The Humorous Times

Newsletter of the International Society for Humor Studies

Fall/Winter 2023 Volume 36, Issue 3/4

Association News

2023 ISHS Membership and Finances

Martin Lampert, ISHS Secretary-Treasurer



The International Society for Humor Studies had a good year in 2023 with 190 affiliates, including 174 new and returning members and 16 additional Board Members and Consulting Editors of the journal, *HUMOR*. From January 2005 through April 2023,

Holy Names University hosted the Society. Holy Names closed its doors after 150 years in existence. Mid-year, ISHS reorganized as separate nonprofit organization in Oakland, California, and Holy Names University transferred to the Society its revenue from prior dues and from the 2015 ISHS Conference held at HNU. As of November 2023, the Society was financially sound with \$86,337.60 in unaudited revenue, including \$62,390.51 carried over from 2022, \$12,807.97 from 2023 membership dues, \$10,989.19 from the 2015 ISHS Conference account, and \$149.93 in vendor credits. Operating expenses for 2023 included \$912.38 for online services and bank fees, \$853.74 for legal services and nonprofit administration, \$86.26 for service awards, and \$9,549.00 for membership subscriptions to *HUMOR: International Journal for Humor Research*. Revenue over expenses by the end of 2023 is estimated to be \$74,936.22.

Between January and November 2023, ISHS received an additional \$1,011.24 for the ISHS Scholarship fund. The scholarship currently holds \$19,043.63. At each ISHS Conference, the Society presents three to four graduate student awards. This past summer, the Society presented four student awards, including the Don and Alleen Nilson Young Scholar Award and the Christie Davies Award. As always, I would like to thank the members who made contributions to the ISHS Scholarship Fund, and I would welcome others to make donations with their 2023 membership applications for future scholarships.

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Next Issue

The next *The Humorous Times* is due Winter/Spring 2024.

You can join the Society or renew your ISHS membership for 2024 on the Society's website at https://humorstudies.org, beginning in December. On the membership page, you will find a link that will allow you to renew your membership. On the online application form, you will see the Society's current fee structure, which offers membership with either an online or print subscription to the Society's journal, *HUMOR*. For the current year, *HUMOR* will have more original research articles, and print subscribers will receive online access to the 2023 *HUMOR* book reviews, which will be published only online. Membership is still \$69 with an online subscription and \$130 with a print subscription. Subscribing members who join or renew by January 31 can take a \$5.00 discount. Please note that renewal includes a 3% plus \$1 processing fee. 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 plus processing.

Finally, thank you for your support of the International Society for Humor Studies. Your participation in ISHS helps to advance the importance of humor research and, as always, is greatly appreciated.

2023 ISHS Election

Every two years, the International Society for Humor Studies holds an election for ISHS President and for two new Members-at-Large to the ISHS Executive Board. The new ISHS President will serve for two years, from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, and will take over from Sharon Lockyer (Brunel University, UK), who will continue on the ISHS Board as the immediate Past President. The new Members-at-Large will replace Jennifer Hofmann (University of Zurich, Switzerland) and Villy Tsakona (National & Kapodistrian University, Greece), who have served on the ISHS Board since January 2020. The new Board Members will serve for four years from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2027.

For our 2023 Election, the Society is pleased to present the following two candidates for ISHS President and six candidates for ISHS Board Member-at-Large. Online balloting will run from November 28, 2023 through December 28, 2023.

