

Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy

*2011-2012 Committee Report
Respectfully submitted by Jana Mohr Lone, Chair (2012-2015)*

Current Membership

Committee Chair

P-Jana Mohr Lone (2015)

Committee Members

C-Alison N.C. Reiheld (2013)

P-David A. Shapiro (2013)

E-Maughn Rollins Gregory (2014)

C-Deborah Tollefsen (2014)

P-Sara Goeing (2015)

E- Renée Smith (2015)

Three 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, 2011, through June 30, 2012:

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. This year a PLATO Advisory Board decided to begin the work necessary for PLATO to become an independent 501(c)(3) organization. PLATO has now been incorporated and is in the process of adopting bylaws and applying for federal tax-exempt status.
2. The second biennial PLATO Conference will take place in February 2012 at Loyola University in New Orleans, in conjunction with the APA Central meeting. The program will consist of invited panels and submitted papers/presentations. Nineteen papers were received in response to a CFP and the Conference Steering Committee is in the process of blind-reviewing those papers. *Philosophy and Education: Introducing Philosophy to Young People*, a compilation of papers based on talks given at the first PLATO Conference, held at Columbia University in 2011, was published this year by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

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. CPIP sponsored sessions at all three APA divisional meetings in 2011-12, including two at both the Eastern and Pacific Division meetings. We are planning sessions for all three APA meetings in 2012-13.

5. 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.

6. In spring 2012 we nominated two members to fill the two slots that will become available in July 2013.

7. We are continuing to explore 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.