Association News

2009 Membership and Finances
From Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer

For 2009, the International Society for Humor Studies’ membership continued to be strong with 313 affiliates, including 306 new and returning members plus 17 Consulting Editors of the journal, HUMOR. At the October 15 close of 2009 membership, the Society was also financially sound with $44,073.80 in unaudited revenue including 19,555.80 carried over from 2008 and $24,518.00 from 2009 Membership dues and fees. Operating expenses through October included $315.09 for printing and postage, $173.57 for supplies, and $23,011.68 for membership subscriptions to HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research. Revenue over expenses at the end of October was 20,573.46.

Holy Names University also received an additional $964 in donations for the ISHS Scholarship Fund. From this fund, the Society made three $250 awards in 2009 to graduate students to cover their ISHS membership dues and their registration fees to the 21st ISHS Conference in Long Beach, California. As in previous years, I would like to thank the members who made contributions to the ISHS Scholarship Fund, and I would like to encourage others to make similar donations with their 2010 membership applications.

On Page 8 of this Newsletter, you will find a 2010 ISHS Membership application. On the application, you will notice that the Society has a new fee structure. We will no longer offer separate Regular and Student rates. Instead, the Society has arranged with Mouton DeGruyter to offer to our members the journal, HUMOR, either in the usual print version or through electronic online access. Upcoming issues of HUMOR will also contain 20% more pages and, and accordingly, more reported research in humor studies. Because of the increased costs involved with the journal’s expansion and mailing, 2010 Regular membership dues with a print subscription of HUMOR have been set at $105. However, members who choose to receive HUMOR electronically may join or renew with ISHS at the substantially reduced rate of $65. Regular members who renew before January 31 can also elect to take a $5 discount on their dues, allowing everyone to renew early for the just $60. This reduction reflects a roll-back to what dues were over 15 years ago. If you do not wish to receive the journal, but do wish to be a member to receive our other benefits, you can still join ISHS as an Associate member for just $30.

I also hope that you will take some time to read though the rest of this quarter’s Newsletter, and especially, to read the candidate statements for ISHS President and for the ISHS Executive Board. These statements can be found on pages 2 through 4 of the newsletter. If you are a current ISHS Member, you will find with your Newsletter a ballot for voting in our Fall Election. When you return your ballot, please consider renewing your ISHS membership and making a donation to our Scholarship fund at the same time.

Finally, to the entire ISHS community, thank you for supporting the International Society for Humor Studies. Your involvement helps ISHS to advance the importance of humor research and, as always, is greatly appreciated.
HUMOR Goes Online for ISHS Members

For 2010, ISHS Members will see two major changes involving the Society’s journal, HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research. With the first issue of HUMOR 23, the journal will be expanded 20% to allow for the publication of more humor research articles. This change reflects the increased interest and productivity in humor studies. The other major advancement is that ISHS Members for the first time will be able to choose between a print or an online subscription to the journal. Print subscriptions will be delivered as in the past: issues of the journal will be mailed out from the publishing house of Mouton DeGruyter in Germany four times per year (February, May, August, and October) with a six to eight week delivery window. However, members who opt to receive HUMOR electronically will receive a private access code and password, which will allow them to download issues of HUMOR 23 as soon as they are published from the Mouton DeGruyter website.

For 2010, regular membership with a print subscription to HUMOR is $105. However, because of the cost savings in printing and mailing, the Society is able to offer membership with an electronic subscription for just $65—reflecting a $40 savings. On the ISHS application form found on page 8 of this Newsletter, you can indicate whether you wish to receive a print or online subscription of HUMOR with your 2010 membership.

2009 ISHS Election

Every two years, the International Society for Humor Studies holds an election for ISHS President and for two new Members to the ISHS Executive Board. The new ISHS President will serve for two years, from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011, and will take over from Christie Davies (University of Reading), who will continue on the ISHS Board as the immediate Past President. The new Members-at-Large will replace Lorene Birden (University of Bourgogne, France) and Władysław Chlopicki (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland), who have served on the ISHS Board since January 2006. The new Board Members will serve for four years from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013.

