

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

Contents

- 1. From the Editor**
- 2. From the President**
- 3. Upcoming Meetings 2012-2013**
- 4. A Very Short Reasoning Quiz**
- 5. Membership Form**

From the Editor

The 2012 AILACT Essay Prize submissions are in and the judges are deliberating. Results should be known by January 15th and will also be announced in the next newsletter. The programs for each of the AILACT sessions of all three APA meetings are now available—see section 3 of the newsletter for full details.

Also included in this newsletter is an experiment to see how well the purveyors of logic and thinking do on a brief quiz. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

Finally, those who have not yet paid their dues for 2012 should please do so by the end of December. A Membership Form is available at the end of this newsletter. Dues, which continue to be \$10.00, may be paid by check or credit card or PayPal; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if payment is by check) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher.

Geoff C. Goddu
Department of Philosophy
University of Richmond
ggoddu@richmond.edu

From the President

Two former presidents of AILACT died in the past year. Jonathan Adler was president of AILACT from 1991-95, and John Hoaglund from 1985-87. The journal *Informal Logic* published an “In Memoriam” notice for Jonathan in Vol. 32, No. 2 (2012) and for John in Vol.

32, No. 3 (2012). These notices are reprinted in this Newsletter by generous permission of the editors (J. Anthony Blair, Ralph H. Johnson, Hans V. Hansen, Christopher W. Tindale).

Derek Allen

In Memoriam: JONATHAN ADLER
1949 – 2012

It is with great sadness that the Editors of *Informal Logic* inform our readers that Jonathan Adler has died, on March 26th, 2012, after a long illness.

Jonathan graduated from Brooklyn College in 1970; he received a Ph.D. from Brandeis University in 1974 and a D.Phil. from Oxford in 1978.

Over the three decades since then he established himself as a prominent and innovative thinker in contemporary epistemology. He authored nearly 70 articles covering a wide range of epistemological topics, including skepticism, induction, testimony, the argument from ignorance and fanatical reasoning; he also wrote on philosophy of language, ethics and the philosophy of education. His monograph, *Belief's Own Ethics* (MIT 2002), is a defense of a strong version of evidentialism, the view that one's beliefs should be proportionate to the evidence. He coedited (with Catherine Z. Elgin) an introductory anthology in philosophy, *Philosophical Inquiry: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Hackett 2007) and (with Lance Rips) the authoritative anthology on cognitive philosophy and psychology, *Reasoning: Studies of Human Inference and Its Foundations* (Cambridge 2008).

During his distinguished career he won important teaching and research awards, including a Wolfe Institute Fellowship at Brooklyn College and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1991–1992 and 2008–2009).

Jonathan supported informal logic from the very beginning, and was an active contributor to this journal. He was our first Book Review Editor, from 1992 to 2001 and he published five articles in *Informal Logic*: “Why Be Charitable?” Vol. 4, No. 2 (1981); “Where are the Limits to Reconstruction?” Vol. 7, No. 1 (1985); “Alternatives, Writing, and the Formulation of a Thesis” Vol. 9, No. 2 (1987); “Critical Thinking, A Deflated Defense: A Critical Study of John E. McPeck's *Teaching Critical Thinking: Dialogue and Dialectic*” Vol. 13, No. 2 (1991); “Belief and Negation” Vol. 20, No. 3 (2000). He also served as president of the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) from 1992 to 1995.

Jonathan was a wonderful colleague and a thoroughly engaging person. We at *Informal Logic* join the many, many colleagues and friends who mourn his untimely death and will miss his always constructive and upbeat presence in our lives.

In Memoriam: JOHN HOAGLUND
1936 – 2012

It is with great sadness that the Editors inform our readers that John Hoaglund died, on June 16, 2012, after a long illness.

John joined the Philosophy Department of Christopher Newport University in 1972. He taught classes in Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Critical Thinking, Logic, and Aesthetics. He served as chair of the department for nine years, developing and furthering its Critical Thinking Program during his tenure. In addition to authoring a textbook in Critical Thinking and a number of scholarly articles, he attended and read papers at numerous conferences and was considered an

internationally recognized expert in the fields of critical thinking, logic, and aesthetics. Some of his research focused on Pre-Socratic Philosophy and Modern Art, as well as the world of art forgery.

During his career he was awarded the Berlin Senate Merit Scholarship, the John F. Kennedy Institute Doctoral Award, the American Council of Learned Societies Travel Grant Competition, the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar in Music Criticism at Berkeley, California, and a Senior Fulbright Reward Fellowship at the University of Bergen, Norway.

John was a member of numerous national and international scholarly associations including the American Philosophical Association, the American Society for Aesthetics, the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking, the British Society of Aesthetics, the International Society for the Study of Argumentation, and the Society for Business Ethics. He served for many years on the Executive Committee and as president of the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking.

From 1985 to 1988 John hosted a series of Critical Thinking conferences at Christopher Newport College in Newport News, Virginia. In 2004, he published his own text, *Critical Thinking*.

John contributed five articles to *Informal Logic*: “Argumentum ad Hominem: Aut Bonum aut Malum?” Vol. 4, No.3, (1981); “Typing,” Vol. 8, No. 1 (1986); “A Critical Thinker Abroad,” Vol. 8, No. 3 (1986); “The Logic of 'If-Then' Propositions,” Vol. 8, No. 3 (1986); Review of Boone's *Critical Thinking: An Applied Approach*, 2nd ed., Vol 23, No. 3 (2003).

In 1995, John and his wife, Lilian, founded Vale Press, which has published several titles that readers of this journal will be familiar with, including: *Fallacies* (1970/1994), C.L. Hamblin, *The Rise of Informal Logic* (1996), Ralph H. Johnson, *The Philosophy of Argument* (1999), Trudy Govier, *Reason Reclaimed* (2007), Hans V. Hansen and Robert C. Pinto (Eds.)

John was a valued colleague with a wide range of interests, an engaging manner, and a ready wit. He will be missed by his colleagues and friends in our scholarly community.

Upcoming Meetings 2012-2013

(1) AILACT Session at the APA Eastern Division Meeting, December 27 -30, 2012, Marriott Atlanta Marquis, Atlanta, GA.

Saturday 29, December 2012

7:00-10:00 pm — Room TBA

Speakers:

David Botting (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)

“Why modal pluralism does not require normative pluralism”

Michael Hoffman (Georgia Institute of Technology)

“Teaching critical thinking in online learning environments through argument visualization software”

George Boger (Canisius College)

“Does critical thinking entail certain truths?”

(2) AILACT Group Session at the Central Division APA Meeting, February 20-23, Riverside Hilton, New Orleans, LA. (Joint Sessions with American Association of Philosophy Teachers)

Joint Session #1

February 21, 5:25-7:25

Topic: New Approaches to Designing Critical Thinking Courses

Chair: Paul Wagner (University of Houston-Clear Lake)

Speakers:

Maria Sanders (Lone Star College-CyFair)

"Preserving Character in the Classroom: A Virtue-Based Approach to Teaching Informal Logic and Critical Thinking"

Lisa Cassidy (Ramapo College of New Jersey)

"Doing 'Civic Scene Investigation' in Critical Thinking Classes"

Lawrence Lengbeyer (United States Naval Academy)

"The Potential of Argument Mapping"

Joint Session #2

February 21, 7:30-10:30

Topic: Psychology and Critical Thinking

Chair: Frank Fair

Speakers:

Cathal Woods (Virginia Wesleyan College)

"Rationality and Irrationality: The Role of Psychology in Critical Thinking Courses"

Frank Zenker (Lund University, Sweden) and Tim Kenyon (University of Waterloo, Canada)

"Teaching to Combat Biased Reasoning in Critical Thinking Courses"

H.E. Baber (University of San Diego)

"Teaching Psychologically Based Informal Fallacies"

Jonathan Ellis (University of California, Santa Cruz)

"Motivated Reasoning in Critical Thinking"

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

Wanda Teays: It is with great pleasure that I announce the 2013 APA Pacific division session of AILACT. You won't want to miss it!

We are most fortunate to have such a fine group of speakers. The focus is on teaching Critical Thinking to diverse populations. Presentations range from elementary school-level Critical Thinking to high school and on to college and university. This should spark interesting discussion and give us a greater sense of how to deal with diverse populations--whatever level we teach.

Please join us and share this valuable time with our colleagues.

Any questions, please email me: wteays@msmc.la.edu

Thursday Evening, March 28
Group Session G4—6:00-8:00 pm.

Topic: Teaching Critical Thinking to Diverse Populations
Chair: Wanda Teays (Mount St. Mary's College)

Speakers:

Jana More Lone (University of Washington)
“Critical Thinking and Reasoning—It’s Never Too Early”

James Davis (Boston University Academy)
“Teaching Critical Thinking to Diverse Populations: Advanced High School Students”

Peter Tan (Mount St. Mary's College)
“Don’t Categorize—Measure: Diversity and the Process of Critical Thinking”

Musho Kwon (Long Beach City College)
“Teaching Critical Thinking to Diverse Populations: Community College Students”

A Very Short Reasoning Quiz

Which is *less* probable:

(a) that there are two individuals living in Philadelphia, PA having the same number of hairs on their heads (ignoring those who are completely bald)

or

(b) that on a randomly chosen page from a randomly book chosen from the Library of Congress the letter ‘e’ appears.

Answers (or guesses), along with any justification you care to offer, should be sent to Geoff Goddu at ggoddu@richmond.edu by January 25th, 2013.

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>