

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

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From the Editor

The 2017 AILACT Essay Prize submissions are in and the judges have deliberated. The winning paper is “Informal Logic’s Infinite Regress” by Gilbert Plumer from the Law School Admissions Council (Retired), USA. Congratulations to Gilbert Plumer and all who submitted papers. The call for the 2018 Essay Prize will be forthcoming soon.

The programs for each of the AILACT sessions of the 2018 APA meetings are now available—see section 3 of the newsletter for full details.

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 the new members are now required to register on AILACT’s online Member Area.

Finally, this is my last newsletter. Patrick Bondy will be taking over the reigns as editor in 2018. So, if you have any news relevant to the general AILACT membership, send it to Patrick via email, patrbondy@gmail.com, by April 1st, 2018 for potential inclusion in the April edition.

Geoff C. Goddu
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From the President

As many of you already know, all persons the Nominating Committee put forward this year for the 2018-19 Board of Directors ran unopposed. Hence, according the provisions of the AILACT Constitution, all were elected by acclamation. There was no need to send out ballots. The new AILACT Board consists of Lilian Bermejo-Luque, President, Steven Patterson, Vice President, Donald Hatcher, Treasurer, myself as Immediate Past President. There are seven Directors at Large: Dona Warren, Mark Weinstein, John Casey, Gabrijela Kišiček, Michael Scriven, Dima Mohammd, and Maurice Finocchiaro. I want to thank again the 2017 Nominating Committee, Scott Aikin, Chair, Dona Warren, and Tom Fischer for their work in assembling this slate of nominees now officers-elect. They have done a great job in assembling a Board which is diverse on several grounds. Four of the Trustees at Large are new to the Board or have not been a member for some time. Two members of the 2016-17 Board are moving up to be officers, Lilian Bermejo-Luque and Steven Patterson. Some returning Board members have served AILACT for a number of years. The 2018-19 Board will then have a very nice blend of new versus old members of AILACT. Three members of the Board are from Europe. There is a nice gender diversity in the new Board. I also believe that some members of the new Board are especially interested in recruiting new members for AILACT, especially from disciplines other than philosophy, which have an interest in critical thinking, such as educational psychology. I am optimistic that the new Board will take the organization in new and revitalizing directions. To close my time as President of AILACT, let me thank all those who have supported the work of the organization over the past four years when I have been President. I want to thank the other Board members and also those who have served as APA Program Chairs, members of the Essay Prize Jury, and the Innovation Committee in particular, besides those who have served on AILACT committees or had special appointments. I close with handing over the leadership to Lilian Bermejo Luque, looking forward to her leading the organization to new strengths and in new directions during the term of the new Board.

James Freeman
President, AILACT

AILACT @ APA

Eastern: *AILACT Session at the Eastern Division Meeting, January 3-6, 2018, Savannah Convention Center, Savannah, GA.*

Wednesday, January 3, 6:30-9:30 PM.

TOPIC: Four Decades of Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

CHAIR: Benjamin Hamby (Coastal Carolina University)

PANELISTS: Dennis Earl (Coastal Carolina University), Gilbert Plumer (Law School)

Admissions Council, Retired), Harvey Siegel (University of Miami), David Wright (Sam Houston State University)

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

Central: *AILACT Session at the Central Division Meeting, February 21-24, 2018, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL.*

Friday, February 23, 2018 7:00 pm—10:00 pm

TOPIC: Critical Thinking and Recent Psychological Findings

CHAIR: David Wright (Sam Houston State University)

SPEAKER: Maralee Harrell (Carnegie Mellon University)
"Incorporating Psychology and Data Science into Critical Thinking"

SPEAKER: Jeffrey Maynes (St. Lawrence University)
"Critical Reasoning, Cognitive Bias, and Ecological Rationality"

SPEAKER: Haavard Koppang (BI—Norwegian Business School)
"Critical Thinking and Groups: Group argumentation Norms are Relevant to Argument Evaluation"

SPEAKERS: Jack Lyons and Barry Ward (University of Arkansas)
"Dual System Psychology and An Empirically Informed Introduction to Critical Thinking"

For more information, please contact Frank Fair, PSY_FKF@SHSU.EDU

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

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:00-9:00 pm

TOPIC: Critical Thinking in the Age of Unreason

CHAIR: Peter Tan, Mount Saint Mary's University, ptan@msmu.edu

SPEAKER: Dr. Zenon Culverhouse (University of the Incarnate Word)
"Socrates' Stingray Effect: Diagnosing Silence in the Classroom."

SPEAKER: Dr. Darin Dockstader (College of Southern Nevada)

"Alternative Facts and Constructivist Epistemology: The flexibility of post-structuralism and the social agenda of political progressivism don't necessarily play nicely together."

SPEAKER: Dr. Bill Anelli (Modesto Junior College)

"Truth Grounding in the Age of Trump : A Checklist to Evaluate Experts – Is this Reliable?
Would it Effect a Productive or Counterproductive Mode of Engagement with the Political Other?"

SPEAKER: Dr. John Min (College of Southern Nevada)

"*Post-Truth*, the Politics of Truth, and Propaganda."

SPEAKER: Melissa Gulick (Mount Saint Mary's University)

"On the Value and Use of Critical Thinking: Intellectual Humility, Civil Discourse, Service-Learning."

For for information, please contact Peter Tan at ptan@msmu.edu

THE ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2018

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>