

ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING (AILACT) *NEWSLETTER* August 2008

Table of Contents

- 1. From the Editor**
- 2. Upcoming Meetings 2007-2008**
- 3. Membership Form**

From the Editor On June 10, the AILACT Board met via conference call. The agenda included a discussion of getting members to pay their annual dues, currently \$10, which many members have not sent in as yet, either for this year or in previous years.. The consensus was that since the notice for dues included with issues of the Newsletter can be easily overlooked, our Secretary-Treasurer, Don Hatcher, will send out a notice via surface mail in the early fall. It is important to get more members to pay their dues, especially to help fund the AILACT Essay Prize.

The Essay Prize was on the agenda of the Board meeting. The Board had previously decided not to award the prize in 2008 but to review its terms, and at the meeting struck a committee for this purpose. The committee has reported its recommendations, which are currently under Board consideration.

Those of you who receive AILACT-D know that Bob Ennis has sent out a call for information about course offerings in informal logic/critical thinking beyond the introductory course. So far, five responses have appeared on AILACT-D. McMaster University offers an advanced undergraduate course along with a graduate seminar in the area, with the opportunity to do M.A. and Ph.D. work in the field. Northern Arizona State University offers two basic courses in the area, one devoted to arguments in everyday contexts and the other to scientific arguments. Northern Arizona also offers an advanced course in Philosophy of Logic which might treat issues in the area of informal logic/critical thinking.

Upcoming Meetings 2008-2008

**Group Session at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meetings,
December 27-30, 2008, Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, PA**

Session: Colloquium on Fallacies

Date, Time, and Meeting Room to be announced.

Chair: T. Edward Damer, Emory & Henry College

Speakers: Gary Seay, Medgar Evers College CUNY and Susana Nuccetelli - St. Cloud State University, "Is There a Naturalistic Fallacy? And Should Anyone Be Worried About It?"

Commentator: Harvey Siegel, University of Miami

Speaker: Sergio Novani, University of Urbino, “The ‘Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Fallacy’ is a Fallacy”

Speaker: William Goodwin, Swarthmore College, “The ‘Passes for’ Fallacy”

Call for Commentators

Commentators are needed and welcomed for the papers by Professors Novani and Goodwin. Interested persons should contact Prof. John Hoaglund, Eastern Division AILACT Program Chair at hoaglund@cnu.edu, preferably by October 1, 2008.

LAST CALL for Papers and Panel Discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the Central Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, FEBRUARY 18-21, 2009, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL. PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER DATE.

Please send your suggestions on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation, their instruction or their relations with other disciplines and world events. Ideas regarding a guest speaker, an author-meets-critics, or a joint session with another Group meeting are very welcome. And please forward this announcement to anyone else who might be interested.

Possible topics include: Critical Thinking/Informal Logic and the war in Iraq, CT/IL and religious belief, CT/IL and relativism, the nature of CT/IL, and whether state-wide efforts making CT a graduation requirement have improved students' CT skills.

Deadlines: Papers and speaker lists must be submitted by August 20, 2008. Send papers as attachments in MS Word. Send all submissions to the Program Chair, Kevin Possin, Winona State University, kpossin@winona.edu.

Group Sessions at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 8-11, 2009, Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC

Two sessions are expected. One will be devoted to the issue of teaching online critical thinking classes. A few more speakers for this session **would be** welcome. The other session is open, topic wise, at this time. We welcome papers on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation, including papers on teaching, research, or applications. Papers should be no longer than 12 pages or a 30-minute reading time. We also seek commentators and/or possible panelists around a central topic. Deadline for submissions is September 17, and notification is by October 15, 2008. Commentators or panelists should indicate their interest by September 17. Send submissions as attachments in MS Word or a pdf file to wteays@msmc.la.edu. Or mail to: Wanda Teays, Chair, Philosophy Department, Mount St. Mary's College, 12001 Chalon Rd., Los Angeles, CA, 90049. Any questions, call: 310/954-4290.

Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation (OSSA)

Argument Cultures: A conference presented by the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, , June 3 - 6, 2009, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Keynote speakers: Ruth Amossy, *Department of French, University of Tel-Aviv*

Robert C. Pinto, *Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor*

David Zarefsky, *School of Communication, Northwestern University*

Call for Papers

The Organizing Committee invites proposals for papers in informal logic or rhetorical or argumentation theory on topics related to the above theme. "Argument Cultures" may be understood as the various *cultures of theorizing* about arguments and argumentation, or as argumentation *about cultural differences*, or as ways 'argument' and 'argumentation' are understood or practiced *in cultures*.

Abstracts prepared for blind refereeing must be submitted electronically no later than SEPTEMBER. 8, 2008 to H.V. Hansen hhansen@uwindsor.ca

Abstracts should be between 200 and 250 words long. Additional information on how to prepare proposals is currently being prepared and will be made available on the conference web site when it is ready.

It is part of OSSA's mandate to promote the work of graduate students and young scholars in the field. Thus we strongly encourage submissions from this group. Students please mention the degree and program at the time of submission. For the purpose of the Conference, a graduate student is one who has not completed the graduate program by September 8, 2008. The J. Anthony Blair Prize (\$500 CDN) is awarded to the best student paper presented at the Conference. The competition is open to all students whose proposals are accepted for the Conference. (Additional information about this prize will also be available on the website.) Canadian graduate students who need financial assistance in order to attend should advise the Organizing Committee when they submit their proposals.

Summer institute on argumentation

The Centre for Research on Reasoning, Argumentation and Rhetoric (CRRAR)

at the University of Windsor will be offering a Summer Institute on Argumentation that will include the conference but begin a week earlier. The Institute will offer a course for graduate students as well as serve as an orientation to recent research in argumentation for post-doctoral students and junior faculty at universities and colleges. The course in the Institute will be taught by internationally recognized argumentation scholars.

Membership Form The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

The Association (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/>, that provides a wide variety of information about AILACT, informal logic, and critical thinking, and posts papers and other members' materials; has an e-mail discussion list* for discussion of topics of interest to members; and offers an annual Essay Prize for the recent essay judged best in the field.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2008

I would like to become a member of AILACT (US\$10 -- or the equivalent*)

I would like to renew my membership (US\$10 -- or the equivalent**)

(Make checks payable to AILACT)

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Date: _____

Please fill in the following:

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 with check to: Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Center for Critical Thinking, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA Email: <donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu>

*a check in the currency of the member, if the member so chooses