

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2017**

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From the Editor

The 2nd European Conference on Argumentation—*Argument and inference* was held June 20-23, 2017 in Fribourg Switzerland. Overall, an interesting and productive conference that generated provocative presentations and lively discussions. The Proceedings should be available sometime in 2018. The deadline for submission of final versions of the conference papers is September 30, 2017. More information can be found here: http://ecargument.org/?page_id=764

The 9th ISSA Conference on Argumentation will take place from July 3-6, 2018, at the University of Amsterdam. The deadline for abstract submission is October 1, 2017. More information can be found here: http://cf.hum.uva.nl/issa/conference_2018.html

Planning is underway for the 2018 sessions of AILACT at the three APA meetings. Calls for papers and information about these sessions is available in section 4 below. This year's call for papers for the AILACT Essay Prize is printed below in section 5 or available at: <https://ailact.wordpress.com/essay-prize/>. The deadline of September 1 is coming up very soon!

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. Please note that (i) new members are now required to register on AILACT's online Member Area and (ii) voting privileges are tied to dues payment.

Finally, if you have any news relevant to the general AILACT membership, send it to me via email by December 1st, 2017 for potential inclusion in the December edition.

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From the President

First, those who knew Fred Kauffeld, a major contributor to argumentation theory from the rhetorical and dialectical perspectives, will be saddened to hear of his death in April, if they have not heard already. We are including his obituary in this issue of the Newsletter.

As many of you are aware, this fall we shall be electing the AILACT Board for January 1, 2018-December 31, 2019. We shall be electing a new president, since I am now completing my second term and the office has a two-term limitation. We shall also be electing a vice-president, treasurer, and seven at large members. Since the Nominating Committee has not yet been fully formed, I expect the election process to occur approximately one month later than it did in 2015. Currently, I hope the Nominating Committee will send out its report around September 15 with the election period ending around November 15. As in 2015, only those members who have paid dues either for the current or at least one of the past two years, i.e. 2015, 2016, and 2017, will be eligible to vote. We shall be updating and bringing out of hibernation the special listserv we used in 2015 for the election.

In the April Newsletter, I indicated that the Board approved of specific charges for three of its committees at the January 2017 Annual Meeting and I would be informing you of these charges in a future newsletter.

Textbook Review Committee: The Board has charged the Textbook Review Committee with putting links to previously published reviews of informal logic/critical thinking textbooks on the AILACT website. In addition, preparing a bibliography of critical thinking textbook material on the market and posting it on the website is part of the charge. I am sure that the committee members would appreciate any information regarding reviews or textbooks. Ian Dove (ian.dove@unlv.edu) and Jan Sobocan (janet.sobocan@gmail.com) are the current members of the committee. The Appointments Committee is currently looking for another member for the Textbook Review Committee.

Grant Proposal Writing Committee: The charge to the Grant Proposal Writing Committee calls for writing proposals for “worthy projects.” What is a worthy project? That question is now open for the membership to discuss. You can post your suggestions on the AILACTD-L list (AILACT-L@hunter.listserv.cuny.edu) or by sending them directly to one of the two current members, Trudy Govier (govier@shaw.ca) or Don Hatcher (don.hatcher@bakeru.edu). The Appointments Committee is now looking for an additional member of this committee also.

Recruitment Committee: The charge to the Recruitment Committee includes concentrating on increasing the diversity of the AILACT membership, especially regarding

global scope and including scholars from other disciplines. Currently the committee has two members, Dale Turner (dturner@cpp.edu) and Harvey Siegel (hsiegel@miami.edu). Here again there is a vacancy on this committee. The Appointments Committee chair, Maurice Finocchiaro (maurice.finocchiaro@unlv.edu) is seeking volunteers to fill these vacancies. Anyone interested should contact him directly.

I urge those who have not paid their dues since before the last election to make some payment soon. As usual, a form for renewing membership constitutes the last page of this Newsletter. Those intending to submit a paper for the 2017 AILACT Essay Prize should remember that submissions are due by September 1. I should be sending out information about the Board election via the general AILACT discussion list in the early fall and then sending out further communications to those eligible to vote. Till then,

James Freeman
President, AILACT

In Memoriam: FREDERICK KAUFFELD
1942 -- 2017

Frederick John Kauffeld, professor emeritus at Edgewood College, died on April 13, 2017, in Saint Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin, while being treated for pneumonia. He was born in Atchison, Kansas, on July 21, 1942, to Esther (Stohs) and Frederick A. Kauffeld.

He attended grade school at Trinity Lutheran School where his father was principal and his seventh- and eighth-grade teacher. He grew to the height of 6'7" during his Atchison High School years, and he enjoyed both basketball and debate. However, because of scheduling conflicts, his basketball coach insisted that he choose between the two. He picked debate, a choice he never regretted, and one which shaped his life study and profession.

Spanning more than 50 years, Fred's distinguished academic career began at the University of Kansas, where he received his bachelors and master's degrees in communication studies. Fred earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986. From his early debating experiences, and throughout his career, Fred pursued the study of argumentation, communication theory, and rhetoric, areas that informed his inspirational classroom teaching as well as his far-reaching and influential research.

From 1968 until 1975 Fred was an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He served as chair for the Communication Arts Department's Curriculum Committee, which forged an integrated undergraduate communications art curriculum from a traditional speech department, a journalism program, and courses in media studies.

