



# AAPT News

The Newsletter of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers

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WINTER 2004

## From the President

I begin my second year in office bringing you much good news. First, and foremost, AAPT's role as a leader in bringing the issues of teaching philosophy to the attention of philosophers continues to grow in importance. Issues of teaching were visible at many points on the meeting schedule for the Eastern Division conference of the APA in Washington. While attending those sessions and speaking with presenters and other attendees, I was struck by the depth of concern for improving the teaching of philosophy that exists in our profession.

In some cases, the concern was personal: what can we do to improve our own teaching? In other cases, the concern focused on larger institutional issues. For example, why do relatively few U. S. graduate programs in philosophy include the pedagogy of philosophy in their degree requirements? In both cases, AAPT has established a long track record of addressing these concerns.

Second, within our organization, the spirit of volunteerism and cooperation that has characterized AAPT since its founding in 1976 has never been stronger. As we prepare for our 15<sup>th</sup> *International Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy* at the University of Toledo, August 4-8, 2004, I see activity on many fronts by our Board members and other volunteers, putting together the various pieces that comprise a successful conference. Betsy Decyk, our Executive Director, is working with Eric Snider, our local arrangements person at the University of Toledo, to finalize the details of the conference contract.

Other components of our conference that are already underway include the Program Committee (Mimi Marinucci and Joe Givvin, Co-Chairs), the Graduate Seminar Committee, (Martin Benjamin, Chair), the Lensen Prize Committee (Donna Engelmann, Chair pro tem), the Award, Stipends, and Speakers Committee (Steve Bickham, Chair), and the Book Exhibit (Nancy Hancock, Coordinator). Thanks go to all of these persons and to the many volunteers serving on these critical committees.

Let me tell you just a bit about our 2004 conference site. Eric Snider, Philosophy Department Chair at Toledo, will be our host on the twentieth anniversary of AAPT's previous

**Daryl Close  
Heidelberg  
College**

visit to the University of Toledo. Our housing will be very convenient, suite-based in design and air-conditioned, with a jogging/roller-blading trail just outside the residence hall. The dining room is on the first floor of the residence hall. Many of the sessions will also be held in this building. AAPT has always encouraged attendees to bring their families to its summer conferences, and UT, Toledo, and the Lake Erie area provide many attractions for children and spouses.

Several things have changed in Toledo since we last convened there. The city of Toledo has undergone a rebirth, including the relocation of the Toledo Mud Hens, the Detroit Tigers farm club, to the waterfront area. This downtown section is being renovated and includes the Maumee Bay Brewing Company, a smoke-free restaurant and brewpub on the Maumee River. Here one can find a number of ales, root beers, and sodas made on the premises, a wood-fired pizza oven, and a great kitchen. Just the place for one of those famous AAPT conversations! Toledo has many ethnic groups including substantial Lebanese and Polish populations. You might remember Jamie Farr, the Corporal Klinger of TV's *M\*A\*S\*H*, who is just one of the many celebrities to "mention" their hometown in the script. Some people say that Farr put *Tony Packo's*, a Hungarian restaurant and club in Toledo, on the map as a great place to meet and eat. *Packo's* is famous for its hotdogs, sauerkraut, stuffed cabbage and other treats from eastern Europe. Further details about recreational opportunities for attendees and their families are in this issue of *AAPT News*.

Another piece of good news comes from AAPT Treasurer Bob Timko: the 2003 Treasurer's Report shows our organization to be in a strong financial condition. AAPT has enjoyed

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**EDITOR**

**Betsy Newell Decyk**  
Philosophy Department  
California State University, Long Beach  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2408

**E-MAIL & FAX**  
bdecyk@csulb.edu  
Fax: (562) 985-7135

**TECHNICAL EDITOR**

**William M. Johnson**  
Philosophy Department  
California State University, Long Beach  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2408

**TYPESETTING AND LAYOUT**  
Philosophy Documentation Center

*Note: AAPT memberships run from January 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> in a given year. Please check your address label for when your membership expires and renew in a timely fashion.*

**SUBMISSIONS TO AAPT NEWS**

AAPT News is currently published in Summer and Winter. Deadlines for submissions are March 15 and September 15.

