

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Paul (1937–2015)

The Editors of *Informal Logic* were saddened to learn of the death of Richard Paul on August 30th, 2015. He had suffered from Parkinson's Disease.

Paul was a pioneer in the movement for educational reform in North America. His approach was based on the premise of the importance of teaching students to think critically. He had enormous and infectious enthusiasm and energy for this project.

In 1980 Paul began hosting an annual conference on the theme *Critical Thinking and Educational Reform* at Sonoma State University. The speakers at the early Sonoma conferences were philosophers who had some interest in the subject of critical thinking: Michael Scriven, Richard Dreyfus, Joseph Ullian, Ralph Johnson, Anthony Blair, among others, but Paul also quickly attracted a wider range of philosophers as speakers, including on one occasion Ruth Barcan Marcus and Nicholas Rescher. However, he soon became convinced that for the changes to teaching for CT that had to occur, the process needed to begin well before college. Accordingly, by 1983 he broadened the conference's scope to include teachers and educators from all levels (university, college, high school) who were interested in teaching students how to think critically, and he attracted a broader range of prominent speakers, such as Henry Steele Commager and Neil Postman.

Paul's view of CT is best known for (1) his distinction between "weak sense" CT (skill in critiquing the thinking of others) and "strong sense" CT (a self-reflective attitude involving also subjecting one's own thinking to critical reflection); and (2) for emphasizing the importance of the intellectual virtues, pre-eminently fair-mindedness, in being a critical thinker. He established the *Foundation for Critical Thinking* to develop CT materials for K-12 teachers. Paul and his associate Linda Elder published and disseminated widely a large set of handbooks explaining his notion of critical thinking and ways to inculcate it in students. A collection of Paul's early writings was published as *Critical Thinking: What Every Person Needs to Survive In A Rapidly Changing World*, edited by A. J. A. Binker (Rohnert Park, CA: Center for Critical Thinking and Moral Critique, 1990).

Paul attended the *Second International Symposium on Informal Logic* at Windsor in 1983 and was active in the founding of the *Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking* that took place at the end of that conference. A member of the editorial board of *Informal Logic* for many years, Paul saw the im-

portance of informal logic both as an area that contributed skills vital to CT and also to the teaching of these skills.

Richard Paul contributed papers to *The Informal Logic Newsletter* and *Informal Logic*, of which the most notable are:

(1981) Teaching critical thinking in the 'strong' sense: A focus on self-deception, world views and a dialectical mode of analysis. *Informal Logic Newsletter* 4(2).

(1985) Background logic, critical thinking, and irrational language games. *Informal Logic* 7(1).

(1985) McPeck's mistakes. *Informal Logic* 7(1).

Ralph H. Johnson & J. Anthony Blair