For our 2009 Election, the Society is pleased to present the following candidates for ISHS President and ISHS Board Member-at-Large. Current ISHS Members should find a ballot with their copy of this Newsletter.

Candidates for ISHS President

Elliot Oring, Ph.D. (California State University at Los Angeles, USA)

Elliot Oring received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Folklore from Indiana University with minors in Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages and Literature. For thirty-three years he was a Professor of Anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles and served as Chair of the department. He has been a Visiting Professor at various universities including Indiana University; University of Texas, Austin; UCLA; UC Berkeley; and the University of Iceland. His books on humor include: Israeli Humor (1981), The Jokes of Sigmund Freud (1984), Humor and the Individual (1984), Jokes and Their Relations (1992), and Engaging Humor (2003). He was editor of Western Folklore and currently serves on the editorial boards of Humor: International Journal for Humor Research and Journal of Folklore Research. He has served as an Executive Board member of the International Society for Humor Studies and the American Folklore Society, and he is a Fellow of the American Folklore Society and the Finnish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Larry Ventis, Ph.D. (College of William and Mary, Virginia, USA)

Larry Ventis is a licensed clinical psychologist and a Full Professor of Psychology at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He published one of the earliest case studies of humor in behavior therapy, and his humor research has tended to focus on applied topics, prominently including humor in psychotherapy with children, humor in social skills training, and the use of humor to counter fear in systematic desensitization. The latter research was featured in The Laugh Factor, a one
hour Discovery Health Channel production. Identification of the role of humor in desensitizing fear led to research on counter therapeutic applications of this principle in advertising, to desensitize consumers to dangerous products, such as cigarettes. He has also studied humor which emerges in times of traumatic stress, and most recently has collaborated in research on the effects of humor styles on stress in retirement. He has been an active member of ISHS since its creation and has served both on the Executive Board and as a Consulting Editor of Humor: International Journal of Humor Research. He has been an enthusiastic competitor in ISHS comedy contests, and once, inexplicably, was even a winner.

Candidates for ISHS Board Member-at-Large

Sammy Basu, Ph.D. (Willamette University, Oregon, USA)

Sammy Basu is an Associate Professor of Politics at Willamette University, a liberal arts college in Salem, Oregon. He teaches courses in the history of western political philosophy, contemporary ethical and political theory, ethics and public policy, death, and humor. He received a B.A. and M.A. in political science from the University of Calgary in Canada, and an M.A. and Ph.D in politics from Princeton University, where he specialized in the study of political philosophy. Humor emerged as a central focus of his research as he recognized that the topic received relatively little disciplinary attention, especially in his field of political philosophy.

Sammy has attended ISHS conferences since 2000 and continues to do so regularly because, in his view, the Society distinguishes itself as a place that encourages not only specialization but also synthesis, that promotes not only originality but also the extra-disciplinary sharing of ideas. Over the years, he has learned and benefited from the research of other ISHS members, and at the Society’s annual meetings, he has presented his own work from a humanities perspective, using the literary and interpretive methods of intellectual history. His interests in humor as theoretical, epistemological, and communicative dimensions of the public sphere have led him to seek new routes through otherwise canonical and well-trodden texts such as Plato’s Republic and Hitler’s Mein Kampf. His publications on humor include “Dialogic Ethics and the Virtue of Humor” in the Journal of Political Philosophy and “A little discourse pro & con: Levelling laughter and its Puritan criticism,” in the International Review of Social History.

Gil Greengross, Ph.D. (University of New Mexico, USA)

Gil Greengross recently received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. His interdisciplinary research bridges traditional fields of study such as psychology, anthropology and biology. His studies focus on the adaptive value of humor and laughter using evolutionary principles. Dr. Greengross is particularly interested in the life and personalities of stand-up comedians. His research has been featured in various media outlets, such as Psychology Today, New Scientist, The Observer and more. Gil has been a familiar face at humor conferences since first attending the ISHS conference in Forli, Italy, in 2002. In 2007, he received the Graduate Student Award at the ISHS conference in Newport, Rhode Island, and in 2009, he was invited to give two lectures at the 9th International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter at the University of Granada in Spain. He has also designed and taught several popular college classes on humor.

