

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
December 2006**

Table of Contents

- 1. From the Editor**
- 2. Upcoming Meetings 2006-2007**
- 3. 2006 AILACT Essay Prize Winner**
- 4. 2007 AILACT Essay Prize Announcement**
- 5. OSSA 2007 Conference Announcement**
- 6. Membership Form**

From the Editor In this issue, you will find information, including some further details that have developed since the August Newsletter, about upcoming meetings during 2006-2007 to be held in conjunction with the American Philosophical Association Divisional Meetings and about the 2007 Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation Conference. At the Pacific Division, which meets from April 3-8, 2007, in addition to the Group Meetings, Maurice Finocchiaro has organized and proposed an Author-Meets-Critics session, which has been accepted by the APA Pacific Division Program Committee on yours truly's *Acceptable Premises: An Epistemoc Approach to an Informal Logic Problem*. The session will be part of the main program for the meetings to be held in San Francisco at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. It is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, from 9:00-12:00.

We plan to include the AILACT Membership Form with each issue. The form may serve as a reminder to those who have not yet paid their dues for the year. We also encourage members to share the form with others who may be interested in the work of AILACT. I hope you find at least some of this information useful and of interest. Should any of you have notices or other information you would like included in future issues, please e-mail me at jfreeman@hunter.cuny.edu. Issues should be published close to April 1, August 1, and December 1 each year.

James B. Freeman

Upcoming Meetings 2006-2007

**Group Sessions at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meetings,
December 27-30, 2006, Washington, DC**

Session Topic: Legal Reasoning

Date and time of session: Wednesday, December 27, 2006, 6:30-9:30 pm.

Chair: Daniel N. Boone, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Speaker: Richard F. Galvin, Texas Christian University, "Legal Moralism and the U.S."

Supreme Court”

Commentators: Alan E. Fuchs, College of William and Mary;
Robert Hoag, Berea College

Main Program Author-Meets-Critics Session at Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 4-8, 2007, San Francisco, James B. Freeman’s *Acceptable Premises: An Epistemic Approach to an Informal Logic Problem*

Date and time of session: Wednesday, April 4, 2007, 9:00-12:00 am.

Chair: Maurice A. Finocchiaro, University of Nevada at Las Vegas

Critics: Nicholas Rescher, University of Pittsburgh;

Richard Feldman, University of Rochester;

Mark Weinstein, Montclair State University

Author: James B. Freeman, Hunter College of The City University of New York

Group Sessions at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 4-8, 2007, San Francisco

Date and time of session: Saturday, April 7, 2007 6:00-8:00 pm.

Speaker: Jerry Cederblom, University of Nebraska-Omaha, “Is it Sometimes Rational to Accept That an Argument is Sound, but Not Believe the Conclusion?”

Commentator: Don Marquis, University of Kansas

Speaker: Mark Weinstein, Montclair State University, “Towards an Objectivist Account of Truth in Argument”

Commentator: Donald Hatcher, Baker University

Group Sessions at the Central Division American Philosophical Association Meetings, April 18-21, 2007, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL

AILACT Session:

Date and time of session is TBA.

Chair: Peter D. Asquith, Michigan State University

Speaker: Daniel Cohen, Colby College, “Virtue Epistemology and Critical Inquiry: Open-Mindedness and a Sense of Proportion as Critical Virtues”

Commentator: To be determined

Speaker: Patrick Riesterer, McMaster University, “Pragma-Dialectics: A Critique”

Commentator: To be determined

AILACT Co-Sponsored Session with APA Committee on Teaching

Date and time of session is TBA

Chair: David Hunter, Ryerson University

Speakers: Robert H. Ennis, Emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “A Required National Test of Thinking for College Students in the U.S.A. Whose Institutions Receive Federal Money?”

Leo Groarke, Wilfrid Laurier University, “Thinking Critically About Critical Thinking Teaching”

Don Hatcher, Baker University, “Comparing Standardized Critical Thinking Tests”

Discussant: Steven Norris, University of Alberta

Nomintions, including self-nominations, of commentators for the AILACT Session are welcome. Those interested should contact Peter Asquith: asquith@msu.edu.

2006 AILACT Essay Prize

The 2006 AILACT Essay Prize has been awarded to Tom Solon, Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Philosophy, Liberal Arts Division, Danville Area Community College (Danville, IL), for his paper "Generic Critical Thinking Infusion and Course Content Learning in Introductory Psychology." The jury consisted of J. Anthony Blair, Chair (University of Windsor), Michael Scriven (Western Michigan University), and Merrilee Salmon (University of Pittsburgh). The prize includes an award of \$500.00."

2007 AILACT Essay Prize Announcement

**2007 Meeting of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, June 6-9, 2007,
University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario CA Announcement:**

**DISSENSUS
&
THE SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND**

A conference presented by the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation

*June 6 - 9, 2007
University of Windsor*

Keynote addresses to be given by

MICHAEL GILBERT

Philosophy, York University

DALE HAMPLE

Communication, Western Illinois University

CHRISTIAN KOCK

Rhetoric, University of Copenhagen

Organizing Committee:

Hans V. Hansen

Christopher W. Tindale

J. Anthony Blair

Ralph H. Johnson

www.uwindsor.ca/ossa

Membership Form