

ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING (AILACT) *NEWSLETTER* AUGUST 2010

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From the Editor: Two significant meetings dealing with subjects falling within the area of informal logic and critical thinking, have occurred since the release of the April Newsletter. The first was a Symposium on Conductive Arguments, organized by the Centre for Research in Reasoning, Argumentation and Rhetoric at the University of Windsor. On April 30 and May 1, fourteen papers were presented by Hansen, Blair, Battersby and Bailin, Jin, Fischer, Pinto, Finocchiaro, Zenker, Freeman, Walton, Kock, Johnson, Kauffeld, and Wohlrapp. In addition, Trudy Govier, who first called the attention of the informal logic community to Carl Wellman's notion of conductive arguments and has contributed much to our understanding of them, was present and participating, as was David Hitchcock, who has also made a significant contribution to the theory of conductive arguments. Also participating was AILACT president Derek Allen, whose critiques of Govier on conductive arguments were among the topics discussed in Finocchiaro's paper. Currently, the plan is to publish all of these papers in a special issue of *Informal Logic*. This was an intimate meeting, with at most 30 present and all the papers presented in plenary sessions.

At the other end of the spectrum in terms of size was the Seventh International Conference on Argumentation sponsored by ISSA, the International Society for the Study of Argumentation, June 29 - July 2 at the University of Amsterdam. The conference featured over 300 paper presentations, sometimes with ten concurrent sessions, and around 500 persons from over 40 countries attending in all. Two of the three keynote speeches were presented by AILACT members. Maurice Finocchiaro, a past president of AILACT, gave the opening keynote on Wednesday, July 30, speaking on "Meta-argumentation." Yours truly gave the third and last keynote speech on July 2, addressing the topic "Can argumentation deal with world-view dissensus?" On Thursday, July 1, James Klumpp spoke on "Rhetorical Argument." ISSA intends to publish papers from the conference on CD-Rom, to appear sometime in 2011. As with previous ISSA conferences, participants were presented with a broad spectrum of the work being done in argumentation theory. 2010 saw two changes in the Planning Committee for the ISSA conference. After being part of the planning committees for all six preceding

conferences, J. Anthony Blair and Charles A. Willard have been succeeded by David Godden and Gordon Mitchell, members of a new generation.

At just about the time the April Newsletter was released, the Pacific Division APA held its meetings in San Francisco. This issue features something new, a report from Wanda Teays on the AILACT Group Session.

In the April Newsletter, I indicated that in response to a call from Bob Ennis (AILACT's Director of Special Projects), a number of AILACT members have made themselves available for consulting in a number of areas pertaining to informal logic/critical thinking. The list of these consultants is now posted on our website <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca>. Further volunteers are always welcome and should write to Bob Ennis at rhennis@illinois.edu.

Otherwise, please take note of the notice for the 2010 AILACT Essay Prize included in this issue of the Newsletter. For those who are planning on or seriously considering submitting an essay, please note that the due date is October 31, 2010. Details of the competition and instructions for submission are all included in the notice.

Also included in this issue is an AILACT Membership Form, which should serve as a reminder for those who have not yet paid their dues for 2010 to do so. Dues (which continue to be \$10.00) may be paid either by check or credit card; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if payment is by check) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher.

Finally, Wanda Teays has informed me that Mary Ann Warren, wife of Michael Scriven, a Board member and long time active supporter of AILACT, died during the week of August 8. Wanda remembers her as "an amazing, talented, and kind woman." We extend our sincere sympathy to Michael at this time of loss.

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From the Pacific Division Co-ordinator: The AILACT session at the 2010 APA Pacific Division meeting was a success! We had a great speaker, strong commentators, and a good turnout. It's hard to ask for more for the AILACT session this last March in San Francisco. Dale Turner (Cal Poly Pomona) gave a paper that wins the *Clever Title of 2010 Award*: "You're Not an Idiot or Evil, But you are Wrong: Some Reflections on the Epistemic Significance of Disagreement." Not only was the title clever, the paper was too and the discussion and comments kept things lively. Commentators were Jerry Cederblom (U of Nebraska, Omaha), Zenon Culverhouse (Stanford U), and Michael Scriven (Claremont Graduate University—absent, due to family crisis). Wanda Teays (Session Chair) read Michael's remarks. Thanks to all for making such an interesting session. We look forward to next year's in San Diego!