Christian F. Hempelmann, Ph.D. (RiverGlass, Inc., Illinois, USA)

Throughout his career, humor has been the focus of Kiki’s research, centrally on linguistic theories towards computational applications as well as bridging the European and North-American traditions. A linguist by training, he continues to be involved not just in transcontinental but also multidisciplinary humor research, mainly with psychologists, on the mutual evaluation of humor models and shared perspectives on humor cognition.

A participant in eight ISHS conferences since 1999 and the coorganizer of two symposia on cartoon humor, Kiki has served as a reader for HUMOR since 2000 and as a consulting editor since 2005. He has also
taught at six of the nine International Summer Schools for Research in Humour and Laughter, and his work has been widely covered in the media. In 2003, Kiki won the ISHS Emerging Scholar Award, in 2004 and 2006 research grants (European Union Marie Curie and Swiss National Foundation) for multidisciplinary research on humor, and in 2009 the Emerging Voice Award of Purdue’s College of Liberal Arts.

Kiki has seven published articles in HUMOR with another two forthcoming. He has authored additional articles, reviews, book chapters, and published talks on humor, computational linguistics, and computational humor. On the latter subject he has contributed one of his two invited chapters to the Primer of Humor Research.

Currently, Kiki is Director for Ontological Semantics at RiverGlass, Inc., and an adjunct assistant professor in linguistics at Purdue University. His previous appointments include a postdoc in computational linguistics and cognitive psychology at the University of Memphis, a tenure-track assistant professorship in linguistics at Georgia Southern University, and a position as Chief Scientific Officer at hakia.com, an internet search engine. He completed his PhD in linguistics at Purdue University in 2003 with a dissertation on the computation and phonology of puns.

**Chao-Chih Liao, Ph.D. (National Chiayi University, Taiwan)**

Chao-chih Liao is a Professor at National Chiayi University in Taiwan. She has concentrated her research interests in humorology since 1997 and has published three books in humor studies: *Jokes, Humor and Chinese People* (2003), *Taiwanese Perceptions of Humor: A Sociolinguistic Perspective* (2001), and *Jokes, Humor, and Good Teachers* (2005). In 2006, the Humor Association in Taiwan (HaTai) was founded with Professor Liao as the Association’s first president. She has attended several ISHS Conferences and invited many ISHS members to lecture in Taiwan, including Willibald Ruch, Delia Chiaro, Salvatore Attardo, and Dorota Brzozowska. Her interest is mainly on humor appreciation, cross-cultural study of humor appreciation, and training people to have a sense of humor.

**Andrea Samson, Ph.D. (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)**

Andrea Samson studied psychology and neurobiology at the University of Fribourg and Berne in Switzerland. In 2008, she finished her PhD on neural correlates of cognitive humor processing *(Cognitive and neural humor processing: stimulus characteristics and Theory of Mind)*. Currently, she holds a post-doctoral position at the University of Fribourg, and in 2010 she will start a post-doc in the Department of Psychology at Stanford University.

She attended her first ISHS conference in Dijon and has been an ISHS member of ISHS since 2004. In 2006 she was local organizer of the 6th International Summer School on Humor and Laughter in Fribourg and has taught at the last four International Summer Schools. She has co-organized several symposia on “Cartoon research” and “Humor and Laughter” at conferences of the ISHS and other organizations.

Her research interests are neural correlates of humor processing, humor in individuals with Asperger’s syndrome, humor in relation to Theory of Mind, empathy and gelotophobia, visual humor (particular visual puns), and humor as emotion-regulation strategy. She is interested in interdisciplinary research and is involved with several international research cooperatives with psychologists, neuroscientists, and linguists (e.g. with the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig Germany). For her research, she has earned several awards, including the ISHS Graduate Student Award in 2006.

