

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
December 2009**

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From the Editor: Since the August Newsletter went out, our President, Derek Allen, has been in conversation with a computer consultant in website design concerning creating a password protected section of the AILACT website to facilitate correspondence among members. The consultant's proposal has been discussed by the Board. Recall that the purpose of this section is to enable members to get in touch with other members who share research or pedagogical interests in informal logic, critical thinking, and argumentation theory. The section would contain a list of AILACT members who consented to be listed along with their institutional affiliation, e-mail addresses, and teaching and research interests. The section would be password protected to avoid making these addresses too public. The section could also be used for confidential voting, which might eliminate paper ballots and facilitate voting by more AILACT members. The project will go forward once the technical challenges involved in creating the desired website functionality have been surmounted.

In late September, the AILACT Board extended the deadline for submitting papers for the AILACT Essay Prize from October 1 to October 31. Our publicist, Susana Nuccetelli, re-publicized the competition, with the result that by October 31, we had 13 submissions. Congratulations to Susana are in order for turning the submission situation around. The winner will be announced in January.

Finally, we are currently setting up an account making it possible for members to pay their dues by credit card, beginning in 2010.

I hope to report further word on these and other AILACT initiatives in the April Newsletter.

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Upcoming Meetings 2009-2010

Group Session at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, December 27-30, 2009, Marriott Marquis, Times Square, New York, NY

Session: Argument Assessment in Informal Logic

Wednesday, December 30, 2009, 1:30-4:30 PM, Meeting Room to be announced.

Chair: To be announced

Speakers: David Hitchcock, MacMaster University, "The Case that Inferences are General"

Commentator: To be announced

Gary Seay, Medgar Evers College, CUNY and Susana Nuccetelli, St. Cloud State University, "Reasoning, Normativity, and Experimental Philosophy"

Commentator: Harvey Siegel

James B. Freeman, Hunter College, CUNY, "Is Epistemic Probability Pascalian?"

Commentator: Dan Cohen, Colby College

Group Session at the Central Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, February 17-20, 2010, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL.

Session: Topics in Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

Friday, February 19, 2010, 7:00-10:00 PM, Meeting Room to be announced

Chair: Kevin Possin (Winona State University)

Speakers: Hans V. Hansen, Centre for Research in Reasoning, Argumentation and Rhetoric, University of Windsor, "Picturing Conductive Arguments"

Thomas Keyes, Our Lady of the Lake University, "Dewey, Pulp Fiction, and Reinforcing Critical Thinking Concepts"

Lawrence Pasternack, Oklahoma State University, Eric Parkinson, Syracuse University, and Michael Aparicia, Santa Rosa Junior College, "Teaching Critical Thinking Online"

Group Session at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, March 31 - April 4, 2010, Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, CA

Session: The Epistemic Significance of Disagreement

Thursday, April 1, 2010, 8:00-10:00, Meeting Room to be announced.

Chair: Wanda Teays (Mount St. Mary's College)

Speaker: Dale Turner, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, "You're Not an Idiot or Evil, But You Are Wrong: Some Reflections on the Epistemic Significance of Disagreement"

Commentators: Jerry Cederblom, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Zenon Culverhouse, Mount St. Mary's College

Michael Scriven, Claremont Graduate University

**Seventh International Conference on Argumentation, University of Amsterdam,
Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 29-July 2, 2010**

Keynote Speakers: Maurice Finocchiaro, University of Nevada, Los Vegas (emeritus)

James Klumpp, University of Maryland

James B. Freeman, Hunter College of The City University of New York

Although the deadline for submitting abstracts has passed, information about the conference is available at http://cf.hum.uva.nl/issa/conference_2010_papers.html.

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 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)

Date: _____

Name: _____

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

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: <dhatcher@bakeru.edu>

*Only checks drawn on U.S. or Canadian Banks can be processed. U.S. currency will also work.