

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

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From the Editor: Since the August Newsletter appeared, the Board has come to a consensus on policies and procedures in connection with the AILACT Essay Prize and there has been a general annual meeting, in cyberspace, of the AILACT membership. Derek Allen, our president, has sent you our members several e-mail communications regarding these developments, including a report of the results of the annual meeting. I have heard from all the regional chairs regarding the AILACT Group Meetings to be held in 2008-2009 in conjunction with the three divisions of the American Philosophical Association, and the programs are enclosed. Finally, in June 2009, the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation will be holding its biennial meeting, this time again at the University of Windsor. The deadline has passed for submitting abstracts and contributors whose papers have been accepted have been notified. We include the information we do have at this time about the June conference under Upcoming Meetings. More information should be available after the first of the year. We hope to see all of you at some meeting in 2009.

James B. Freeman

Upcoming Meetings 2008-2009

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

Date and Time: Sunday Evening Dec. 28, 2008, 7:30-10:30 PM

Chair: T. Edward Damer, Emory & Henry College

Topic: Fallacies

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?"

Comment: Harvey Siegel, University of Miami

Sergio Novani, University of Urbino, "The 'Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Fallacy' is a Fallacy"

Comment: TBA

William Goodwin, Swarthmore College, "The 'Passes for' Fallacy"

Comment: Eric Silverman, Christopher Newport University

Group Session at the APA Central Division Meetings, February 2009

Date and Time: Friday, February 20, 2009, 7:00-10:00 pm

Chair: Kevin Possin, Winona State University

Speakers: Gary Seay, Medgar Evars College/CUNY and Susana Nuccetelli, St. Cloud State University, "Critical Thinking as an Autonomous Discipline"

Richard Trowbridge, Bryant & Stratton College, "Critical Thinking and Wisdom"

Panel Discussion: "Critical Thinking: General or Domain-Specific Skills"

Panelists: Jerry Kapus, University of Wisconsin-Stout; Frank Fair, Sam Houston State University; and Jan Sobocan, University of Western Ontario

Group Session at the APA Pacific Division Meetings, April 8-12, 2009

Session 1 Date and Time: Friday, April 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Chair: Wanda Teays, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles

Topic: On-Line Courses in Critical Thinking

Speakers: Darin Dockstader, College of Southern Nevada, "Teaching Critical Thinking Online: Getting Started"

N. Mark Rauls, College of Southern Nevada, "Teaching Critical Thinking Online: The Long View"

Session 2 Date and Time: Saturday, April 11, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Chair: Paul Green, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles

Topic: The Role of the Context in Critical Thinking

Speakers: Sharon Bailin, Simon Fraser University (Emerita), "Critical Inquiry: Considering the Context"

Mark Battersby, Capilano University, "Critical Inquiry: Considering the Context"

Comment: Donald L. Hatcher, Baker University, "A Response to Profs. Bailin and Battersby"

Comment: Jerry Cederblom, University of Nebraska at Omaha "A Response to Profs. Bailin and Battersby"

Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, June 3-6, 2009, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, CA

Conference Title: Argument Cultures

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

Further information will be made available at the OSSA website: web2.uwindsor.ca/cpa/OSSA/

For information about OSSA, contact Hans Hansen at hhansen@uwindsor.ca.

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 invites submissions for an annual Essay Prize.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2009

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**)

I am a student: graduate _____; undergraduate _____. (Fee waived)

(Make checks payable to AILACT)

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any, indicate if student): _____

Date: _____

Please fill in the following:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: (Very important! Please print clearly. Much of our business will be conducted 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: <d.hatcher@bakeru.edu>

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