For more ISHS news, visit us on the web at www.humorstudies.org.
22nd Conference of the International Society for Humor Studies
City University of Hong Kong, June 24 to June 27, 2010

From Conference Convener, Xiaodong Yue, City University of Hong Kong

The 22nd ISHS Conference will be held at the City University of Hong Kong and will feature plenary addresses, paper sessions, and night time events. Housing accommodations will be available on-campus and at local hotels. Registration fees before March 15, 2010 are $250 for ISHS members, $280 for nonmembers, and $100 for students. After March 15, registration fees will increase $50 for ISHS members and nonmembers and $20 for students. The conference organizers are actively promoting the conference in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, and looking for organizations to sponsor participants from China and other developing areas of Asia.

Conference information will be available later this fall on the ISHS website and a separate Conference website. On the Conference website, you will find information on registration and paper submissions as well as the conference schedule, accommodation and transportation options, and lists of local activities. Hong Kong offers many opportunities for fine dining, shopping, and sightseeing, and we look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong in June!

Call for Proposals for the 22nd ISHS Conference

For the 2010 ISHS Conference, scholars, professionals, and students are invited to submit 250 word proposals for papers, posters, and colloquia, and panels related to humor research. You can submit a proposal, beginning on January 1, 2010 to Xiaodong Yue at ssxdyue@cityu.edu.hk. All prospective paper presenters must register for the entire conference and pay registration fees at the time that they submit their proposal. Presentations should be planned according to the following guidelines:

- Colloquia and panels should be designed for 90 minute sessions with up to four presenters.
- Individual papers should be planned for 20 minute presentations.
- Poster sessions will run for 90 minutes, and each poster will have a 4 by 5 foot space for presentation.

The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2010. If you have questions about submissions, you can email Conference Convener Xiaodong Yue at ssxdyue@cityu.edu.hk.

2010 Conference Awards and Scholarships

In 2006, the ISHS Executive Board established Scholarly Contribution and Graduate Student Awards to acknowledge individuals presenting notable humor research at ISHS Conferences. These awards include stipends to cover Conference fees, and up to four awards may be given annually, depending on available funding. Scholarly Contribution Awards (SCA) are intended to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to humor research through high quality publications, conference presentations, and other scholarly activities. SCA recipients present their research in a Conference plenary session. Any ISHS member may submit SCA nominations to the ISHS Awards Committee.

All ISHS graduate student members, planning to attend the 2010 ISHS Conference in Hong Kong, are eligible to apply for a Graduate Student Award (GSA). As part of their conference application, interested students must submit to the Conference Convener (1) a letter of intent to compete for a GSA, (2) a description of their research program within humor studies, (3) a presentation proposal, and (4) all required registration materials and fees. GSA recipients present their work at a special session of the annual conference and receive (1) a certificate of achievement, (2) a stipend to reimburse their Conference registration fees, and (3) waived fees to selected ISHS-endorsed seminars and workshops. Additional information on Scholarly Contribution and Graduate Student Awards can be found on the ISHS website at www.humorstudies.org.
Conference Report

9th International Summer School on Humour & Laughter
University of Granada, Spain, June 29 to July 4, 2009
From Hugo Carretero Dios, University of Granada, and Willibald Ruch, University of Zurich

This year’s International Summer School on Humour and Laughter was attended by 29 participants and covered a variety of topics: The program aimed to provide an overview of the interdisciplinary nature of humor research, by considering theory and empirical evidence, discussing methodological approaches, addressing special research issues, and evaluating the applications of humor and laughter. The participants included students, postdoctoral researchers, university faculty members, and professionals (i.e., teachers, clinical psychologists, and health workers). Lecturers included Hugo Carretero-Dios (University of Granada), Christie Davies (Univ. of Reading), Irina Falkenberg (Philipps-University of Marburg), Gil Greengross (Univ. of New Mexico), Giselinde Kuipers (Univ. of Amsterdam), Ilona Papousek (Univ. of Graz), Beatrice Priego-Valverde (Univ. of Provence), Graeme Ritchie (Univ. of Aberdeen), Willibald Ruch (Univ. of Zurich) and Andrea Samson (Univ. of Fribourg).