Candidates for ISHS President



Władysław Chłopicki, PhD Jagiellonian University, Poland

Władysław Chłopicki, Ph.D., is Professor at the Institute of English Studies, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. He is also Professor at State Academy of Applied Sciences in Krosno in southeastern Poland. Władysław is firmly engaged in the cross-cultural and

interdisciplinary study of the language of humor as well as humor translation. He has edited and co-edited several article collections, including *Culture's Software: Communication Styles, and Humorous Discourse*, published by De Gruyter in the *Humor Research* series. He is a co-editor of *Handbook of Humor Research* (forthcoming in 2024 with De Gruyter). His most recent focus has been humor in the public sphere: he has led and participated in a number of related European grants with research results systematically published on the website humorinpublic.eu. Władysław has participated in numerous humor conferences since 1987 and convened the 2012 ISHS conference in Kraków. He has also co-organized national biannual linguistics conferences in Kraków since 2000, which have drawn scholars from language, culture and teaching departments across Poland and have included humor research sessions. He is a founding editorial member of the *European Journal of Humour Research*. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of *HUMOR*, the *Israeli Journal of Humor Research*, and the *RISU* journal. He has served previously as ISHS President and as an Executive Board member for one term. He strongly believes in the power of interdisciplinary and international dialogue and ground-breaking debate in the study of humor and laughter and in bringing in more, especially young, scholars from across the globe into ISHS.



Liisi Laineste, PhD Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia

Liisi Laineste is a leading researcher at the Department of Folkloristics of the Estonian Literary Museum and a research fellow at Tartu University. Her research focuses on folk humor and its online manifestations, and as the head of the CEES working group of

contemporary culture and media, she has published widely on internet humor. She has written articles, edited books and journal issues on ethnic humor, contemporary folklore, and online communication. Her work represents an interdisciplinary angle and combines folkloristics with linguistics, psychology, sociology, and communication studies. She has a standing interest in digital humanities, organizing the Estonian yearly DH conferences and promoting digital methods through workshops, lectures and research. In 2018, she organized the 30th ISHS conference in Tallinn, Estonia. She aims at raising a wider interest in the ISHS and especially promoting the integration of newcomers - students, early career researchers and established scholars alike - to the society at the annual conferences and in-between conference events.

Candidates for ISHS Board Member-at-Large



Nicholas Holm, PhD Massey University, New Zealand

Nicholas Holm is an Associate Professor in Media Studies at Massey University, New Zealand. Drawing on cultural studies and critical theory, his research explores humor in the context of media, culture, and communication, with an emphasis on the political and

social function of humor. As the editor of *Comedy Studies*, he is an advocate for cultural, critical, and interpretive approaches to the study of humor. His most recent publications include articles on the politics of popular humor (*European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2022), the limitations of satire as an analytic category (*Thesis Eleven*, 2023), and forthcoming work on humor and dignity in the *European Journal of Humour Research*. He is the author of *Humour as Politics* (Palgrave, 2017) and is currently working on a monograph exploring fun as a social and political category. He is also a book reviews editor for Humor, a long-standing member of the review panel of the *Australasian Humour Studies Network* (AHSN), and a regular author of columns, essays, and reviews on comedy in the New Zealand news media.



Alyona Ivanova, PhD Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, Russia

Alyona Ivanova is an Assistant Professor in clinical psychology at the Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University and a Senior Researcher in the Mental Health Research Center. Her research interests include humor disorders in psychiatric patients and

patients with brain damage, suicidal humor, humor and burnout, humor and giftedness, hospital clowning and other areas of the psychology of humor. She was a co-organizer of the *Gelological Congress* in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 and the *15th International Summer School on Humour and Laughter* in 2015 in Saint Petersburg. Alyona was one of guest editors in the Special Issue of the *European Journal of Humour Research* (2021) and its regular reviewer. She is a member of the scientific committee of the *RISU: Rivista Italiana di Studi sull'Umorismo*. Her PhD dissertation defended in 2007 was dedicated to humor disorders in patients with schizophrenia and affective disorders. Since then, she has published several articles and book reviews, and supervised students' studies in humor research. She has been a regular ISHS conferences participant since 2005.



