Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

2015-2016 Membership

Sara L. Goering, chair (2018)
Daniel Fouts (2016)
Joseph Murphy (2016)
Beth A. Dixon (2017)
Jonathan Shaheen (2017)
Kyle Robertson (2018)
Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

Annual Report
September 19, 2016

Current Membership:
Committee Chair
P-Sara Goering (2018)

Committee Members
E-Beth Dixon (2017)
C-Jonathan Shaheen (2017)
C-Kris Phillips (2018)
P-Kyle Robertson (2018)
C-Natalie Fletcher (2019)
E-Steven Swartzer (2019)

The APA Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy (CPIP) works on (1) educating the professional philosophical community about pre-college philosophy; (2) developing initiatives to advance pre-college philosophy that can then be supported or further developed by the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO); and (3) helping to raise the profile of philosophy in the general society.

Consistent with these priorities, CPIP has worked on the following projects during the year July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016:

1. CPIP sponsored sessions at all three APA divisional meetings in 2015-16, and has planned sessions for all three APA meetings in 2016-17.

2015-2016 sessions (Eastern APA: Food, Children and Philosophy; Central APA: Building an AP Philosophy Course from the Ground Up; Pacific APA: A Place for Philosophy of Science in High School Curricula?).

2016-2017 sessions (Eastern APA: joint with the Committee on Teaching Philosophy’s mini-conference (session on “Teaching Philosophy across the Pre-College/College Boundary”); Central APA: session on the Unschooling Movement; Pacific APA: two sessions, one on international philosophy high school programs; one on philosophy outreach programs to address issues of diversity and inclusiveness in philosophy. This latter session will be part of a day-long informal mini-conference on inclusiveness and diversity in philosophy, organized with the Committee on Teaching Philosophy, the Committee on Inclusiveness and Diversity, and the Society for Women in Philosophy, with input
from the Committee on the Status of Blacks in Philosophy, and members of the MAP for the gap project. (The project was conceived by the University of Washington climate committee.)

2. CPIP has been able to hold in-person meetings each year, at which most members attend and one or two participate by conference call. Several graduate students working in pre-college philosophy are also involved in CPIP’s projects. In 2016, we met at the Pacific meeting in April. Help to provide support for these in-person meetings has come from the Squire Family Foundation, and its executive director, Roberta Israeloff. The SFF plays a key role in funding CPIP members’ travel to the meeting.

3. CPIP has worked with a subcommittee of PLATO to talk through an initiative to develop an AP Philosophy course. Jon Shaheen, Kris Phillips, and Sara Goering have been in on PLATO committee discussions on this project. The coming Pacific APA CPIP session on international high school philosophy programs is intended to help with the AP philosophy movement.

4. In conversation with members of the APA Taskforce on Diversity and inclusiveness, CPIP is working on write-ups for the CPIP website that will highlight several philosophy outreach programs across the country that target populations that are traditionally under-represented in philosophy (at all levels). These write-ups should help to provide contacts and ideas for other departments that might be interested in starting philosophy outreach programs in an effort to address pipeline issues in philosophy. The second Pacific APA session sponsored by CPIP will also address these important issues.

5. In response to ongoing blog discussions about who is exposed to philosophy at a young age, and whether early exposure might help to address philosophy’s issues of diversity, CPIP is investigating the possibility of running a survey project on exposure to pre-college philosophy for all APA members (that is, did people currently in the profession have a class or after-school opportunity to learn about philosophy prior to attending a university/college).