

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2012**

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From the Editor

Frank Zenker has taken over as the new AILACT webmaster and is in the process of revamping the site. Pending some further decisions by the Board, the newly updated site should be available soon.

Calls for papers for the AILACT sessions of all three APA meetings are included below. Details of each program together with the exact date and time of the sessions will appear in the December Newsletter. Also the deadline for OSSA 2013 abstracts is fast approaching. Details can be found here: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/ossa/>

The notice for the 2012 AILACT Essay Prize is included in this issue of the Newsletter. For those who are planning to submit an essay, or seriously considering doing so, please note that the due date is October 31, 2012. 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 2012 to do so. Dues (which continue to be \$10.00) may be paid by check or credit card or by PayPal; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if payment is by check) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher.

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Upcoming Meetings 2011-2012

(1) Call for papers and panel discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the APA Eastern Division Meeting in Atlanta, GA during 27-30 December 2012 to meet in the Marriott Atlanta Marquis.

While we are requesting papers that treat a broad range of topics relating to informal logic and critical thinking, as continuing focal points within the modern argumentation movement, we are especially interested this round to invite papers treating themes relating to the teaching and role/s of critical thinking in academia.

In recent months there has been an elevated discussion about the importance of cultivating critical thinking skills in core and general education curricula. These discussions have responded to some skepticism about teaching higher order critical thinking skills, that somehow doing so undermines authority and core social values. In this connection, we are asking for paper submissions treating such topics as (but not limited to) the following, which might be thought to fall (loosely) under the rubric of *applied epistemology*:

- Successful or unsuccessful pedagogic strategies for teaching CT skills
- Whether and in what ways CT skills are discipline specific
- Successful assessment practices and strategies for teaching CT as an institutional or discipline learning goal
- How student proficiencies with CT skills are measured
- What students say about their experiences with CT and the means used to gather information
- How CT skills and information literacy skills are similar or different; on the relationship between CR skills and IL skills in student learning
- Whether CT skills should be scaffolded throughout the undergraduate curriculum; how CT skills could effectively be scaffolded throughout the undergraduate curriculum
- Is teaching CT skills subversive?
- Other

Again, while we encourage persons to submit papers relating to teaching critical thinking, our call for papers is open to any topic within informal logic and critical thinking.

Papers should have a reading time of 25 minutes.

Send completed paper with abstract as a pdf document attached to an email message to:

George Boger BOGER@canisius.edu

Deadline: 30 September 2012

(2) Call for papers and panel discussions for the AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA Meeting, FEBRUARY 20-23, at the Riverside Hilton, New Orleans.

This year, AILACT is having a joint meeting with the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, so the focus will be on teaching critical thinking and informal logic. This is a great opportunity to exchange some ideas on textbooks, teaching methods, testing, and the trials and

tribulations of teaching this gen ed course and topic that so many students [and Republicans?] love to hate.

Please send your emails of interest, papers, and lists of panel participants [by September 30, 2012] to Kevin Possin, kpossin@winona.edu

(3) Call for papers for AILACT session at the 2013 APA Pacific Division meeting, March 27 - 31, 2013, Westin St Francis, San Francisco.

CONTACT: Wanda Teays at wteays@msmc.la.edu

Please mail Wanda by September 22, 2012, with a topic idea (and abstract if possible).

TOPIC AREAS: Papers can range across a number of areas. For example: research, pedagogy, course structure, texts, innovative teaching ideas, online vs. traditional, K-12, college-level, Logic and CT across the curriculum.

THE RECENT PAST: Our last session at the 2012 APA was excellent. The focus was Teaching Outcomes and Assessment of Critical Thinking. Speakers included Drs. Don Hatcher, Jerry Cederblom, Paul Green, and Dale Turner.

We look forward to 2013! Join us!

AILACT Essay Prize

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2012 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the eighth year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$300 U.S.
- The prize-winning paper, and any “honourable mention” 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, 2009 and October 31, 2012, 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 2012 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Trudy Govier (Department of Philosophy, University of Lethbridge), Ralph

Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor), and Larry Wright (Department of Philosophy, University of California, Riverside). 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 October 31, 2012. The winner will be announced by January 15, 2013. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2013.
- 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, and any “honourable mention” 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 the reviewers’ suggestions, or to justify not doing so.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE: MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form
The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

The Association (AILACT) was formed in 1983 to promote research on, and 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 holds an annual essay prize competition.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2012

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)

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: _____

PayPal: log in to your account and send the payment to Don Hatcher's email address (dhatcher@bakeru.edu). PayPal will indicate that your payment is to AILACT.

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>