Andrés Mendiburo-Seguel, PhD Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile

Andrés Mendiburo-Seguel is a social psychologist and Associate Professor at Universidad Andrés Bello in Chile. He obtained his doctorate degree at the University of the Basque Country in Donostia, working on the topic of humor as a coping mechanism and emotional regulation. Since 2015, he has focused on experimental

political psychology and has been awarded two projects funded by the National Research and Development Agency (ANID) of the Government of Chile. The first was focused on determining the effects of political humor on trust in politicians, and the second one (currently under development) on the effects of politicians' humor on citizens. Along with this, he has worked and published validating scales such as the Humor Styles Questionnaire and the Comic Styles Markers in the Chilean and Latin American context. Along with this, he has focused much of his work on bringing people closer to the study of humor and its importance, conducting open courses on the psychology of humor, workshops, and lectures with academics and comedians in Chile. Since July 2023, Andrés has been a consulting editor of the Editorial Board of *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*.



Béatrice Priego-Valverde, PhD Aix-Marseille University, France

Béatrice Priego-Valverde is Associate Professor in linguistics at Aix-Marseille University, Aix-en-Provence, France and at Laboratoire Parole et Langage (CNRS). Her main area of research is conversational humor she analyzes within Discourse Analysis, Interactional Linguistics and Conversation Analysis frameworks. She has published on

(failed) humor in conversation, self-deprecating humor and teasing in conversation. More recently, she analyses conversational humor with a multimodal approach. She has also constituted various conversational corpora audio and video recordings, and she is involved in the ethics committee of her laboratory.



Julia Rayz, Ph.D Purdue University, Indiana, USA

Julia Rayz is a Professor of Computer and Information Technology and a University Faculty Scholar at Purdue University. Her research focuses on natural language understanding which cannot be complete without humor. Julia received a 2004 ISHS Emergent Scholar Awards while completing her MS in Computer Science, with a focus

on computational humor. Her 2008 PhD Dissertation was titled, *Towards Informal Computer Human Communication: Detecting Humor in Restricted Domain.* Julia's introduction to ISHS began in 2003 from participation in ISHS-endorsed International Summer School and Symposium on Humour and Laughter. Since then, she has taught multiple courses in the Summer School, organized 2017 Summer School at Purdue University, and presently serves on the Summer School Board. Julia has published over 150 papers on computational humor, natural language understanding, ontologies, and fuzzy logic. Her research on computational humor is partially funded by the National Science Foundation (USA) and industry. Julia was a co-organizer of AAAI 2012 Fall Symposium on Artificial Intelligence of Humor, and a co-organizer of Humor and AI panels at four ISHS conferences. She serves as a Consulting Editor for *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, was one of the Book Review Editors for *HUMOR* for several years and is a member of the International Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Humour Research*.



Simon Weaver, PhD Brunel University, United Kingdom

Simon Weaver is a Reader in Media and Communications in the Department of Social and Political Sciences, and a member of the Centre for Comedy Studies Research, at Brunel University London, UK. Simon's research focuses on the connections between rhetoric, humor and joking. This has included the rhetorical nature of racial and racist

humour and more recently, the relationship between comedy, irony and populism. His most recent book, The *Rhetoric of Brexit Humour: Comedy Populism and the EU Referendum*, published in September 2021, explores the role of humor and comedy in debates around Brexit and populism. His first book, *The Rhetoric of Racist Humour, US, UK and Global Race Joking* (2001), significantly contributed to debates on the role of humor and joking in racisms. Simon has published 38 articles, book chapters and reviews, and has presented his research internationally in a number of countries. He has discussed his research in a variety of international media, including on BBC radio and television, in the *Times Higher Education, Los Angeles Review of Books, The Conversation* and *The Montreal Gazette*. Simon completed his PhD in 2007 in the Department of Sociology, University of Bristol, with a thesis entitled *Humour, Rhetoric and Racism: A Sociological Critique of Racist Humour.* That thesis formed the basis of his first book. His first journal article, "The 'Other' Laughs Back: Humour and Resistance in Anti-Racist Comedy," won the British Sociological Association's 'Sage Prize for Innovation and Excellence 2011. He has been a member of the International Society for Humor Studies since 2005.

