



# AME Forum

Volume 30, Number 1, Winter 2014

## AME Leaders

President: Wolfgang Althof  
Secretary: Kaye Cook  
Treasurer: Phyllis Curtis-Tweed  
Communications  
Coordinator: Eric Marx

## AME Board Members

2013-2016:  
Ulisses Araujo, Angela  
Bermudez, Tobias  
Krettenauer, Sharlene Swartz

2012-2015:  
Yen-Hsin Chen, Silvia  
Diazgranados Ferrans, Don  
Reed, Jenny Vaydich

2011-2014:  
Doret de Ruyter, Victoria  
Foster, Nobumichi Isawa,  
Jason Stephens

Presidential Appointees:  
2013-2014: Dawn Schrader,  
Tonia Bock

## Inquiries

Inquiries about the newsletter's content and about how to place announcements in the next issue should be addressed to the Editor, [eric.marx@acu.edu.au](mailto:eric.marx@acu.edu.au).

## Change of Address

For change of address information or problems with receipt of issues, contact the AME Secretary, [Kaye.Cook@gordon.edu](mailto:Kaye.Cook@gordon.edu).

## Call for Papers

### Association for Moral Education 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**November 6 - 8, 2014**  
Pasadena, CA

## Conference Theme

**"Thriving Individuals / Thriving Communities:  
The Role of Moral Education in Human Flourishing"**

Submissions are welcome from scholars across the many disciplines that contribute to the study and practice of moral education and development, including psychology, education, philosophy, sociology, criminology, and cultural and childhood studies, among others. Plenary sessions and invited symposia will explicitly address the conference theme. We encourage individuals to submit proposals that address the theme or on any topic related to moral development and cultivation.

**Submission deadline: April 18, 2014**

Proposals submitted after that date will be accepted on an as-needed basis until May 9.

For submission details, and/or to register for the conference, please go to the conference website:

<http://www.ame2014.org>

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## Message from the Chair, AME 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Peter Samuelson

What does it mean that we are an association – the Association for Moral Education? The Latin origins of that word point to a kind of action: to unite or ally for a common purpose, that is – to further the interests of moral education. The digital age has brought about many new ways to associate – to come together and work together. We can connect well enough via the Internet, on Facebook or other social networks, and through email to unite for a common purpose. So what is the value of gathering face to face for an annual conference if we can unite and ally by other means?

The answer lies in the unique character of AME. From its inception, AME has been intentional about forming a community of scholars who can collaborate, share ideas, support each other, challenge each other, and, yes, unite for a common purpose. This happens best by gathering together in a yearly conference so that through face-to-face meetings, conversation, and time together, community can be built, ties strengthened, and unity of purpose can be renewed.

For the purpose and cause of Moral Education, we gather for our 40<sup>th</sup> conference as an association on **November 6-8, 2014 at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena, California**. Our theme is: Thriving individuals, thriving communities: Moral education and human flourishing. The question of “why gather?” is not ancillary to human flourishing. Is participating in an association or community for a purpose beyond one’s own self-interest an integral part of thriving? What role does community play in support of one’s moral aspirations and goals? These and other questions of moral education and human flourishing will be pursued. Dr. Nancy Snow from Marquette University will give her take on the theme in the Kohlberg Memorial Lecture. Dr. Bill Damon of Stanford will give his reflections in an opening plenary, and Drs. Sandra Graham and Carola Suárez-Orozco, both from the Graduate School of Education at UCLA, will, in a later plenary, address questions of human flourishing in diverse and challenged communities.

The question of “why gather in Southern California in November?” is an easy one to answer. The roses in Pasadena are in full bloom. The average high temperature is 72 ° F (22° C). Pasadena is a lovely town nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, with a rich cultural and social life. It is the home of Cal Tech and the JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory), the Huntington Library and Art Collection, the Norton Simon Museum, and many good restaurants. Humans seem to flourish here.