Wanda Teays
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Upcoming Meetings 2010-2011

AILACT Group Session at the Eastern Division APA meeting, DECEMBER 27-30, 2010 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place and The Weston Copley Place, Boston, MA.

Details of the program together with the exact date and time of the session will appear in the December Newsletter.

Call for Papers and Panel Discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA meeting, MARCH 30-APRIL 2, 2011 at the Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, MN.

Please send your suggestions on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation, their instruction, their assessment, 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 healthcare, CT/IL and religious belief, CT/IL and relativism, the nature of CT/IL, and methods and means of teaching CT/IL.

Deadlines: Please send emails of interest by August 31, 2010. Papers and [confirmed] speaker lists should be submitted by September 20, 2010. Send papers as attachments in pdf or MS Word. Send all emails and submissions to the Program Director, Kevin Possin, Winona State University, (kpossin@winona.edu).

Call for Papers for the AILACT Group Session at the Pacific Division APA meeting, 20-24 April 2011 at the Bayfront Hilton (Beautiful! On the water!), San Diego, CA

Seeking speakers, commentators, panel participants for an evening session on one of Thur-Sat 21-23 April. Please submit paper/panel topic by **15 SEP 2010**, and include abstract or brief discussion of panel idea, to Wanda Teays, Program Chair (Pacific AILACT), *Email:* wteays@msmc.la.edu. Wanda Teays adds: If you wish to comment on a paper, please let me know. If you have an idea in the rough and want to discuss it, please email & we'll discuss. If you have day/time preferences or issues for the session, please indicate them with your submission.

Essay Prize in Informal Logic/Critical Thinking/Argumentation Theory

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2010 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the sixth year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$300 U.S.
- The prize-winning paper will be considered for publication in *Informal Logic* upon the conditions listed below.*
- Papers related to the teaching or theory of informal logic or critical thinking, and papers on argumentation theory, will be considered for the prize.
- There are no restrictions on authorship. Authors need not be members of AILACT.
- Previously unpublished papers, and papers published or accepted for publication between January 1, 2007 and October 31, 2010, are eligible. Maximum length: 6,000 words.
- Entries will be assessed on the basis of their argument, scholarship, style, and importance to the field.
- The jury members for the 2010 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Ralph Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor), Harvey Siegel (Department of Philosophy, University of Miami) and Mark Weinstein (Department of Educational Foundations, Montclair State University). The decision of the jury is final.
- To submit a paper, attach a PDF (preferred) or MS Word or RTF document to an email with AILACT ESSAY ENTRY on the “subject” line and send it to Prof. Derek Allen (derekallen@trinity.utoronto.ca) with a covering note giving your name and a mailing address. Please send the paper ready for blind-reviewing (the author not identified on the paper or file containing the paper or in the description of the document’s properties that is part of the file, and self-identifying references removed from the text, notes and references).
- There is a limit of one entry per author.
- The deadline for receipt of submissions is Oct. 31, 2010. The winner will be announced

by January 12, 2011. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2011.

- *Informal Logic* will send any “honourable mention” submissions eligible for consideration for publication in *Informal Logic* to be blind-refereed by editors of its choosing and will publish the papers if, in the editors’ judgment, taking account of the referees’ recommendations, they merit publication either as they stand or with revisions.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Prof. Susana Nuccetelli (snuccetelli@stcloudstate.edu). For information about AILACT, visit our web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>

*The prize-winning paper will be eligible for consideration for publication in *Informal Logic* if it has not already been published or accepted or committed for publication elsewhere and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and if the author consents to its consideration for publication in *Informal Logic*. The editors of *Informal Logic* will arrange for blind review of the paper if these conditions are met. The author will be expected to revise the paper in light of reviewers’ suggestions, or to justify not doing so.

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 2010

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

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

I am a student and would like to become a member of AILACT (Fees waived)

Please fill in the following:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ **(Please print clearly. Much of our business is conducted electronically. However, you will not be disenfranchised if you do not have an e-mail address.)**

Payment Options: Check: Make checks (US or Canadian only) payable to AILACT

 Credit Card Payment: Please deduct US \$10 from

 Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

 Account Number: _____

 Expiration Date: _____

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

Mail to: Donald Hatcher, AILACT Treasurer, Department of Philosophy, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA Email: <dhatcher@bakeru.edu>