More ISHS News

Specialist Interest Groups

The Society is pleased to announce the addition of nine specialist interest groups (SIGs), each organized to advance and raise the profiles of research areas within humor studies. These interest groups along with their group leaders (in parentheses) are as follows:

- Humor and AI (Tristan Miller, Christian Hempelmann, & Julia Rayz)
- Humor and the Global South (Joao Capelotti, Diego Hoefel, & Rujuta Date)
- Humor and Religion (Nicole Graham & Lina Liederman)
- Humor, Free Speech, and the Law (Alberto Godioli & Laura Little)
- Online Humor (Lissi Laineste & Anastasiya Fiodotava)
- Multimodal and Interactional Humor (Elisa Gironzetti & Beatrice Priego-Valverde)
- Business and Media (David McGee & Jon Sandling)
- Performing Comedy (Craig Draheim & Alexander Sparrow)
- Screen Comedy (William Costanzo & Terry Lindvall)
- Humor and Translation (Chiara Bucaria & Anthony Mitzel)

These interest groups all aim to promote collaboration among scholars and professionals on humor research in their field of specialization. Full descriptions of these interest groups along with contact links are available on the ISHS website at https://humorstudies.org. ISHS members can join the interest groups of their choosing by contacting the SIG organizers or by registering in the newly created ISHS Research Forum at https://humorstudies.org/Forum. Members can propose additional Specialist Interest Groups. For information on how to propose a SIG, contact the ISHS Executive Secretary at humorstudies@outlook.com.

ISHS Online Research Forum

ISHS has established an online forum for members to post announcements and share information with each other. The ISHS Forum also contains separate forums for each of our specialist interest groups. ISHS members can register for the Forum and participate in the Specialist Interest Groups by going online to https://humorstudies.org/Forum. As part of forum registration, members can create their own forum name/handle and password, but must register with their ISHS e-mail to verify that they are an active ISHS member. Only verified ISHS members can receive an active forum account.

ISHS Listserv

Working with Moira Marsh at Indiana University, ISHS has launched a listserv for members to post and share news and special events. This listserv has been specifically created to enable members to communicate with each other, exchange ideas, and share information so that we can build a larger community and identity. Members can submit listserv items to isis-l@list.indiana.edu.

ISHS Logo Competition

From the ISHS Executive Board

At the ISHS Conference in Boston, ISHS members expressed an interest to update the Society's logo seen here. To provide all ISHS members with an opportunity to participate in a redesign of our logo, the ISHS Executive Board launched a logo competition. However, the Board received few Fall entries and decided to extend the competition. To enter the competition, interested members can design and submit one or more logo entries. The designs must be original, reflective of the Society's nature, and suitable for an international audience. Each entry should further include the submitter's name and contact information along with their graphic design in a jpg or png file that does not exceed 1 MB in size. All entries should be e-mailed to the ISHS Executive Secretary at humorstudies@outlook.com by February 10, 2023. The ISHS Board will review all entries, and in Spring 2024, current members will have an opportunity to vote on the Board approved submissions along with the current logo. The winning submission will become the Society's new logo on its stationary, website, and announcements, and the winning logo creator will receive a prize of \$150.00.

Upcoming Events



2024 ISHS/HR Conference

Online, April 19-21, 2024

The 34th ISHS Conference will be held online from April 19 to 21, in conjunction with the 2024 Humor Research Conference, and will continue with a weekly webinar series through June. Christian Hempelmann and Salvatore Attardo (Texas A&M University, Commerce) will host the April Conference with a call for papers deadline of January 31, 2024. The website for the joint ISHS/HR Conference will be available by December 8, 2023, with additional details about submissions and registration. For additional information, about the April Conference, visit the ISHS/HR website at https://www.tamuc.edu/humor.

