

FROM THE EDITORS

This double issue contains many of the papers that were presented at the first conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation (OSSA), held at Brock University (St. Catharines, Ontario) in May of 1995.

OSSA is an offshoot of ISSA—the International Society for the Study of Argumentation—whose headquarters are at the University of Amsterdam. ISSA sponsors the quadrennial International Conference on Argumentation in Amsterdam (1986, 1990, 1994, 1998 pending), and encourages studies of argumentation worldwide.

OSSA, an independent, informal group of argumentation scholars located in Ontario, was formed at the urging of Michael Gilbert of York University. Hans Hansen and Christopher Tindale (Trent) took the initiative of organizing the 1995 conference at Brock University, with Brock's generous support. Readers of this journal will recognize the names of many of the contributors as well as the issues they are addressing. Indeed it was the relevance of these papers taken as a whole that has persuaded us to open the pages of *Informal Logic* to these proceedings. We believe that they contain papers which will be of great interest to our readers.

We wish to thank Hans Hansen and Christopher Tindale for overseeing the selection, refereeing and publication of these papers; and Mark Letteri for his ongoing work in shepherding this double issue into print. We also wish to thank the Canadian Association for Publishing in Philosophy for a grant and a loan, and Brock University for a grant, in support of the added cost of this double issue. Subscribers to this journal are the beneficiaries of these institutions' support, without which *Informal Logic* could not have undertaken to publish them.

Please note in your calendar that the second OSSA conference will be held May 15–17, 1997 at Brock University. Abstracts of proposed papers should be sent in triplicate by September 9, 1996 to either of the conference organizers: Hans V. Hansen, Liberal Arts Programme, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 3A1, or Christopher W. Tindale, Department of Philosophy, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8.