The deadline for proposal submissions is soon upon us: **April 18<sup>th</sup>**. While submissions that address the conference theme are particularly encouraged, proposals dealing with any topic directly related to moral education and moral development are welcome. We would also like to extend a special invitation to graduate students and new scholars to submit proposals. Go to [www.ame2014.org](http://www.ame2014.org) to submit a proposal and learn more about the conference. We hope to see you in November!

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*Scenes from the AME 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada*

Tariq Modood delivers the 2013 Kohlberg Memorial Lecture, on "Multiculturalism, Interculturalisms and the Majority."



Poster presentations in the university center



Matthew Hayden receives the 2013 Kuhmerker Dissertation Award from Helen Haste.



## *Scenes from the AME 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada*

Tonia Bock hears about research on civic engagement.



David Rowse receives the 2013 Good Work Award From Doret de Ruyter.



Nancy Eisenberg talks about her recent work.



*More information on the 2013 Career, Good Work, and Dissertation Award winners will be included in the next Forum.*



*Scenes from the AME 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada*

Marvin Berkowitz, 2013 Kuhmerker Career Award recipient, at the banquet.



Marvin Berkowitz with Fritz Oser and Sharon Lamb



Sarah Daitch and her 2013 Best Poster



## The Fall and the Rise of the AME's Archives

John Snarey

*Thanks to the hard work of John Snarey, a copy of every conference program in the history of AME is now available on the AME Website. In this article, John discusses the origin and carrying out of the project, and his (much appreciated) efforts over the past 15 years to archive various aspects of the activities of AME and its members.*

After the close of the 1997 AME Conference in Atlanta, I was sitting in the hotel lobby chatting with Lisa Kuhmerker, the founder of the AME, as she waited for a taxi to the airport. As we talked, she started to pour out her heart about the total loss of her AME archives through some unfortunate misunderstanding. That was Lisa's last AME conference and the last time I would speak with her. She passed away five months later in 1998.

Sometime after that, I realized that I possessed a mini set of AME archives. In preparation for the AME conference in Atlanta, I had written to most past conference chairs, asking for their advice and a copy of their conference programs. Beginning with this small box of materials, several dedicated work-study students, over the years, gradually filled a four-drawer file cabinet housed at my lab. We contacted all past officers, board members, and conference chairs and focused on collecting three items: clean copies of all conference programs, good copies of past newsletters, and past minutes from the executive board meetings that were held before and after each conference.

The first fruit of this effort was posting a "From the Archives" chronology of the AME's history of officers and conferences at the end of the "Executive" section on the AME web page. It has since been updated each time there is a change in the Board membership. An updated inventory of the archives was also shared with the successive AME Boards every few years and Board Members, in turn, provided leads on where or how to obtain missing items.

Around 2001, the archiving process became much improved when Steve Thoma, then the AME's President, created an AME Board Yahoo site and began to archive the minutes and related materials from all AME Board meetings during his term. Each subsequent president continued this practice. Soon thereafter, beginning with the Winter 2002/2003 issue of the newsletter, the AME Webmaster also began to maintain electronic copies of the *AME Forum* on our webpage.

Recognizing the opportunity to put myself out of a self-chosen job, I set three remaining goals:

*Goal one:* Scan all conference programs from 1976 to the present into PDFs. My most recent work-study assistant, Shirley May Banks, insisted that the PDF copies of the programs must be searchable and I agreed, although this required new software and more time. Early in 2013, Communications Coordinator Eric Marx uploaded the PDFs for all past conference programs and made them available on the AME website.

*Goal two:* Scan all AME newsletters published before web archiving began. This smaller task was completed during the summer of 2013, and they are soon to be posted on the AME website.

*Goal three:* Scan all available pre-2002 Board minutes and upload them to the Board's Yahoo site. This task is currently on the agenda.

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*AME Archives . . . (cont.)*

In the process of gathering and archiving these materials, we have learned much about the AME's history. Try this brief AME trivia test (answers at bottom of page):

1. Who was the first AME President?
2. Who was the first AME Treasurer and Secretary of Record?
3. After Lisa, who was the first AME Newsletter editor?
4. Who was the longest-serving newsletter editor?
5. Chairing an AME conference is a very demanding job. Aside from Lisa, has anyone ever chaired more than one AME Conference?

