Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy

2021–2022 Membership

Fritz J. McDonald, chair (2024)
Brett Coppenger (2022)
Jane Drexler (2022)
Melissa Jacquart (2023)
W. John Koolage (2023)
Freya Mobus (2024)
Savannah Pearlman (2024)

Stephen Miller, Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy, ex officio (2024)
Richard Legum, Committee on Philosophy in Two-Year Colleges, ex officio (2025)
Jennifer W. Mulnix, President of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers, ex officio

Tziporah Kasachkoff, newsletter editor
Eugene Kelly, newsletter editor
Laura Gurskey, GSC Liaison (2022)
2021-22 Committee Report
APA Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy

- What were the major projects/activities accomplished by the committee in the most recent fiscal year? Are any of these projects ongoing?

The major projects undertaken by the Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy were:

1. The Teaching Hub

   At each of the three Divisional Meetings, the APA CTP, along with the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT), organized two full days of philosophy teaching-related programming.

   The schedules of the 2022 Teaching Hubs can be found here:

   2022 Eastern Teaching Hub
   2022 Central Teaching Hub
   2022 Pacific Teaching Hub

   Each one of these Teaching Hubs included its own poster session. The poster sessions include faculty presentations on scholarship of teaching and learning and undergraduate student presentations on research projects. We are proud to help bring undergraduate students to the APA Divisional Meetings.

   The 2022 Teaching Hub Committee is:

   Fritz McDonald
   Chair

   Renee Smith
   AAPT APA Sessions Committee

   Jessica Davis and Kristina Grob
   2022 Teaching Hub Poster Session Co-coordinators

   Jerry Green and Rebecca Millsop
   2022 Eastern Teaching Hub Co-Chairs

   Melissa Jacquart and Claire Lockard
   2022 Central Teaching Hub Co-Chairs

   Jack Musselman and Giancarlo Tarantino
   2022 Pacific Teaching Hub Co-Chairs

   We are grateful to the APA for their continued support of the Teaching Hub.
We co-organized sessions with:

The AAPT
APA Committee on Pre-college Instruction in Philosophy
APA Committee on the Status of Disabled People in the Profession
APA Graduate Student Council
Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)
Philosophy as a Way of Life
Philosophers for Sustainability
Society for Teaching Comparative Philosophy
The Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization
Thinker Analytix

We are always looking to collaborate more with other committees at the APA on Teaching Hub sessions.

Special thanks are due to Jeff Dunn, Elyse Purcell, and Becko Copenhaver for their work as secretary-treasurers of the divisions. Their work helping with the Teaching Hubs is tremendous. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Jeff for his work rearranging the 2022 Eastern Teaching Hub as a part of the online events at the Eastern.

We are also deeply grateful to the APA staff who work with us on the Teaching Hubs. We rely a great deal on the support of the APA staff, including Melissa Smallbrook who worked with us on arranging matters for the meetings, and Erin Shepherd who helped so much with our online and promotional materials.

The Teaching Hub is an ongoing project.

The Teaching Hub is a major undertaking. We began working on the 2023 Teaching Hubs in the spring of 2022. So, roughly, organizing the Teaching Hub takes place year-round: organizers begin their work organizing next year’s Teaching Hubs around the time of the Pacific APA and continue working on these projects after the APA Divisional Meetings are complete. For this reason, the activity of the CTP in 2021-22 included substantial work planning the 2023 Teaching Hubs. The 2023 Teaching Hub committee is:

Fritz McDonald
Chair

Renee Smith
AAPT APA Sessions Committee

Jessica Davis and Adam Thompson
2023 Teaching Hub Poster Session Co-coordinators

Jerry Green and Kiran Bhardwaj
2023 Eastern Teaching Hub Co-Chairs
2. The APA/AAPT/TPA Teaching Prize

The Teaching Prize was awarded to Monica Janzen.

Here is a description of Monica Janzen’s accomplishments:

Dr. Monica Greenwell Janzen is a recipient of multiple teaching awards at Anoka-Ramsey Community College, where she is a cherished and highly committed teacher. Even with a typical teaching load of five classes each semester, Dr. Janzen has made major contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning. She has published articles on civic engagement projects and student activism. She has given several presentations on teaching, including at the American Association of Philosophy Teachers conference, the American Association of Colleges and Universities conference, the Public Philosophy Network, and the APA-AAPT Teaching Hub. She is an international leader on the topic of civic engagement exercises in courses, a high-impact practice. The website she created with Susan Hawthorne and Ramona Ilea, www.engagedphilosophy.com, was funded by an APA grant and provides a regularly updated resource for instructors planning on teaching using civic engagement projects. Dr. Janzen gets her students to see the connection between philosophical ideas and the world around them. She is a board member of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers and an editorial board member for AAPT Studies in Pedagogy. Dr. Janzen is a leader on her campus on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Among philosophy teachers, Dr. Janzen is exemplary in connecting ideas with real world problems through her extensive work in teaching, research, and service.

