

AILACT

Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

Newsletter December 2005

(compiled by Maurice A. Finocchiaro, President, AILACT)
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1. David Sherry Wins the 2005 AILACT Essay Prize

The 2005 AILACT Essay Prize has been awarded to Professor David Sherry of the Philosophy Department of Northern Arizona University for his paper, "Formal Logic for Informal Logicians." The Prize includes an award of \$500. The Jury consisted of J. Anthony Blair, Chair (University of Windsor), Michael Scriven (Western Michigan University), and Merrilee Salmon (University of Pittsburgh). They comment that "the paper is a well-developed original new version of the propositional calculus, which might not evade all problems, but which is the best attempt the jury has seen to solve the problem of teaching formal logic in a way that doesn't violate logical intuitions and is user-friendly to students of informal logic." The Jury wishes to congratulate all seven entrants on the extremely high quality of the papers submitted for the prize.

2. James Freeman Is Appointed AILACT Newsletter Editor

James Freeman (Hunter College, CUNY) has been appointed AILACT Newsletter Editor for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2006. His task will be to regularly produce a newsletter, which for the past five years has been done by the Presidents, and before that not at all.

3. Session at the APA Eastern Division Meeting

The AILACT session at the 2005 Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association meeting will be held Wednesday, 12.28.05, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Speaker: Jonathan Adler (City University of New York-Brooklyn College):

"Refute-or-Accept: Credulity, Reductios, and Ignorance"

Commentators: Simon Evnine (University of Miami)

Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Dartmouth College)

Chair: Daniel Boone (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

4. Session at the APA Central Division Meeting

The time has not yet been determined, but the program will be as follows.

Session I: "Learning to Teach Informal Logic: Aligning Graduate Education with Hiring and Work Realities" (Jointly Sponsored by The American Association of Philosophy Teachers [AAPT] and the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking [AILACT])

Chair: Betsy Newell Decyk, California State University, Long Beach

Panelists:

Rod Bertolet, Purdue University

Adrienne McEvoy, Mansfield University

Ralph Johnson, University of Windsor

Tony Blair, University of Windsor

Session II

Chair: Peter D. Asquith, Michigan State University

Presenter: Tom Solon, Danville Area Community College, "Generic Critical Thinking Infusion and Course Content Learning in Introductory Psychology"

Commentator: Donald L. Hatcher, Baker University

Presenter: David Sherry, Northern Arizona University
"Yanal et al. on Linked and Convergent"

Commentator: Robert Yanal, Wayne State University

5. Session at the APA Pacific Division Meeting

Session Chair: David Hunter, Buffalo State College (SUNY)

Speaker #1: John Woods (University of British Columbia and King's College, London)
"A Resource-Based Approach to Fallacies.

Commentator: Dale Turner (California State Polytechnic University)

Speaker #2: "Classical Logic as Foundational - Some Questions"
John Hoaglund (Christopher Newport College)

Commentator: Donald Hatcher (Baker University)

Speaker #3: David Sherry (Northern Arizona University)
"Formal Logic for Informal Logicians"*

(*David Sherry's paper is the winner of the 2005 AILACT Essay Prize)

AIIACT 2006

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

The Association (AIIACT) was formed in 1983 to promote research, 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. AIIACT sponsors sessions at each APA divisional meeting and other meetings; has a Web site, <http://aiiact.mcmaster.ca>, that provides a wide variety of information about AIIACT, 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 offers an annual Essay Prize for the recent essay judged best in the field.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2006

___ I would like to become a member of AIIACT (US\$10 -- or the equivalent**)

___ I would like to renew my membership (US\$10 -- or the equivalent**) (Make checks payable to AIIACT)

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Date: _____

Please fill in the following:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ (Very important! Much of our business will be conducted primarily electronically -- but you will not be disenfranchised if you do not have an e-mail address.)

What would you like to see AIIACT do, or do better?: _____

Mail with check to: Donald Hatcher, AIIACT Treasurer, Center for Critical Thinking, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 66006 USA Email: <donald.hatcher@bakeru.edu>

*To be on the list ("AIIACT-D"), write Michael Gilbert, <Gilbert@YorkU.ca>

**a check in the currency of the member, if the member so chooses