

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
August 2006**

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From the Editor I write this approximately two weeks after the Sixth International Conference on Argumentation, sponsored by ISSA, in Amsterdam. The conference featured keynote addresses by Thomas Goodnight, "The Duties of Advocacy: Argument under Conditions of Asymmetry, Disparity and Difference," Marcelo Dascal, "Dichotomy in Controversy," and Trudy Govier, "Duets, Cartoons, and Tragedies: Struggles with the Fallacy of Composition" in addition to 300 concurrent presentations. Approximately 500 persons attended, meaning that the conference is growing. On a number of occasions, presentations were filled to standing room only. A highlight of the conference, which was kept secret until it actually happened, was the presentation to Frans van Eemeren of a Festschrift, *Considering Pragma-Dialectics*, on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Agnes van Rees and Peter Houtlosser edited the book, published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, which features contributions from twenty-six scholars from many countries. Frans had earlier received a Festschrift from his colleagues at the University of Amsterdam. For those who could not be at the conference, the proceeding should be available in about a year.

In this issue, you will find information about upcoming meetings during 2006-2007 featuring discussion of informal logic and critical thinking, announcements and calls for papers, and an announcement of the AILACT essay contest. Finally, there is a Membership Form at the end of this issue. This may serve as a reminder to those who have not yet paid their dues for 2006. We also encourage members to share the form with others who may be interested in the work of AILACT. I hope you find at least some of this information useful and of interest. Should any of you have notices or other information you would like included in future issues, please e-mail me at jfreeman@hunter.cuny.edu. Issues should be published close to April 1, August 1, and December 1 each year.

James B. Freeman

2. Announcement of AILACT ESSAY PRIZE 2006

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking invites applications for its third 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. Additionally, AILACT intends to publish a volume with this winning essay, together with the winning essays of the last two years and the best essays of all three years.

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 1 January 2006. 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 members for the 2006 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 PRIZE 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 2006 AILACT Essay Prize is 1 September 2006.

Address e-mail entries to: philos@uwindsor.ca and put in the Subject line: AILACT ESSAY PRIZE ENTRY. Address paper copy entries to: AILACT ESSAY PRIZE ENTRY, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor, Windsor, ON, Canada N9B 3P4. Be sure to include your name and a mailing address in your covering note.

The winner will be announced by 1 December 2006. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner.

For information about AILACT, see our Web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>

3. Upcoming Meetings 2006-2007

Group Sessions at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, December 27-30, 2006, Washington, DC

Session Topic: Legal Reasoning

Date and time of session is TBA.

Chair: Daniel N. Boone, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Speaker: Richard F. Galvin, Texas Christian University, "Legal Moralism and the U.S. Supreme Court"

Commentators: Alan E. Fuchs, College of William and Mary; Robert Hoag, Berea College

Group Sessions at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 4-8, 2007, San Francisco

Call for Papers: AILACT meets in conjunction with the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association, April 4 -8, 2007, at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Papers on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation are welcome. Papers should be no longer than 12 pages or a 30-minute reading time. Deadline for submissions is September 15, and notification is by October 15, 2006. The program must be finalized by November 1. Send submissions as attachments in MS Word or WordPerfect to <donaldhatcher@sbcglobal.net> or <donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu> or hard copies to:

Donald L. Hatcher
Center for Critical Thinking
Baker University
Box 65
Baldwin City, KS 66006

Group Sessions at the Central Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 18-21, 2007, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

Call for Papers and Workshop Suggestions: AILACT will meet in conjunction with the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association in Spring of 2007, April 18-21, in Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton. Papers on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation are welcome. Papers should be no longer than 12 pages or a 30-minute reading time.

Deadline for submission is October 4, 2006, and notification on paper acceptance is by December 4, 2006.

Send submissions as attachments in MS Word or PDF to the program chair, Peter D. Asquith, Michigan State University at: asquith@msu.edu.

2007 Meeting of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, June 6-9, 2007, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario CA

See call for papers below.

4. Call for Papers, Special Issue of *Informal Logic* on the work of Douglas Walton

Over the last 25 years, Douglas Walton has been a prolific and influential contributor to informal logic scholarship in a great many areas. Besides numerous articles, he has published books on relevance, informal fallacies, dialogue games, fallacy theory, informal logic, argument structure, presumptive argument schemes, practical reasoning, legal argumentation, ethical argumentation, plausible argument, abductive argument, and argument and artificial intelligence, as well as books on particular fallacies or species of argument, including ad hominem, begging the question, slippery slope, emotion, argument from ignorance, ambiguity, appeal to authority, to pity, and to popular opinion, and threats. (This list is not complete.) To recognize the contributions of Professor Walton to informal logic and argumentation theory, *Informal Logic* invites papers that discuss, critique, develop, engage with or apply some aspect of his work. Among the topics that contributors might address are: dialectical and dialogic approaches to argument, recent developments in dialogue-based approaches to argument dialogue and legal argumentation, argumentation schemes, argumentation and computing, abductive reasoning and argument, dialogue-based approaches to fallacy theory. Paper submission cut-off deadline: October 1, 2006; early submissions are welcomed. Paper word limit: 7,000 words. Papers are to be prepared for blind review and submitted electronically, with “Walton Issue” in the subject line, to: goddendm@uwindsor.ca. Please take note of and FOLLOW the instructions for authors found in *Informal Logic* and on the *Informal Logic* website: <http://web2.uwindsor.ca/faculty/arts/philosophy/IL/submissions.htm>

5. **Announcement of 2007 Meeting and Call for Papers, Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation**

DISSENSUS
&
THE SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

A conference presented by the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation

June 6 - 9, 2007
University of Windsor

Keynote addresses to be given by

MICHAEL GILBERT
Philosophy, York University

DALE HAMPLE
Communication, Western Illinois University

CHRISTIAN KOCK
Rhetoric, University of Copenhagen

The Organizing Committee invites proposals for papers in informal logic, rhetoric or argumentation theory on topics related to the above theme.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically no later than

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and should be between 200 and 300 words long. Additional information for submitting proposals will be available on the Conference website. Graduate students working in one of the mentioned areas are also encouraged to apply. (The J. Anthony Blair Prize is awarded to the best student paper presented at the conference.)

Abstracts prepared for blind refereeing (with the heading 'Dissensus') should be sent to: <infolog@uwindsor.ca>

Organizing Committee:

Hans V. Hansen Christopher W. Tindale

J. Anthony Blair Ralph H. Johnson

**Canadian graduate students who need financial assistance in order to attend should advise the Organizing Committee when they submit their proposals.*

www.uwindsor.ca/ossa

6. Membership Form