**Montreal, site of the 2013 Annual Conference****Pasadena, site of the 2014 Annual Conference****Answers:**

1. Lisa Kuhmerker
  2. Mary Brabeck, who is currently President of the New York University School of Education. (So let this be a lesson; if you have administrative ambitions, begin by serving the AME.)
  3. That would be Jim Rest, who also served as the AME Treasurer.
  4. That would be Theo Dawson, who served for four years.
  5. Yes, several pillars of the AME: Dwight Boyd (1985, 1992), Ann Higgins (1987, 1995), Larry Nucci (1986, 2002), Clark Power (1990, 2008). The all-time record is held by Mary Brabeck (1987, 1993, 2007); now that is one high-energy person!
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## President's Report

Wolfgang Althof

Thank you for the honor of serving as President of AME! I assumed office for a three-year term at the Montreal conference last October. It is great to see that Sharon Lamb left this place in good order. She has been one of the most active, forward-looking and initiative Presidents we ever had. I am happy to say that Sharon will not "retire" from AME but, rather, will continue to contribute in other roles. Also, I am very grateful that the AME executive officers decided to stay on board: Kaye Cook, our secretary; Phyllis Curtis-Tweed, our treasurer, and Eric Marx, our communications coordinator. I would be lost without them! Peter Samuelson is hosting our next conference in Pasadena, California, in early November. I have observed his work so far and I know the conference is in good hands, thanks Peter.

I want to address a number of challenges that AME is facing, some of them rather specific for the type of group that we are, some not unique at all. We want to grow our range of activities beyond organizing the annual meeting and that costs money. Our past president, Sharon Lamb, with the help of Ann Higgins, made fundraising a priority in the last year or two, and was glad to see how many AME members have contributed! Thank you very much for your share, big or small!

AME has very loyal members and many of them have attended the annual meetings for decades. The organization is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the upcoming conference in Pasadena. As the time passes, the typical attendee has become older and a healthy mix of generations has become a task. It was with great joy that I saw a good number of graduate students and young scholars at the Montreal meeting. One of the best things the long-standing members can do for AME is bringing students and young colleagues to the meetings! And it would certainly be all the better if, at the same time, this would also contribute to the racial and ethnic diversity of AME membership.

One of the worst things that could happen to us is being perceived as sectarian. AME has strong roots in developmental approaches to moral and democratic education, going back to Baldwin, Dewey and Piaget, as they came together in the work of Lawrence Kohlberg. We don't hide the tradition: a Kohlberg Memorial Lecture is the top keynote event each year, and our lifetime achievement award is named after Lisa Kuhmerker, who among many other things was the founder of the *Moral Education Forum* at about the same time that AME was created.

Nonetheless, we want to be open to new horizons and being part of the current discourse in the field. Having had Jonathan Haidt as a keynoter in 2012 did not hurt us. I will do as much as I can to keep a good balance between depth and breadth, between continuing the tradition and having the full range of serious approaches to theory and practice represented in our discussion.

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*President's Report . . . (cont.)*

For returning attendees, AME meetings are a bit like a family get-together. Personally, I like the atmosphere of small but intense meeting and enjoy the opportunity to see friends and colleagues. However, I also like to see unfamiliar faces, and this is not only because there is a bottom limit of registrations that we need to avoid making a deficit with the conferences. More importantly, new faces mean new people interested in our work. Chances are that these "new" people themselves do know other participants – because they are locals. One most important criterion for the success of our meetings is how many scholars and practitioners from the region they attract. Some of them might come only once but still the enthusiasm for the theory and practice of moral psychology, philosophy and education might rub off on them. And there are always some who will return. So if you see somebody next time in Pasadena who seems to be alone or a little disoriented, attend to that person! Befriending in real life is even more fun than on social website, and you might get somebody to really like not only you but our mission and vision as an organization!