Upcoming Events

36th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Play
★ Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, March 10-13, 2010
Information on the 36th Conference of the Association for the Study of Play can be found online at http://www.tasplay.org. Requests for information can be sent online to Michael Patte, Bloomsburg University at mpatte@bloomu.edu.

Linguistic Approaches to Funniness, Amusement, & Laughter
★ University of Lodz, Poland, March 24-26, 2010
The University of Łódź’s Department of Pragmatics will host a conference for linguists interested in humor research. The primary objectives will be to explore the many aspects of humor and to enhance the methodological tools used in humor studies across a variety of linguistic disciplines. For more information, visit the conference website at http://ia.uni.lodz.pl/pragmatics/events/lafal or contact marta.dynel at marta.dynel@yahoo.com.

2010 Association for Applied & Therapeutic Humor Conference
★ Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel, Anaheim, California, USA, April 22-25, 2010
The Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor will celebrate its twenty-third year with a conference at Disney’s Paradise Pier Hotel overlooking Disney’s California Adventure Park. AATH Conferences typically have special registration incentives for ISHS members and CE units for nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and HR professionals. For information, please visit the web on http://www.aath.org/conference.htm.

10th International Summer School on Humour and Laughter
★ University of Zurich, Switzerland, July 5-10, 2010
The next International Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter will take place at the University of Zurich in Switzerland in July 2010. International Summer Schools are intended to provide students and established investigators planning research projects on humor an opportunity to develop a strong foundation on the existing theoretical and methodological issues related to the scientific study of humor. For more information on the 2010 Summer School, contact Willibald Ruch at w.ruch@psychologie.uzh.ch. For more information, visit the Summer School homepage at http://www.humoursummerschool.org/.
**Book Discounts for 2009-2010**

The International Society for Humor Studies is again pleased to offer special members-only book discounts. For 2010, Mouton DeGruyter will offer 20% discounts to ISHS members on its book publications, including the Humor Research series, which contains the recently published Primer of Humor Research (Victor Raskin, Ed., 2008). John Benjamins will provide 50% discounts on the hardcover editions of Humor in Interaction (Neal Norrick and Delia Chiaro, Eds., 2009) and The Importance of Not Being Earnest (Wallace Chafe, 2007). Transaction Publishers and Wayne State University Press will also continue to give substantial discounts in their humor research series.

Books from Transaction’s Humor Studies series with a 25% ISHS discount include:

- Loopholes: Reading Comically (John Bruns, 2009)
- The Satirist with a new intro by Brian Connery (Leonard Feinberg, 1965/2006)
- The Genius of the Jewish Joke with a new intro by the author (Arthur Asa Berger, 2006)
- Farce (Jessica M. Davies, 2002)
- The Mirth of Nations (Christie Davies, 2002)
- The Morality of Laughter (F. H. Buckley, 2002)
- An Anatomy of Humor (Arthur Asa Berger, 1999)
- Jewish Humor with a new intro by the editor (Avner Ziv, Ed., 1997)
- The Art of Comedy Writing (Arthur Asa Berger, 1997)
- Blind Men and Elephants: Perspectives on Humor (Arthur Asa Berger, 1995)
- The Spirituality of Comedy: Comic Heroism in a Tragic World (Conrad Hyers, 1995)

Books in the Humor in Life and Letters series with a 35% ISHS discount include:

