

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMAL LOGIC
AND CRITICAL THINKING
(AILACT)
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2011**

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From the Editor: Since the December issue of the Newsletter, we have posted some additional abstracts by textbook authors on the AILACT website, including texts by Bob Ennis and Peg Tittle. At AILACT's e-meeting, the members approved the proposed amendments to the AILACT constitution, which will enable AILACT to function more efficiently. The majority also approved of offering AILACT members the option of paying their annual dues through PayPal. The winner of the AILACT Essay Prize for 2010 is Geoffrey Goddu for his paper, "Is 'Argument' Subject to the Process/Product Ambiguity?" Benjamin Hamby's paper, "Toulmin's Analytic Arguments" received honorable mention. Both papers are posted on the AILACT website. An announcement of the 2011 competition appears later in this issue of the Newsletter.

In February, the Board approved a balanced budget for 2011 with a minimum expected revenue (dues, gifts, interest) of \$500 US, and anticipated expenses of \$500. The expenses include \$300 for the Essay Prize and \$200 for contingencies.

Looking prospectively, an election to determine the membership of the 2011-13 AILACT Board of Directors will be held over a two-week period beginning in late June, exact dates still to be determined. The chair of the Nominating Committee (Dale Turner) will provide members with details in the near future. The other members of the committee are Thomas Fisher and Mark Battersby. At this time, the Board is also discussing who is eligible to vote. Although members of the Board have not yet reached consensus concerning which years to count, voting will be restricted to those members who have paid their dues for at least one very recent year. A Membership Form which will facilitate dues payments is included at the end of this Newsletter.

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Upcoming Meetings 2011-2012

Conference, Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation, May 19-21, 2011, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Argumentation: Cognition and Community

Keynote Speakers: David Hitchcock (McMaster University), "Inference Claims"
Paul Thagard (University of Waterloo), "Critical Thinking *versus* Informal Logic:
Neurocognitive Perspectives"

Karen Tracy (University of Colorado), "Reasonable Hostility: Argument and Emotion in Citizen Participation"

For abstracts of these keynote presentations and of all contributed papers, together with a list of presenters and commentators, go to <http://web2.uwindsor.ca/cpa/OSSA/index.htm>.

Group Session at the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meetings, Dec. 27-30, 2011, Washington, DC, Marriott Wardman Park

Group Session at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meetings, February 15-18, 2012, Chicago, IL, Palmer House Hilton

Group Session at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meetings, April 4-7, 2012, Seattle, WA Hotel to be announced

The Journal *Inquiry*

The journal, *INQUIRY: Critical Thinking Across the Disciplines*, has come back to life with great vigor! The latest issue has a fascinating article about the correlation between critical thinking skills and certain sociopolitical values, along with other articles on CT across the disciplines and numerous book reviews. Please see the Philosophy Documentation Center's website at <http://secure.pdcnet.org/inquiryct/Inquiry:-Critical-Thinking-Across-the-Disciplines> for details, and please consider a subscription for yourself or your university's library.

–Kevin Possin

Essay Prize in Informal Logic/Critical Thinking/Argumentation Theory

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT) invites submissions for the 2011 AILACT Essay Prize. This will be the seventh year in which the prize has been offered.

Value: \$300 U.S.

- The prize-winning 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, 2008 and October 31, 2011, 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 2011 AILACT essay prize, approved by the AILACT Board of Directors, are Ralph Johnson (Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of Windsor), Harvey Siegel (Department of Philosophy, University of Miami) and Mark Weinstein (Department of Educational Foundations, Montclair State University). 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 Prof. 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).
- There is a limit of one entry per author.
- The deadline for receipt of submissions is Oct. 31, 2011. The winner will be announced by January 12, 2012. AILACT will publicize the name of the winner on its web site and at AILACT sessions held at APA divisional meetings in 2012.
- *Informal Logic* will send any “honourable mention” submissions eligible for consideration for publication in *Informal Logic* to be blind-refereed by editors of its choosing and will publish the papers if, in the editors’ judgment, taking account of the referees’ recommendations, they merit publication either as they stand or with revisions.
- For further information about the essay prize, please contact Prof. Susana Nuccetelli (snucetelli@stcloudstate.edu). For information about AILACT, visit our web site: <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>

*The prize-winning 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 reviewers’ suggestions, or to justify not doing so.

Membership Form

The Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking

The Association (AILACT) 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. AILACT sponsors sessions at each APA divisional meeting and other meetings; has a Web site, <http://ailact.mcmaster.ca/>, 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 offers an annual Essay Prize for the recent essay judged best in the field.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FOR 2011

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)

Please fill in the following:

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: _____

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>