

# Preface

In July 2000, the *Advanced Reasoning Forum* in conjunction with *New Europe College* held its Second Annual Conference on Reasoning and Logic. Organized by Mircea Dumitru, a Relink Program Fellow at New Europe College, a series of talks were given at New Europe College and in the countryside of Romania. As at the other Conferences on Reasoning and Logic of the Advanced Reasoning Forum, the talks were on works in progress, meant to stimulate discussion and research. Now, a year later, we are pleased to be able to present some of the results of those discussions.

We are also pleased to have this opportunity to thank not only Mircea Dumitru, but also Anca Oroveanu, Scientific Director of the New Europe College, who arranged many of the details of the conference and ensured the publication of these proceedings. We hope that our work here will help New Europe College to further its goals.

New Europe College is a small independent Romanian center of excellence in the humanities and social sciences founded in 1994. Its aims and purposes include:

- Creating an institutional framework with strong international links in order to offer young scholars from Romania and South-Eastern Europe working conditions similar to those in the West, and to provide an environment that stimulates contact between scholars from different countries and fields of research while encouraging critical debate.
- Promoting contacts between Romanian and regional scholars and their peers worldwide.
- Cultivating the receptivity of scholars and academics in Romania to methods and areas of research not yet firmly established in Romania, while preserving what is still good in the work developed, against all odds, in the difficult intellectual, cultural, and political milieu in Romania before 1989.
- Contributing to the formation of a core of promising young scholars who are expected to play a significant role in the renewal of Romania's academic, scholarly, and intellectual life.

# *Bulletin of Advanced Reasoning and Knowledge*

The *Advanced Reasoning Forum* was founded to promote research in the theory and pedagogy of the art of reasoning well. The founding meeting and first Conference on Reasoning and Logic was held in Cedar City, Utah USA in September 1999; the Second Conference on Reasoning and Logic was held in Bucharest, Romania in July 2000; and the Third Conference on Reasoning and Logic was held in Berkeley, California USA in July 2001. A description of the proceedings of those conferences along with further information about *ARF* can be found at the website <[www.AdvancedReasoningForum.org](http://www.AdvancedReasoningForum.org)>.

At the second meeting the members decided to begin a journal on logic and epistemology—in the broadest sense of the art of reasoning well and knowledge as derived from reasoning—that would be of interest to scholars, teachers, and students. This includes work in philosophy, mathematics, computer science, psychology, formal logic, linguistics, and any other discipline in which prescriptive or descriptive aspects of the art of reasoning are studied.

Thanks to New Europe College we have been able to begin this project with this inaugural issue of the *Bulletin of Advanced Reasoning and Knowledge*. It consists of works that were presented at the meeting at New Europe College and since refined from the discussions there, as well as other works stimulated by discussions at that meeting.

Each issue of the *Bulletin of Advanced Reasoning and Knowledge* will have two sections:

*Theory* for papers concerned with the foundations of logic and reasoning, as well as applications of those concepts to other disciplines.

*Pedagogy and Examples* for: (i) Presentations on the teaching of logic and reasoning, with special emphasis on critical thinking, and (ii) Examples that illustrate or call into question theoretical issues in the foundations of logic and reasoning, and examples of argument analysis.

At this time *BARK* will be limited to papers developed out of presentations at meetings of *ARF*, along with papers presented to the Forum by invitation of a member.

*Come, let us reason together.*