

From the Editors

The articles in this volume focus on argumentation from the standpoint of the discipline of rhetoric. We invited Joseph Wenzel to put together a special issue on informal logic and rhetoric because he is perfectly situated to do so, as a senior scholar in the sub-field of speech communication that deals with argumentation and rhetoric, and as one of the people from his discipline who over the years has followed closely the developing work on informal logic which has been carried out primarily by philosophers. Wenzel has assembled an interesting mix of articles and we refer you to his Introduction (pp. 1-4) where you will find an excellent background and overview.

We wanted to publish an issue on rhetoric because in our opinion a wall of ignorance and misunderstanding continues to stand between the logicians and the rhetoricians. Our impression is that rhetoricians have been somewhat more

inclined to scale that wall than have logicians. The former have tended, as a group—partly due to Professor Wenzel's influence—to keep abreast of what is happening in informal logic. We doubt that the converse can be said of informal logicians, whose theoretical, practical and pedagogical work tends to remain largely ignorant of the robust body of research on argumentation that has taken place in the rhetoric and speech communication communities. Can it be that many of us, too many of us, are still bewitched by Plato's distrust of rhetoric? Our hope is that these papers will pique the interest of logicians and will cause a few more of them to scale the wall. Perhaps we can begin to dismantle it.

Elsewhere in this issue we have three book reviews selected by our book review editor, Jonathan Adler. We plan to keep publishing a steady flow of such reviews.