Submissions may be sent as e-mail attachments to bdecyk@csulb.edu. Most major PC word processor file formats are fine, but Microsoft Word is preferred. Hard copies may be FAXed to (562) 985-7135 (attn: Decyk) or mailed to:

Betsy Decyk  
Department of Philosophy  
California State University, Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2408

If you need help, contact Betsy Decyk at (562) 985-4346.

**INTERNET DIRECTORY**

AAPT Web Pages: <http://aapt-online.dhs.org>  
AAPT List Serve: [AAPT@LISTSERV.UC.EDU](mailto:AAPT@LISTSERV.UC.EDU)  
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AAPT Executive Director (Betsy Decyk):  
bdecyk@csulb.edu

AAPT President (Daryl Close):  
dclose@heidelberg.edu

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**News of the AAPT and the APA**

*Liaison to the APA:* As President of the AAPT Daryl Close is an *ex officio* member of the APA Teaching Committee.

Margaret Cuonzo (Long Island University, Brooklyn) and James P. Friel (State University of New York, Farmingdale) chaired an AAPT session at the APA Eastern Division meetings, in Washington, D.C., December 2003. The first topic was "Teaching Philosophy Through Distance Learning: The Socratic Internet, Advantages and Disadvantages." Speakers on this topic were William Evans (St. Peter's College) and Paul DeNicola (Nassau Community College). Yvonne Rayley (Felician College) was the commentator. The second topic was "Developing Agency" and the speaker was George Abaunza (Felician College). About 25 people attended the session.

The AAPT session at the APA Pacific Division meetings, suggested and organized by Erin Livingston, is entitled "Pedagogical and Ethical Issues in Publishing Student Web Pages." The faculty panelists will be Robert Timko (Mansfield University), Janine Dewitt-Heffner (Marymount University), and Erin Livingston (Miyazaki International College). The student panelists will be Amanda Trefethen (graduate student in philosophy, California State University, Long Beach) and Jessica Cranney (undergraduate philosophy major, California State University, Long Beach). The session will be Saturday evening, March 27, 7-10 p.m. The Pacific Division meeting is in Pasadena, California.

The AAPT will host a workshop at the APA Central Division meetings entitled "Creative Approaches to Critical Thinking." The chair of the session will be Donna Engelmann (Alverno College), and the speakers will be Robert Ennis (University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign), Adrienne McEvoy (Mansfield College) and Betsy Decyk (California State University, Long Beach). The session will be Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in the Private Dining Room 16, the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

We welcome ideas for AAPT presentations at the APA Division meetings. For the Eastern Division meetings, please contact James Friel, email: [frielkelly@aol.com](mailto:frielkelly@aol.com), by April 1, 2004. For Pacific and Central Division meetings please contact Betsy Decyk by September 1, 2004.

**AAPT GOES TO ASIA**

Donna Engelmann, AAPT Vice President, will be traveling in China (including Hong Kong), Japan and Korea throughout the month of July 2004 with faculty and staff from Alverno College. One of her interests in making the trip is to meet with teachers of philosophy in the region to discuss with them the current state of philosophy teaching and the needs and interests of philosophy teachers and students. If you know philosophy teachers that Donna could contact, and perhaps arrange to meet, please send contact information to [donna.engelmann@alverno.edu](mailto:donna.engelmann@alverno.edu), or to Department of Philosophy, Alverno College, 3400 S. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 343922, Milwaukee, WI 53234-3922.

## A TEACHING SEMINAR FOR ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PHILOSOPHY

Co-Sponsored by  
The American Philosophical Association  
and

The American Association of Philosophy Teachers  
To be held during the AAPT's  
15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy  
University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio August 4–8, 2004

The Teaching Seminar for Advanced Graduate Students will be presented by Dr. Martin Benjamin (Michigan State University), who has conducted successful teaching seminars for graduate students at Michigan State University, and at AAPT Conferences in 1990, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. The Seminar sessions will include the following themes: organization of an introductory course, teaching ethics and the ethics of teaching, diversity in the classroom, textbook selection, exam preparations, paper assignments, and grading methods. It is assumed that participants will attend all of the Seminar sessions, which will be held each

morning, August 5–8. Participants are also encouraged to attend the regular AAPT Workshop and Conference sessions.

