

AILACT NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING

Prepared by Bob Ennis, President, <rhennis@uiuc.edu> December, 2003

Greetings, Members of AILACT,

Topics in this newsletter are the announcement of the AILACT Essay Prize of 2004, announcement of recent appointments, announcement of the program at the Eastern Division of the APA, and membership and dues. For continuing information, check our Web site, <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca>

AILACT ESSAY PRIZE OF 2004

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking invites applications for its first annual AILACT Essay Prize

The value of the AILACT Essay Prize is US\$500. The prize may, in extraordinary circumstances, be divided among entries judged to be of about equal merit.

Essays related to the teaching or theory of informal logic or critical thinking will be considered for the prize. An essay may be unpublished, forthcoming or previously published. There are no restrictions on authorship. Published papers must have appeared on or after January 1st, 2003. Essays should be in the neighbourhood of 3500-5000 words.

The essays will be assessed on the basis of, in no particular order: their originality, their scholarship, if applicable (papers that ignore the relevant literature will tend to go to the bottom of the pile), their argument (needless to say?), their style (lucid, delightful-to-read papers will tend to rise to the top), and their importance to the field (measured by how high they register on the "Everyone should read this paper-and soon!" scale).

The jury for the 2004 AILACT Essay Prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Tony Blair (chair), Merrilee Salmon and Michael Scriven. The verdict of the jury is final.

To submit a paper, attach an electronic file to an e-mail with AILACT ESSAY ENTRY on the "Subject" line, or mail three paper copies, to the appropriate address below. Please send the paper ready for blind-reviewing (the author not identified on the paper or file containing the paper, and self-identifying references removed from the text, notes and References).

The deadline for receipt of papers to be considered for the 2004 AILACT Essay Prize is 31 August 2004. Send to:

tblair@uwindsor.ca

or

Prof. J.A. Blair
Department of Philosophy
University of Windsor
Windsor, ON
CANADA N9B 3P4

The winner will be announced by 1 December 2004. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner.

For information about AILACT and a copy of these rules, see our Web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca>. Please photocopy and post this announcement.

Recent Appointments by the Board

Research Director

The Board recently invited Maurice Finocchiaro of UNLV to become AILACT Research Director, and he has accepted. In this post he will initiate and monitor research activities within AILACT, a purpose of AILACT emphasized in our Constitution. Some specific things he could do include

- work with David Hitchcock, our Webmaster in establishing a place on our Web site on which various members could post research ideas, ideas that in particular could be of use to students doing research;
- discover and add links to existing research summaries;
- seek and encourage the development of research summaries;
- provide a way for AILACT members to exchange research ideas and report their results to other members and the broader community

If you have some suggestions or requests for Maurice, write him at mauricef@CCMAIL.NEVADA.EDU

Program Chairs

The Board has invited Dan Boone (Indiana University of Pennsylvania, <danboone@iup.edu>), Don Hatcher (Baker University, dhatcher@idir.net), and Peter Asquith (Michigan State University, Asquith2@cal.msu.edu) to serve three-year terms starting in late spring of 2004 as Program Chairs for AILACT Group Sessions at the Eastern, Pacific, and Central Divisions respectively. They have all accepted - our good fortune. John Hoaglund, who is current Central Division Program Chair (through the spring 2004 meeting), was unable to continue because of other pressing commitments. John is to be congratulated for the fine work he has done.

Program Announcements

Programs for the Pacific and Central Division meeting in the spring of 2004 have not yet been announced.

For the Eastern Division, Dan Boone has arranged a very interesting program:
Author meets Critics: Paradox and Paraconsistency by John Woods

11: 15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Sunday, 28 December 2003 at APA Eastern, Bancroft Room,
Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC

Chair: Daniel N. Boone, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Critic: Roy A. Sorensen, Dartmouth College
Critic: Bradley Armour-Garb, SUNY Albany
Author: John Woods, University of British Columbia

Please make several copies, use, post, and give to colleagues
AILACT 2004 MEMBERSHIP

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) was formed in 1983 to promote research, teaching, and testing of informal logic and critical thinking at all levels; to increase the extent and quality of such research, teaching, and testing; and to facilitate discussion among its members. AILACT sponsors sessions at each APA divisional meeting and other meetings, has a Web site, <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca>. and an annual essay prize.

APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2004

- I would like to become a member of AILACT (US\$6*/ calendar year)
 I would like to renew my membership (US\$6*/ calendar year)
*or the equivalent (Make checks payable to AILACT)

Name: _____

Date: _____ Institution _____

Please fill in the following, unless you are sure that the information is in our records:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (Very important! Much of our business will be conducted primarily electronically -- but you will not be disenfranchised if you do not have an e-mail address.)

What would you like to see AILACT do, or do better?

Mail to: Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Center for Critical Thinking, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA Email: dhatcher@idir.net or donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu