

## FROM THE EDITORS

### *In this issue*

The bulk of this issue is made up of the proceedings of the Panel on Informal Logic that was held at the World Congress of Philosophy in Boston in August 1998, organized by Blair and Johnson. The topic set for that session was the bearing of informal logic on philosophy. Ralph Johnson and Anthony Blair led off with an overview of informal logic, from their perspective. Then followed papers presenting their views of the relation between informal logic and philosophy by Alec Fisher, James Freeman and David Hitchcock. All the articles in this issue are revised versions of those World Congress papers. John Woods had been asked to play the role of respondent to all the papers, a role that he reprises here in his revised commentary on the revised papers.

In this issue we also feature a critical review of Douglas Walton's monograph, *Appeal to Pity: Argumentum ad Misericordiam*, by Hans V. Hansen, as well as three regular book reviews.

### *A call for Teaching Supplement material*

Long-time subscribers will remember Robert Binkley's wonderful series, *The London Close Reasoner*, published in the *Informal Logic Newsletter*. It contained a stream of examples of arguments, mostly from the daily newspaper, along with Bob's comments on them aimed at the edification of his students. Readers were invited to pilfer the examples with or without the commentary for their own courses. If even a small number of readers who are also teaching courses in argument, informal logic, critical thinking, reasoning, critical reasoning (and so on) would send Claude Gratton a few examples with or without their own analyses every semester, plus a copy of their mid-term and final exam, we would be able to supply a steady stream of classroom material that would benefit all. If you have entered or scanned examples onto your computer, why not attach them in an e-mail to Claude? Even one at a time. It will take a few seconds. He will collect them and pass them along to everyone. With your participation, we can make this feature a valuable teaching aid.

### *Upcoming OSSA Conference*

There will be a conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation on May 17-19, 2000 on *Argumentation and its Applications* at the University of Windsor, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The deadline for Abstracts has passed. The provisional program of the conference will be posted soon. Check the OSSA URL for the latest posting: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/OSSA>.