

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC  
AND CRITICAL THINKING  
(AILACT)  
*NEWSLETTER*  
AUGUST 2015**

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**From the Editor**

The first European Conference on Argumentation is in the books. Many thanks to the conference organizers and the hosts in Lisbon for an excellent inaugural conference. Just a reminder that the deadline for submitting papers and commentaries to the proceedings is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Proceedings instructions can be found here: <http://www.ecargument.org> Note also the deadline for proposals for the 2016 OSSA conference is September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. More details of that conference and the submission process can be found in section 3 of this newsletter.

Preliminary programs and calls for papers for the AILACT sessions of the APA meetings are included in section 4. Final details of each program together with the exact date and time of the sessions will appear in the December newsletter. The notice for the 2015 AILACT Essay Prize is included in section 5. For those who are planning to submit an essay, or seriously considering doing so, please note that the due date is September 1, 2015. Details of the competition and instructions for submission are all included in the notice.

A Membership Form is available at the end of this newsletter. A pdf version, which can be completed on-screen, is available here <http://ailact.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/ailact-membership-form.pdf>. Dues, which continue to be \$10, may be paid by check or credit card or PayPal; the form should be completed and sent (with a check if applicable) to our treasurer, Don Hatcher.

Geoff C. Goddu  
University of Richmond  
[ggoddu@richmond.edu](mailto:ggoddu@richmond.edu)

## **From the President**

The AILACT Board has been quite busy of late with discussion of two documents, the AILACT Innovation Memo together with the AILACT CORE CT PROJECT proposal, and the upcoming 2015 elections for the AILACT Board. Messages concerning these have been posted on AILACT-D. However, there is evidence that the AILACT-D list is not complete. I am now in the process of setting up a LISTSERV for AILACT and shall send out appropriate documents as soon as it is ready. Some of you then may already have received the innovation documents prepared by Frank Zenker, Michael Scriven, and Steven Patterson, with a request for comments to be posted on the AILACT website, <https://ailact.wordpress.com>, by September 1. The documents are posted in the Members Only section along with pages for comments on each. The 2015 Nominating Committee consists of Ben Hamby, Jan Sobocan, and Thomas Fischer. They have begun work and will be sending out a list of nominees for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Directors at Large. The AILACT Constitution calls for seven at large directors. Once the list of nominees has been sent out, the dates of the voting period will be established. The closing date will be 60 days after the list is sent out. Members of AILACT will have 25 days to make additional nominations. According to the Constitution, these nominations will be valid “if signed by hand or electronically by the nominee and one other Regular member of the Association and received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee 35 days prior to the final date for voting.” The Nominating Committee will circulate a full slate of valid nominees to the membership no later than 30 days prior to the final date for voting. The Board has determined that those on our membership lists will be eligible to vote if they have paid their dues for either 2013, 2014, or 2015. A form for joining or renewing AILACT membership is included in this, and indeed, every, issue of the AILACT Newsletter. So if you have not done so, there are these two good reasons for paying dues at this time. As you can see then we have a lot going on at AILACT. The Board has held two special meetings earlier this summer and should be holding another in September after the membership has had a chance to post its comments on the innovation documents. I intend then to get back to you about developments in the December Newsletter, if not before.

James Freeman  
President, AILACT

## **OSSA 2016 Announcement**

Call for Proposals  
Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation (OSSA)  
**Argumentation, Objectivity and Bias**  
May 18-21, 2016  
University of Windsor

Keynote speakers:  
**Mark Battersby**  
Critical Inquiry Group  
Vancouver

Michel Meyer  
Chaire de Rhétorique et d'Argumentation  
Université Libre de Bruxelles

Scott Jacobs  
Department of Communication  
University of Illinois, Urbana

Susana Nuccetelli  
Department of Philosophy  
St. Cloud State University

The OSSA Organizing Committee invites proposals for papers and posters which deal with argumentation, as it intersects with the ideal of objectivity and the problem of bias. Abstracts prepared for anonymous refereeing must be submitted electronically no later than SEPTEMBER 7, 2015. Instructions on how to prepare and where to submit abstracts are available on the OSSA 2016 website [www.uwindsor.ca/ossa](http://www.uwindsor.ca/ossa).

