



**MONTCLAIR  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Institute for the Advancement of  
Philosophy for Children**

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September 29, 2009

David E. Schrader  
Executive Director  
The American Philosophical Association  
University of Delaware,  
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Mr. Schrader,

I'm writing to report on the grant that was awarded to the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) to fund graduate student work in moving the Philosophy of Nature Curriculum project towards its future goals of reconstruction and redevelopment.

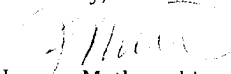
This summer, with the funding from the APA, we were able to hire Joe Oyler, a doctoral student in the Ed.D. in Pedagogy with a Concentration in Philosophy for Children program here at Montclair State University, to construct a framework for the revision of the IAPC Primary School Philosophy of Nature Curriculum. Joe was able to devote 20 hours per week from July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup> for this project.

The framework constructed aims to separate and highlight the concepts, exercises and discussion plans most directly connected with issues of the environment and nature from those that address other areas of philosophical interest. It will also seek to fuse together aspects of the Teacher's Manual and the stimulus materials (Novel) to better help students and teachers to identify and inquire in to the nature components. The goal of this project was to develop a philosophy of nature curriculum that is more user friendly, while still addressing questions and concepts relevant to environmental issues affecting our world today. The infusion of the Teacher Manual into the Novel is a direct response to the challenges teachers have reported concerning teaching philosophy for the first time.

Because we were not able to secure additional funding to hire a faculty member to collaborate on this project during the summer, we were not able to finalize this reconstruction, but are nonetheless satisfied with the progress made. Some plans for the future direction of this project include incorporation of ideas about environment, nature and science which are more relevant to students' daily lives. We also plan to host a summer seminar on the philosophy of nature in which faculty from various fields of philosophy and education come together to collaborate on issues relevant to the curriculum that we are constructing.

Many thanks to the APA-grant fund for allowing us to further this initiative.

Sincerely,

  
Joanne Matkowski  
Interim Director, IAPC