

Annual Report – 2008-2009

Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

Current Membership:

2009 Chair – Jana Mohr Lone (2012) P

Steve Goldberg (2012) C

Rory Kraft (2010) E

Craig Merow (2011) E

Wendy Turgeon (2011) E

Carlos Rodriguez (2011) E

Tom Wartenberg (2012) E

CPIP has maintained its momentum over the past year. Here are some highlights, and some of our new short- and long-term goals:

1. The Philosophy Toolbox (<http://philosophy-toolbox.org/>), “a dynamic web resource for teachers and students,” has been launched and is becoming known. It has been publicized on the APA site and elsewhere throughout the web. We hope to expand it further and integrate it with PLATO.

2. PLATO, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, our national resource and support network for all those interested in philosophy for children (including teachers, parents, administrators, ethics team coaches, and philosophy club sponsors), is close to being launched. All three divisions of APA voted to change the organization’s bylaws to create a special membership category for PLATO members. We hope to begin advertising and recruiting members for the network this fall.

3. We sponsored sessions at both the Eastern and Pacific divisional meetings of the APA.

The CPIP presentation in Philadelphia, in December 2008, was called "High School Bioethics: A Gateway to Philosophy." CPIP members Craig B. Merow, math department chair and master teacher at Germantown Academy (Fort Washington, PA), and Rory Kraft (York College) organized the session which featured noted ethicist Dr. Art Kaplan from the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for Bioethics, and two students from Merow’s bioethics course who spoke about how taking the course changed their thinking—about philosophy and themselves.

In Vancouver in March 2008, CPIP sponsored a panel entitled “Getting Philosophy into the High School Curriculum.” It was organized by David Boersema (Pacific University), and speakers included Frank Cunningham (University of Toronto), Michael Heath (Catlin

Gable School), John Holloran (Oregon Episcopal School), and Marcia Huth (Hawbridge School).

4. Various publicity efforts are underway. *Imagine*, the magazine of Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, is going to devote an entire issue to pre-college philosophy, sponsored in part by the Squire Family Foundation. Stu Gluck and Carlos Rodriguez were instrumental in making this happen.

Several articles about pre-college philosophy appeared during the year, including *Newsday*, and *My Central Jersey*; in addition, a reporter from *Education Week* is interested in the topic.

We will devote much of our energy for the rest of the year to getting PLATO launched and running, to finding ways to raise the public profile of pre-college philosophy, and to facilitating the creation of more after-school philosophy clubs. We will also sponsor presentations at all three divisional meetings.

Finally, we have two nominations to join the committee next year: Alison Reiheld and David Shapiro.

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.

In addition, the Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Squire Family Foundation and in particular to Mr. Gary Squire (Founder) and Roberta Israeloff (Executive Director) for their continued support of our shared mission.

Rafael Rondon, Chair