Thirtieth Annual AHSN Colloquium

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, February 7-9, 2024

The 30th Colloquium of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) will be held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. The colloquium conveners are Wei-Lin Melody Chang, Michael Haugh, and Valerie Sinkeviciute. The colloquium theme will be The Language of Humour. For more information, contact the colloquium organizers at ahsnconference@gmail.com or visit the AHSN website at https://ahsnhumourstudies.org/annual-conference.

Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Play Rochester, New York, USA, March 20-23, 2024

The 50th Annual Meeting of The Association for the Study of Play will take place at the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York. For more information, visit the TASP website at https://studyofplay.org.

Thirty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor

Denver, Colorado, April 4-7, 2024

The theme of the 37th AATH Conference will be Serious about Humor. Conference discounts are available to ISHS members. For more information, visit the AATH Conference page at http://www.aath.org.

Humour, Satire and Play in History, Pedagogy, and Therapy University of Northhampton, Waterside Campus, United Kingdom, June 27-28, 2024

This two-day conference aims to interrogate the many uses of humour, and related topics of satire and play, both in the past and in the contemporary world. We invite contributions in the form of 20-minute papers and proposals for 90-minute panels. We also welcome other formats based on 20-minute and 90-minute timeframes, such as interviews, performances and dramatizations, and workshop sessions. Submit presentation proposals to Siobhan Hyland: Siobhan.hyland@northampton.ac.uk by January 31, 2024. For more information contact the conveners, Mark Rothery at mark.rothery@northampton.ac.uk or Paul

Recent Publications



The Multimodal Performance of Conversational Humor

Elisa Gironzetti (2022). *The Multimodal Performance of Conversational Humor.* John Benjamins, 235 pp., ISBN 978-9-02721099-9; E-ISBN 978-9-0272-5785-7

From the Publisher: This volume is the first monograph exploring the functions of visual cues in humor, advocating for the development of a non-linguocentric theory of humor performance. It analyzes a corpus of dyadic, face-to-face interactions in Spanish and English to study the relationship between humor, smiling, and gaze, and shows how, by focusing on these elements, it is possible to shed light on the "unsaid" of conversations. In the book, the

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humorous framing of an utterance is shown to be negotiated and co-constructed dialogically and multimodally, through changes and patterns of smiling synchronicity, smiling intensity, and eye movements. The study also analyzes the multimodal features of failed humor and proposes a new categorization from a dialogic perspective. Because of its interdisciplinary approach, which includes facial expression analysis and eye tracking, this book is relevant to humor researchers as well as scholars in social and behavioral sciences interested in multimodality and embodied cognition.

Interactional Humor: Multimodal Design and Negotiation

Beatrice Priego-Valverde, Ed. (2023). *Interactional Humor: Multimodal Design and Negotiation.* De Gruyter, 356 pp., ISBN-13: 978-3-1109-9633-3; E-ISBN: 978-3-1109-8312-8



From the Publisher: The central question explored in this volume is: How is humor multimodally produced, perceived, responded to, and negotiated? To this end, it offers a panorama of linguistic research on multimodal and interactional humor, based on different theoretical frameworks, corpora, and methodologies. Humor is considered as an activity that is interactionally achieved, regardless of whether the interaction in which it is embedded is face-to-face, computer-mediated, with a human or a robot, oral or written. The aim is to analyze both the linguistic resources of the participants (such as their lexicon, prosody, gestures, gazes, or smiles) and the semiotic resources that social networks and

instant messaging platforms offer them (such as memes, gifs, or emojis).

