki, John, and the rest of us will focus our energy, and by the end of 2005, we will have demonstrated that Kwan Jang Nim Hwang's faith in all of us was well warranted. We will be stronger individuals, studios, and regions--a stronger Art. Federation membership will grow, strengthening the foundation for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Tredeau

Showing and Seeing Our Moo Do Value



A young Andrew Cheever takes his turn demonstrating the Moo Do Value at the same fair he visited with his mother exactly one year earlier. Andrew Cheever is shown at right. At far left is Sa Bom James Harwood

Sixteen years ago I took my two young boys to the County Fair. Nearby the entrance was a small stage. A marquee indicated the next performance was by a local karate school and would begin in 15 minutes. At the back of the stage, adults in uniform were reviewing for the upcoming program. At the front edge of the stage, three 10-year olds wearing green belts were going through a stretching routine. My boys and others were drawn by the white uniforms. From the gathering audience, a few young teenagers began throwing taunts at these green-belted youngsters, "Hey, Karate Kid!" I really didn't want my four and six-year old to hear the expected, belittling exchange. That's when I got a wonderful surprise -- a glimpse of Moo Do. The young practitioners all looked up and scanned the crowd to find the source of the calls. Once they spotted the teenagers they looked long enough to make it clear they'd found them and then resumed their stretching routine. They never exchanged glances or words between themselves and they didn't communicate with the hecklers other than to let them know they had heard them. "Wow!", my parent-oriented mind said. "I want THAT for my children!" I immediately recognized that these young green belts possessed confidence, self-discipline, and composure of which they seemed totally unaware.

Just as I was experiencing this Aha! moment, my four year old pleaded with me to take him to the bathroom. No, he couldn't wait. So off we trooped to wait in a long line. As soon as we could, we hurried back to the stage. The demonstration was over! We had not seen a single punch or kick! The members of the school were still there handing out informational brochures, and I spoke to the head instructor, Master Doris Beaven. She invited us to come watch a class at the studio and take an introduction class. We did just that. My eldest son began training six months later, the week he turned 7. My daughter was born that year. She and I started training when she was six. Now there are three dans in our family: my eldest son, my daughter, and I. My son, Mr. Andrew Cheever, has just completed his first ko dan ja shim sa.

I wasn't thinking about karate when I decided to take my children to the fair. Although I didn't know the term "Moo Do," I certainly recognized its value as clearly as if it had been the stage those young practitioners were standing upon. Demonstration programs may list hyungs, il soo sik, ho sin sul and sparring -- our techniques -- but it is through our discipline/respect, philosophy, history and tradition that the Moo Do values shine. Demonstrations are a conscious effort to showcase our Art. Our everyday activities in and out of the do jang are just as surely models for the public to view the values of Soo Bahk Do.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Cheever



Pictured left to right, Andrew Cheever, Luce Cheever, and Meghan Cheever

Three Steps to the Moo Duk Kwan 60th Anniversary Celebration

1. Pre-register online at:
www.worldmoodukkwon.com
or www.soobahkdo.com.
2. Submit registration fee payable to World Moo Duk Kwan
P.O. Box 154
Springfield, NJ 07081
3. Book air travel, ground transport, lodging, and banquet arrangements directly through Walkerhill Travel Service
47 West 46 St., 2nd FLR
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 212-221-1234
Fax: 212-221-0277
Email: walkerhillny@hotmail.com

Welcome

On behalf of the National President's Vision Tour Committee I would like to welcome all the members of the newlyformed Studio President's Vision Tour Committees (SPVTC) that have contacted us so far. We are looking forward to greeting and connecting with committees from every dojang in the Federation.

Soon, we will be sending every dojang a packet filled with information and strategies to help their committees with focus and direction. In addition to supplying a packet to each studio committee, we will be launching a President's Vision Tour page on the Federation website. This page will be a dynamic and interactive site that will include downloadable materials from the information packet and additional ideas and activities submitted by the Vision Tour Committee members from each studio.

If your committee hasn't officially contacted us yet, we invite you to email us ASAP to register. We look forward to working with you, featuring your committee on the webpage, and sharing your creativity and progress with others in support of Kwan Jang Nim's goal. Studio committees from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 can email Sa Bom Larry Greenberg at lgreenberg@soobahkdo.com. Committee members from studios located in Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 can email Sa Bom Joyce Tredeau jtredeau@soobahkdo.com.

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United States Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan FederationSM

Also known as U.S. Tang Soo Do Moo Duk Kwan Federation[®]

27th National Championships

July 21st – July 23rd, 2005

Doubletree Hotel, Orlando, Florida



Tickets and registration materials are scheduled to be in studios soon. The hotel block is already filling. Reserve your room today! Call (407) 351-1000 or www.doubletree.com. Be sure to mention that you're with the U.S. Soo Bahk DoSM Group.



1945 - 2005

"The Last Legend"

Be part of it... Be There!

Moo Duk Kwan

60th Anniversary Celebration

Sept 30 to Oct 2, 2005

Lotte Hotel Jamsil in Seoul, Korea

Sponsored In Part By



한국관광공사
KOREA NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION



For more information and to pre-register online, visit www.Soobahkdo.com and www.worldmoodukkwan.com

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