Advanced graduate students and students who will be receiving the Ph.D. in June are eligible to apply for the Teaching Seminar. Preference will be given, first, to applicants who will be teaching their own courses during the 2004–2005 academic year; second, to those who will be teaching discussion sections during 2004–2005; and third, to those who will be grading for courses they are not teaching during 2004–2005. Participants will also be chosen with some concern for achieving a balance among fields of interest. Maximum number of participants: 20. Accepted applicants will be notified in June and will receive a reading list at that time.

The American Philosophical Association will be offering travel grants of up to \$300 each for 10 participants. Recipients of APA travel grants must be members of the APA.

Application instructions and an application form may be found inside this *AAPT News*. Note the deadline of May 1, 2004.

### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SITE

The University of Toledo is a student-centered metropolitan research university. It is the fourth largest university in Ohio. Through eight colleges, it offers more than 140 undergraduate and graduate programs, serving approximately 21,000 students. The main campus covers about 450 acres in a residential area four miles west of downtown Toledo. The Ottawa River flows through the campus. Further details can be found at [www.utoledo.edu](http://www.utoledo.edu).

#### Of Interest Nearby

Adjacent to the campus is Ottawa Park and Golf Course; the park covers about 400 acres, more than 80 acres densely wooded. It contains a public 18-hole golf course and a paved 5k walking/jogging path. Running through the

campus is a paved bike path, which extends over six miles west along a railroad grade, past Wildwood Metropark, a mostly wooded 500 acre park with additional hiking and jogging trails. The Toledo Museum of Art (free) is three miles east of campus. The Toledo Zoo is six miles southeast of campus. The Toledo Mud Hens (AAA baseball) play in a new stadium in downtown Toledo, four miles east of campus. A major mall, Westfield Shoppingtown at Franklin Park, is four miles northwest of campus. Downtown Detroit is 60 miles northeast. Ann Arbor is 45 miles north. Maumee Bay State Park, with beaches on Lake Erie, is 15 miles east. Cedar Point Amusement Park, the roller coaster capitol of the world, is 60 miles east.

### From the President

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rock-solid financial management throughout its existence and we enter another conference year in good shape.

Finally, let's work to spread the word about attending the 15<sup>th</sup> International Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy. If each person reading this newsletter pulls out his or her calendar right now and saves August 4–8, 2004 for the AAPT we will have the largest conference on record, and if we each recruit another philosopher who has never attended one of AAPT's biennial conferences . . . well, you get the idea!

While AAPT's biennial workshop/conference is the highlight event on our calendar, we are always present at the annual meetings of all three divisions of the APA. In 2004, we will meet in conjunction with the APA Pacific Division

meetings in March, the Central Division meetings in April, and the Eastern Division meetings in December. Regardless of the focus of our APA sessions, the opportunity to meet with other philosophers in pursuit of a better classroom environment, a better course design, or a different approach to a familiar topic, never fails to stimulate one's own thinking about philosophy teaching. Make a point of attending the AAPT sessions and encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to do the same.

Please consider joining us in a most stimulating and valuable organization: the *American Association of Philosophy Teachers*. Membership information is provided in this issue of *AAPT News*. We look forward to your fellowship and your contributions on the teaching of philosophy.

# AAPT BOARD MEMBERS

**Betsy Newell Decyk**

*Executive Director and  
Newsletter Editor*  
bdecyk@csulb.edu

**Daryl Close**

*President*  
dclose@heidelberg.edu

**Donna Engelmann**

*Vice-President*  
Donna.Engelmann@alverno.edu

**Robert M. Timko**

*Treasurer*  
rtimko@mnsfld.edu

**Arnold Wilson**

*Past President*  
wilsonal@ucmail.uc.edu

**Nancy Slonneger Hancock**

*Past Executive Director*  
hancockn@nku.edu

**Robert Figueroa**

*Board Member at Large*  
rfigueroa@mail.colgate.edu

**Tziporah Kasachkoff**

*Board Member at Large*  
tkasachkoff@yahoo.com

**Mimi Marinucci**

*Board Member at Large, and  
Program Co-Chair*  
mmarinucci@mail.ewu.edu

**Steve Bickham**

*Chair, Policies & Procedures  
Committee*  
sbickham@mnsfld.edu

**Martin Benjamin**

*Chair, Graduate Seminar  
Committee*  
Benjamin@msu.edu

**Joe Givvin**

*Program Co-Chair*  
jgivvin@mmc.mtmercy.edu