

**Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy  
Annual Report  
September 1, 2011**

**Current Membership:**

**Committee Chair**

**P**-Jana Mohr Lone (2012)

**Committee Members**

**C**-Steven Goldberg (2012)

**E**-Thomas E. Wartenberg (2012)

**C**-Alison N.C. Reiheld (2013)

**P**-David A. Shapiro (2013)

**E**-Maughn Rollins Gregory (2014)

**C**-Deborah Tollefsen (2014)

Two years ago, CPIP articulated its priorities as follows: (1) providing a central network for all those involved in pre-college philosophy in the US; (2) outreach to pre-college philosophy teachers with training and support, including working with the educational community to set standards for pre-college philosophy instruction; (3) educating philosophy faculty and graduate students about the importance of pre-college philosophy; and (4) 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, 2010, through June 30, 2011:

1. In 2009 CPIP created a new organization, PLATO (Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization), which is dedicated to being a national voice for advocating the introduction of philosophy into pre-college classrooms and to connecting the education and philosophy communities through programs, resource-sharing and the development of a national network of those working in pre-college philosophy. PLATO membership will involve a new APA Teacher Associate membership category, which was approved by the APA board of Officers in November 2009. We have not been able to register members because the APA registration process has not been ready, due to the new APA computer system being implemented. We are hoping to begin registering new members as soon as possible. Information about PLATO has been distributed in multiple venues. In 2010 we put together an initial advisory board for the organization.

2. The first annual PLATO Institute took place in June 2011 at Columbia University in New York City. It was an exciting and well-attended conference. The program is included with this report.

3. Traffic to the PLATO website (<http://plato-apa.org>), which includes a wide variety of resources and information for those engaged in pre-college philosophy in the United States, has been growing steadily, with over a thousand visits each month. The site is updated at least monthly.

4. In June 2011 we created a PLATO listserv for those interested in pre-college philosophy, which now has 150 members.

5. CPIP sponsored sessions at all three APA divisional meetings in 2010-11 and plans again to sponsor sessions at all three APA divisional meetings this coming academic year, including two at the Eastern meeting.

6. CPIP helped to coordinate and sponsor the mini-conference on Philosophy with Children at the Pacific Division meeting in San Diego in April 2011.

7. CPIP has been able to hold meetings twice a year. Several graduate students working in pre-college philosophy have been involved in CPIP's projects, and we now have an ad hoc graduate student member of the committee, Michael Burroughs from University of Memphis.

8. In spring 2011 we nominated two members to fill the two slots that will become available in July 2012, as well as re-nominated our chair to serve a second term.

9. We are exploring the possibility of making available online all issues of the journal *Questions: Philosophy For Young People*.

Part of the reason the committee has been able to hold regular meetings and to develop the PLATO organization, including running the June Institute, is the support of the Squire Family Foundation, which has continued to provide CPIP with organizational, financial and administrative assistance. The Foundation's mission and resources have helped immensely to facilitate CPIP's ability to pursue its charge. The Foundation's Executive Director, Roberta Israeloff, continues to be of invaluable help to CPIP in supporting our activities and meetings.