OSSA wishes to promote the work of graduate students and young scholars in the field of argumentation studies. Thus we strongly encourage submissions from this group. The J. Anthony Blair Prize (\$1000 CDN) is awarded to the student paper presented at the Conference judged to be especially worthy of recognition. The competition is open to all students whose proposals are accepted for the Conference. Canadian graduate students who need financial assistance in order to attend should advise the Organizing Committee when they submit their proposals. For the purpose of the Conference, a graduate student is one who has not completed his or her graduate program by September 7, 2015. (Additional information about this prize will also be available on the website.) All conference related inquiries should be sent to [ossa@uwindsor.ca](mailto:ossa@uwindsor.ca)

Organizing Committee :  
H. V. Hansen – C. E. Hundleby – C. W. Tindale  
University of Windsor  
[www.uwindsor.ca/ossa](http://www.uwindsor.ca/ossa)

### **AILACT @ APA**

***Eastern Division:*** Preliminary program for the 2016 AILACT Group session, at the Eastern APA meeting, January 6-9 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC.

**CHAIR:** Jeff Buechner / *Ways of Reasoning: Tools and Methods for Thinking Outside the Box* (Rutgers University-Newark)

*Reason in the Balance: An Inquiry Approach to Critical Thinking*  
Sharon Bailin (Simon Fraser University)

Mark Battersby (Critical Inquiry Group-Vancouver)

*How to Think Logically*

Gary Seay (Medgar Evers College, CUNY)

Susana Nuccetelli (St. Cloud State University)

**CRITIC:** Vivaldi Jean-Marie (Medgar Evers College, CUNY)

*Understanding Arguments: An Introduction to Informal Logic*

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke University)

**CRITIC:** Maureen Eckert (UMass, Dartmouth)

*The Vocabulary of Critical Thinking*

Phil Washburn (New York University)

**CRITIC:** Omar Mirza (St. Cloud State University)

**Central Division:** Call for Papers and Suggestions for the 2016 AILACT Group session, at the Central APA meeting, March 2-5 at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL:

Please send your suggestions on any topic in informal logic, critical thinking, or argumentation. Ideas regarding a guest speaker, panel discussion, author-meets-critic, or a joint session with another Group Meeting are welcome. A lively discussion of ideas regarding the AILACT Innovation Memo and the AILACT Core CT Project is certain to be a portion of this year's program.

Please forward this invitation to anyone else you think might be interested in submitting or attending.

Emails of interest, papers, and confirmed speaker/panelist lists should be submitted by September 30, 2015, to the Program Director, Kevin Possin, [kpossin@winona.edu](mailto:kpossin@winona.edu) <<mailto:kpossin@winona.edu>> Please send papers as attachments in pdf or MS Word.

**Pacific Division:** Contact Peter Tan ([PTan@msmc.la.edu](mailto:PTan@msmc.la.edu)) for more information.

**2015 AILACT Essay Prize Call for Submissions**

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2015 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the tenth year in which the prize has been offered.

- Value: \$500 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, 2012 and September 1, 2015, 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 2015 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Lilian Bermejo Luque, Research Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Universidad de Granada; Alec Fisher, Department of Philosophy, University of East Anglia; Geoffrey Goddu, Professor of Philosophy, University of Richmond. 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 Derek Allen ([derekallen@trinity.utoronto.ca](mailto: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 September 1, 2015. The winner will be announced by December 15, 2015. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2016.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Ben Hamby ([hambyb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hambyb@mcmaster.ca)). For information about AILACT, visit our web site: <http://ailact.wordpress.com/>

\*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**

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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.wordpress.com/> 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.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2014**

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](mailto: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](mailto:dhatcher@bakeru.edu)>