Our other finalists were:

Karen Adkins  
Monica Janzen  
Alida Liberman  
Kristopher Phillips
The Teaching Prize Committee for 2021 was:

Fritz McDonald, Chair, APA Committee on Teaching of Philosophy
Freya Mobus, APA Committee on Teaching of Philosophy
Steven James, APA Committee on Lectures, Publications, and Research,
David Concepcion, AAPT
Karl Aho, AAPT
Renee Smith, TPA
John Rudisill, TPA

Many thanks are due to the APA staff who assist with the Teaching Prize, especially Linda Nuoffer.

The Teaching Prize is an ongoing project. Review of nominations for the 2022 Prize are ongoing currently in September 2022.

3. The APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy

Issues of the APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy were published in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. We are grateful for the editors of the publication, Tziporah Kasachkoff and Eugene Kelly, for their work. They have been working on the newsletter for many, many years.

Along with the other newsletters, this publication was renamed. The new name is APA Studies on Teaching Philosophy. We are hoping this name change will attract more submissions to the publication.

4. Coordination with the Virtual Programming Committee

The chair designated CTP member Savannah Pearlman as a member of the Virtual Programming Committee.

5. Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of Teaching

W. John Koolage of the CTP served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of Teaching.

6. Proposal to Rename the APA Newsletters to APA Studies

The CTP co-sponsored a proposal to rename the APA Newsletters to APA Studies. This change was approved by the Board. Our co-sponsors were:

Graduate Student Council of the APA
Committee on Native American and Indigenous Philosophers
Committee on the Status of Women
Committee on Philosophy in Two Year Colleges
Committee on Asian and Asian American Philosophers and Philosophies
Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession
The APA Connect Committee Chairs forum was a useful resource for planning this proposal.

• How did the projects/activities of the most recent fiscal year compare to the plans laid out in the committee’s last annual report to the board? Please explain anything that changed or went differently from what was planned.

The only significant change in our plans was the shift of the 2022 Eastern Teaching Hub to the online Eastern programming. This took a lot of work on the part of our organizers, Jerry Green and Rebecca Millsop.

• How did the committee go about accomplishing the planned projects/activities?

The committee met over Zoom in November 2022. A great deal of the communication in the committee takes place through email on APA Connect.

The most important projects undertaken by the committee are the Teaching Hubs, the Teaching Prize, and APA Studies on Teaching Philosophy. The Teaching Hubs and Teaching Prize committees do the bulk of the work for those projects. The chair of the CTP aims to include as many members of the CTP as are willing on those committees. For APA Studies on Teaching Philosophy, the editors and their reviewers do the work.

• What were the relevant results for the committee’s projects/activities?

The committee’s projects and activities were highly successful. As noted above, we organized the Teaching Hubs, awarded the Teaching Prize, and published our Newsletter.

In our surveys for the Teaching Hub, 84.6% of respondents said that the Teaching Hub was one of the reasons why they attended the APA meetings.

• What went well? What could have gone better?

As noted above, the major projects and activities of the committee were successful.

The only significant source of difficulty was shifting the APA Eastern online, and that was primarily due to very difficult circumstances, especially the COVID-19 pandemic.

• What are the committee’s plans for the coming fiscal year?

We will continue to organize the Teaching Hubs, award the Teaching Prize, and publish APA Studies on Teaching Philosophy. The chair would like to get every member of the committee involved in our ongoing projects. With this in mind, our newly appointed members of the committee have been appointed to the Teaching Prize committee. The chair would like to get members of the committee involved as Teaching Hub organizers.
• Any other comments, recommendations, or suggestions?

It would be helpful if the Teaching Hub could be provided with AV equipment at the Divisional Meetings at a reduced rate. Our Teaching Hub budget, generously supported by the APA and the AAPT, is largely used for AV. We encourage our presenters not to use AV, but many presenters still desire to use it.