Fred's love of undergraduate teaching was most apparent at Edgewood College, where he tutored and inspired students for nearly 40 years. Fred's efforts led to the creation of the college's Communication Studies program. Until his retirement in 2014, his colleagues' and administrators' respect for his practical wisdom and leadership skills drew him into almost every aspect of campus life. Fred served over the years as department chair, faculty association convener, and board of trustees' representative, as well as a member of the curriculum, budget, vision, scholarship, faculty affairs, master planning, library, and by-laws committees.

Outside the classroom his profound commitment to the field was reflected in his

extensive research and writing. At its core was Fred's pursuit of integrating communication studies and the philosophical study of argumentation. He elaborated this idea in essays that were rigorously reasoned blends of rhetorical theory, philosophy, and American history. He published numerous articles in leading professional journals and gave keynote presentations and invited lectures for a variety of professional organizations and universities in this country and abroad. His work has had a lasting impact in the field. Fred was not only a rigorous thinker but also a tireless advocate for the field of study he so loved.

His friends, family, and colleagues delighted in his generous spirit. Many experienced the benefits of his meticulous writing and the thoughtful, patient instruction of his conversations, not to mention his sharp wit which was as dry as the gin he liked to drink. Some were fortunate to sit at his dining table where he produced memorable feasts of many courses and cuisines. New colleagues appreciated his supportive mentoring, and students were always welcome to talk and learn with him.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Christine K. Beatty.

Update on the Critical Thinking (Previously "Supertext") Project.

"The 'theory' material for the meta-text project now tentatively titled 'The Critical Thinking Anthology' is now well in hand, but we are still seeking submissions of model teaching materials. We are looking for innovative and successful models of lesson plans, practice exercises, tests or exam questions on any aspect of critical thinking that might be inspiring to an instructor of a stand-alone critical thinking course. They may make reference to your own or any other textbook. The Critical Thinking Anthology is intended as a supplement, not a competitor, to textbooks."

J. Anthony Blair
tblair@uwindsor.ca

AILACT @ APA

Eastern Division: Call for Papers for the AILACT session at the APA East, in Savannah Georgia, from January 3-6, 2018.

Session topic: "Four decades of Informal Logic and Critical Thinking"

Session agenda: Square number anniversaries (especially those divisible by 10), make for obvious, but important opportunities to reflect on the past, present, and future. Therefore, on the occasion of AILACT's 40th anniversary, panel discussants will offer reflections of the "where have we come from, where are we now, where are we going" kind. Instead of full length papers, 4 panel participants will each deliver a brief 10-15 min presentation, followed by a 10-min audience discussion. Any presentation regarding the evolving state of practice of our specialization will be considered. Abstracts of proposals (200-300 words) should be emailed to me by August 31st.

For more information contact Ben Hamby, bhamby@coastal.edu

Central Division: *Call for Papers and Suggestions for the 2018 AILACT Group Session, at the Central Division APA Meeting, February 21-24, at the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL.*

Don Hatcher suggested a theme, and, without narrowing it down too much, the basic idea is the relation between Critical Thinking and Psychology. So, for example, if metacognition is a crucial part of critical thinking, how can we attempt to enhance that in our students? If the “critical thinking virtues” are vitally important to the whole enterprise, what are they and how do they square with research about the power of situations to affect behavior? What about “dual process” theory a la Kahneman or Stanovich—does it provide a handy way to conceptualize what we are about in teaching critical thinking?

We will aim, as usual, at having 3-4 presentations and lively commentaries on each. We invite presentation proposals that relate critical thinking theory, practice, and pedagogy to the work of people such as Stanovich, Johnson-Laird, Gilovich, Kahneman, Gigerenzer, or Mercier and Sperber, and others.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing, please give me your presentation proposal by September 15, 2017, because the APA needs full program information by Oct. 1. My colleague, David Wright and I, will need a couple of weeks to sort through the proposals. Our day/time is not definite at this point, but I would not be too surprised if we found ourselves in the Friday night 7:00-10:00 slot once again.

For more information contact Frank Fair: PSY_FKF@SHSU.EDU.

Pacific Division: *Call for Papers for the 2018 AILACT Group Session, at the Pacific Division APA Meeting, March 28-April 1, at the Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, San Diego, CA.*

At the 2018 APA/Pacific AILACT session, I am running a panel on Critical Thinking in the age of anti-intellectualism.

Thinking critically and using informal logic has been identified by some as a mark of liberal elitism and cosmopolitan bias. How does Critical Thinking as a discipline best respond to these charges in a way that does not make the political/cultural divide even wider? How does one most effectively insert informal logical reasoning into a discussion where democratic values seem to mean that, in the words of Isaac Asimov, "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge?"

A timely topic and hopefully not too politically charged. I am looking for a panel of 5-6 presenters for the 3 hour session, preferably with in-class experience with this issue.

For more information contact Peter Tan at ptan@msmu.edu

2017 AILACT Essay Prize Call for Submissions

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2017 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the 13th 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, 2014 and September 1, 2017 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 2017 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Marianne Doury, Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris; Geoffrey Goddu, Professor of Philosophy, University of Richmond; Christopher Tindale, Professor of Philosophy, University of Windsor. 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) 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). Each page after the first should be numbered.
- There is a limit of one entry per author.
- ***The deadline for receipt of submissions is September 1, 2017.*** The winner will be announced by December 15, 2017. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2018.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Ben Hamby (bhamby@coastal.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.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2017

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.

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: _____

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.

New members: To complete the process of becoming a member of AILACT, you will need to register on AILACT's password-protected Member Area website: <https://forum.ailact.org>. Click on "Register" and complete the listed fields. (These include "User name" and "Password." Make up a user name and a password.) Click on "Register." When your registration has been validated, you will receive an email saying that this has been done and explaining how to enter a profile for yourself on the site.

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