I'd like to be a little more elaborate on two additional challenges: what it means to be interdisciplinary and what it means to be international.

First, we are an extremely interdisciplinary society – which can be a blessing or can be a curse. Specialized associations where everybody speaks the same lingo and has shared interests are on the safe side. Interdisciplinary events can be very difficult when whoever is speaking must work with concepts that may not mean anything to most others, or mean something very different in other disciplines. Will you insist in the technical language of your discipline even if it means you are not understood by parts of the audience, or will you level the substance of the presentation down in order to get understood? At what point will you begin ridiculing yourself in the eyes of your expert colleagues? I think that AME presenters are mostly doing a great job in trying to be understandable. However, the danger of pseudo-interdisciplinarity is looming large when psychologists attend psychology sessions, educators are interest in education topics and philosophers prefer to be among themselves anyway. People tend to find it a bit of a challenge to say what AME is exactly about because it's all of that and not an amalgam that could be identified easily. If we judge the annual meetings only by the standard of whether we find good stuff in our own discipline or even only in our personal fields of specialization, the harvest may seem very limited, as compared to huge conferences like AERA or as compared to events of similar size but with a much more homogenous topical range, like the Piaget Society. Our chance is to make the range of disciplines a strength and organize or enter enlightening interdisciplinary dialogues as much as we can. There is no dearth of issues that could benefit from comparing and coordinating perspectives!

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*President's Report . . . (cont.)*

Lastly, how international are we? AME's internationality is a strong reason for many, including myself, to attend AME conferences. I love to hear about what friends from other regions of the globe are concerned with, what their visions look like and what their most urgent topic would be, what they consider challenges and successes. AME as an organization is so proud of having "scholars and practitioners from more than 35 countries around the globe meet at the annual meeting" that we have included exactly this wording in our mission statement on the top page of <http://amenetwork.org/>. But how far have we really gotten? Many regions of the globe are not represented at AME meetings; others are but have not reached the presence that would attract everybody to get familiar with their special conditions and challenges. Every continent with the exception of North America and Europe is typically represented by such a small number of individuals that a "within-region" discussion can hardly develop. This exchange would be a goal worth being pursued. Asian, African or Latin American participants, I assume, are not only coming to AME to learn about politics and research in North America.

The AME membership continues to make prudent choices when putting together the Board by way of elections. Currently, we have board members from Brazil, South Africa, Taiwan, Japan, and The Netherlands who really are from those countries, plus a Colombian working in Spain and another Colombian studying at Harvard, two Americans who wound up in New Zealand, and two Germans in Canada and the United States, respectively. If you wonder, yes, there are some Americans on the board who actually live and work in the U.S.: three of them (and a few more if we count the presidential appointees)! The FORUM, by the way, is edited by our Communications Coordinator Eric Marx, another American *down under*.

So, let's all think about what we can do to initiate discourses during our conferences that are truly inclusive, and what we can do to become more internationally visible and morally influential, both on a scholarly level and in practice.

Hope to see you all in Pasadena, November 6-8!

## AME Op Ed Page

Please consider writing an Op Ed piece for our AME web site. All Op Ed pieces are reviewed by an ad hoc committee of the Executive Board and are not meant to be positions that the AME itself takes, but rather positions worthy of consideration by those working in the fields of moral philosophy, development, education, and psychology. Pieces should be between 600 and 900 words. All submissions should be sent to Eric Marx, [eric.marx@acu.edu.au](mailto:eric.marx@acu.edu.au).

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## Good Work Award

### Call for Nominations 2014

The Good Work Award is a non-monetary award that is designed to bring recognition and honor to those who foster links between moral theory and educational practice. Any AME member in good standing may nominate any person, team, practice, or organization. Selection criteria are below. The nomination shall consist of (1) a substantial narrative or description of the project or program being nominated, (2) an explanation as to why the project or program merits recognition by the AME according to the selection criteria, and (3) highlights of the curriculum vitae of the person(s) primarily responsible for the project or program, OR a history of the organization or sponsoring institution, as appropriate.