- Understanding Humor in Japan (Jessica Milner Davies, Ed., 2006)
- Performing Marginality (Joanne R. Gilbert, 2004)
- Writing Humor (Mary Ann Rishel, 2002)
- Humor in Borges (Rene de Costa, 2000)
- Taking Penguins to the Movies (Emil Draitser, 1998)
- Laughing Feminism (Audrey Bilger, 1998)
- Tilting at Mortality (David M. Craig, 1997)
- Comedian as Confident Man (Will Kaufman, 1997)
- Humor Prism in Twentieth Century America (Joseph Boskin, 1997)
- Ironic Temper and Comic Imagination (Morton Gurewitch, 1994)
- Untamed and Unabashed (Regina Barreca, 1994)
- Campaign Comedy (Gerald Gardner, 1994)
- Jewish Wry (Sarah B. Cohen, 1992)
- Never Try to Teach a Pig to Sing (Alan Dundes & Carl Pagter, 1991)

**ISHS Members, to receive order forms and/or promotions codes for these book discounts, contact the Society at ISHS@hnu.edu.**
International Society for Humor Studies
2010 Membership Application
Please use this form to join or renew with ISHS for 2010.

About ISHS
The International Society for Humor Studies is a scholarly and professional organization dedicated to the advancement of humor research. Many of the society’s members are university and college professors, representing the disciplines of psychology, philosophy, linguistics, literature, religion, biology, fine arts, anthropology, and education. The Society also includes professionals in areas such as counseling, management, journalism, nursing, and theater. All of the Society’s members are interested in the many facets of humor, including its role in entertainment, business, and health care as well as how humor varies according to culture, age, gender, situation, and historical context.

Membership Benefits
2010 ISHS members receive:
• A print or electronic subscription to Volume 23 of HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research
• A one-year subscription to the Society’s Newsletter
• Reduced registration fees to annual ISHS Humor Conferences and to ISHS-sponsored seminars
• Discounts on humor research books
• Online access to humor research bibliographies and other research materials
• Membership directories with contact information

Joining ISHS
You can join ISHS or renew your membership by completing the accompanying form and returning it with the appropriate fees to the Society’s Executive Secretary:

Martin Lampert, ISHS Executive Secretary
Holy Names University
3500 Mountain Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619, USA
Tel: 510-436-1532; E-mail: ishs@hnu.edu

Regular Membership includes either a print or an electronic online subscription to the Society’s journal, HUMOR. Dues are $105 for members who choose the print subscription and $65 for those who choose the online subscription. Regular members who renew by January 31, 2010 or join ISHS for the first time in 2010 may elect to take a $5 discount on their fees. No discounts are available to Associate Members.

Associates pay a low $30 fee (no discount available) and receive the Society’s e-newsletter, directories, reduced conference fees, bibliography access, and book discounts not requiring a journal subscription. Regular and Student Members receive these benefits plus the Society’s journal.

Name (print neatly): ____________________________
Department/Affiliation: ________________________
Affiliation Address: ____________________________
Affiliation Address: ____________________________
Mailing Address (if different from above): __________

Phone Numbers: ______________________________
E-mail: __________________ Fax: ______________

Please indicate your interests in humor research:

A. Status and Fees (check status & enter fee): $__

☐ Regular Member, Print Journal (USD $105)
☐ Regular Member, Online Journal (USD $65)
☐ Associate Member, No Journal (USD $30)

Regular Members who renew by January 31, 2010 or join ISHS for the first time in 2010 may reduce their fees by $5. No discounts are available to Associate Members.

B. Donation (enter optional contribution): $___

With your application, you can include a tax-deductible gift to the Holy Names University for ISHS Scholarships.

Total Amount Due (add A and B above): $____

Please indicate your method for dues payment.
☐ Check: Checks paid to the Society must be drawn on a U.S. bank and made out to Holy Names University.
☐ Credit Card: Please provide the following for credit cards. We accept only Visa, MasterCard, and AmEx.

Please indicate your method for dues payment.

Name on Card: ____________________________
Card Number: ____________________________
Card Company: __________ Expiration Date: __________
3 or 4 digit Authorization Code: __________
Code is on the back of Visa and MC; on front of AmEx.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________

Note: Card statements will show payee as Holy Names University.