

Annual Report – 2008

Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

Current Membership:

Chair – Rafael Rondon (2009) E
David Boersema (2009) P
Stuart Gluck (2008) E
Rory Kraft (2010) E
Craig Merow (2011) E
Wendy Turgeon (2011) E
Carlos Rodriguez (2011) E

Steve Goldberg's term expired in July 2008; he anticipates rejoining in July 2009.

Jana Mohr Lone has been nominated to serve as the new chair as of July 2009.

CPIP, newly reinvigorated by an influx of new members which finds it fully staffed, has accomplished a great deal and set an ambitious agenda. Here are highlights of our past year and some of our short- and long-term goals:

1. We have entered the Electronic Agora by launching The Philosophy Toolbox (<http://philosophy-toolbox.org/>), “a dynamic web resource for teachers and students. Our current focus is at the high school level but the site will be expanded to include sections on elementary and middle school levels in 2008-2009.” The site has been publicized on Google, Wikipedia, and various other websites. Many thanks to committee member Wendy Turgeon for editing the site, to webmaster Chris Frances of The Squire Family Foundation for his inspired design and invaluable technical expertise that went into creating and launching the site, and to APA staffers Erin Shepherd and Linda Smallbrook. The site also contains a fitting and moving tribute to the late Ken Knisely who envisioned this site and laid its foundation.
2. We are in the process of creating **PLATO: Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization**, a national support and resource-sharing organization for pre-college philosophy teachers. We are developing a proposal to present to the APA Board of Directors to establish a new membership category for prospective members of PLATO. In addition, we want to offer them benefits such as access to electronic newsletters, the opportunity to meet at conferences to share ideas, and ways to share lesson plans and other curricular material. All these efforts are underway.
3. We sponsored sessions at both the Eastern and Pacific divisional meetings of the APA.

Eastern: *Innovative Approaches to Teaching Ethics to Students at the Pre-College Level* (Stuart Gluck, chair). The SFF sponsored a Call For Papers; Alain Beauclair received the award for best paper.

Pacific: *Writing Philosophy for Youth and Teens* (David Boersema, chair)

Presenters included: Sharon Kaye, Claudia Mills, Michael Pritchard, and David A. Shapiro

We hope to sponsor sessions at all three divisional meetings in 2008-9.

4. We are also going to spearhead an initiative to create philosophy clubs in secondary schools that are supported by the philosophy departments in nearby colleges and universities. CPIP can ultimately act as a broker linking schools interested in creating or enhancing their philosophy curriculum with philosophy professors and graduate students.

5. We are pursuing the possibility of approaching state education departments about creating certification for pre-college level philosophy instruction.

Our partnership with Squire Family Foundation continues. The Foundation has generously agreed to assist with much of the organizational and administrative work that the committee requires. The Foundation's inspired vision and resources (especially those involved in bringing philosophers from diverse learning communities together) have facilitated the committee's ability to pursue its own mission in furthering the work of the APA. We are truly thankful to the Squire Family Foundation for its efforts on our behalf. Their executive director, Roberta Israeloff, has played the central and pivotal role in organizing all of our activities and meetings these last two years.

The Committee wishes to thank the APA board and staff for all of the support we have received this year. We wish to thank David Schrader, in particular, for his personal involvement, guidance and marshalling of APA resources. We hope that the seeds we plant this year will yield a bountiful harvest of philosophers, many from the rich soil of fields not planted before.

Rafael Rondon, Chair