Please submit nominations via email to **Doret de Ruyter**, [d.j.de.ruyter@vu.nl](mailto:d.j.de.ruyter@vu.nl), by **May 31, 2014**. Awardees will receive a plaque and recognition in the AME newsletter and on its website and through other channels of communication such as press releases to the home institution.

#### Selection criteria:

1. The practice, intervention or research project shall aim at promoting a moral benefit for a community or group beyond that inherent in conducting research. This benefit will have a primarily moral cast—a contribution to the well-being or flourishing of the target group, for instance, by increasing liberty, opportunity, equality, safety, fairness or mutual respect and concern.
  2. The practice, which can be a one-time or ongoing program, shall exhibit moral excellence. This would be demonstrated in credible testimony from participants, practitioners, or observers, or by research on the practice by the practitioner(s) or others.
  3. The award may be given to a single practitioner, a team of practitioners, the project or practice itself, or a sponsoring institution, as the selection committee deems appropriate.
  4. Although the practice need not be replicable beyond its own circumstances, it should be exemplary within those circumstances, and of significant interest to moral educators in other circumstances.
  5. As this award is meant to recognize achievement in moral practices, outstanding scholarly achievements are not also required. However, scholarship by the practitioner(s) about the project or program can be a decisive reason if it proves impossible to decide between two practices.
  6. The awardee(s) need not hold membership in the AME.
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## Kuhmerker Career Award

### Call for Nominations 2012

The **Kuhmerker Career Award** recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, long-term contributions to both the Association for Moral Education, in particular, and to the field of moral development, more broadly. Areas of consideration include, but are not restricted to:

1. Scholarly contribution to the field of moral development and/or education. This could consist of: a) long-standing contributions to ethical theory and philosophy; b) substantial and cumulative empirical contributions to the research literatures in psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc.; c) the development of an assessment instrument or strategy adopted by a significant number of researchers; d) the publication of resource material and critical analyses helpful to researchers and/or practitioners; and/or e) an innovative educational program adopted by a significant number of practitioners;
2. Service to AME, such as acting as a board member, office holder, program planner, or major presenter at conferences;
3. Excellence in teaching and mentoring, including doctoral student supervision, course development and teaching, conceptualization, realization or supervision of educational interventions; and
4. Special/innovative service to the public, workplace, or education.

This award is not limited to AME members, although involvement in the association is given serious consideration as one of the criteria.

**Click here** for further details regarding this award, including a list of past recipients and Lisa Kuhmerker's lasting commitment to the AME.

Please send your nominations with a short rationale to **Fritz Oser**, [fritz.oser@unifr.ch](mailto:fritz.oser@unifr.ch). The deadline is **May 15, 2014**.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2014

If you attended the October AME conference in Montreal, your dues are automatically paid for the year 2014. If you did not attend the 2013 conference, and have not renewed online, you may renew on the AME Website, or mail the form below (with the appropriate dues).

Membership is \$95 for regular members and \$65 for students. Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly *Journal of Moral Education* and the semi-annual *AME Forum*.

Applications for reduced AME membership rate in cases of hardship for full-time students, unemployed individuals, and untenured faculty in developing countries (as defined by the IMF) are available on the AME and Annual Conference Websites by.

**To renew your AME membership online at the AME Website (using Paypal), go to [http://www.amenetwork.org/membership\\_dues.html](http://www.amenetwork.org/membership_dues.html).** To renew your AME membership by mail, please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Business phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Label:

Line 1 (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark as appropriate:

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular dues: \$95.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student dues: \$65.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to the Kohlberg Memorial Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed. Make your check (or money order for those outside the U.S. or Canada) payable in **US dollars** to **Association for Moral Education**. Mail this form and your payment to:

**AME c/o Phyllis Curtis-Tweed**  
744 Boelsen Drive  
Westbury NY 11590  
USA  
(pcurtistweed@aol.com)

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