Transmedial Perspectives on Humour and Translation

Loukia Kostopoulou & Vasiliki Misiou, Eds. (2023). *Transmedial Perspectives on Humour and Translation. Routledge*, E-ISBN: 978-1-0033-1710-4



From the Publisher: This innovative collection spotlights the role of media crossovers in humor translation and how the latter is conveyed through new means of communication. The volume offers an in-depth exploration of the entanglements of film, theatre, literature, TV, the Internet, etc., within the framework of transmediality and their influence on the practice of translating humor. Chapters focus on the complex web of interrelationships shaped by and shaping the process(es) of transformation and adaptation that take place across media and across languages and cultures. Situating translation practices and innovations within an interdisciplinary context, the volume

underscores the hybrid nature and complex semiotics of humour and the plurality of possibilities for new insights that contemporary approaches offer driven by technological advancements in the industry. The book will be of particular interest to scholars and researchers in the fields of Translation Studies, Humor Studies, Audiovisual Translation, Media Studies, and Adaptation Studies.

The Humorous Times announces recent articles from HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research and by researchers who publish elsewhere within humor studies. The following list, compiled by the ISHS Executive Secretary, includes articles published since September 2023. If you have a recent publication, let us know. We will include it in a future newsletter.

Aerila, J. A., Rönkkö, M. L., & Stenius, T. (2023). Humor as a source for collaborative storytelling: perspectives on dynamic and static stories. *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, 36(4), 607-629. https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2023-0047

Anderson, L. (2023). Why so serious? An inquiry on racist jokes. *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 54(3), 370–384. https://doi.org/10.1111/josp.12384

Aydin, Z. (2023). Laughing matter(s): Reactions of Muslims in Europe to Islamophobia and the role of comic relief. *Journal of Muslims in Europe*, 12(3), 285–302. https://doi.org/10.1163/22117954-bja10082

Brown, M., Brown, M. R., & Buckner, Z. (2023). Whither the silly goose: Clarifying women's preference for men's successful humor displays across mating contexts and social affordance judgments. *Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences*. https://doi.org/10.1037/ebs0000338

Brugman, B. C., Burgers, C., Beukeboom, C. J., & Konijn, E. A. (2023). Humor in satirical news Headlines: Analyzing humor form and content, and their relations with audience engagement. *Mass Communication & Society*, 26(6), 963–990. https://doi.org/10.1080/15205436.2022.2144747

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- Cottingham, M. D., & Rose, A. (2023). Tweeting Jokes, Tweeting Hope: Humor Practices during the 2014 Ebola Outbreak. *Health Communication*, *38*(9), 1954–1963. https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2022.2045059
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- Franchin, L., Osler, G., Frizzera, M., Geraci, A., Surian, L., & Hadjichristidis, C. (2023). Smiling at moral misbehaviors: The effect of violation benignness and psychological distance. *Motivation and Emotion*, 47(5), 726–738. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11031-023-10028-z
- Galloway, G. (2023). The Humor Styles Questionnaire: a critique of scale construct validity and recommendations regarding individual differences in style profiles. *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, *36*(4), 631-649. https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2023-0086
- Gloveli, N., Simonnet, J., Tang, W., Concha-Miranda, M., Maier, E., Dvorzhak, A., Schmitz, D., & Brecht, M. (2023). Play and tickling responses map to the lateral columns of the rat periaqueductal gray. *Neuron*, *111*(19), 3041. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2023.06.018
- Hellmann, O. (2023). Animated satire and collective memory: reflecting on the American "history wars" with *The Simpsons. HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research*, *36*(4), 567-586. https://doi.org/10.1515/humor-2022-0131
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- Rodriguez, L. V. (2023). "El Mexicano se ríe de sus desgracias": Adolescent arrivals and humour in an anti-immigrant context. *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, 46(12), 2747–2767. https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2023.2182648
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In Remembrance



Mary Ann Rishel July 12, 1940 - July 25, 2023

Mary Ann Rishel was a long-time member of the International Society for Humor Studies and in 1994, she served as the Society's President and Convenor of the Society's annual conference. She grew up in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and went on to earn a B.A. and M. A. at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a Master of Fine Arts in writing at Cornell University. A story from her Cornell thesis, "Staus," was published in the Hudson Review and later was

included in Best American Short Stories (Houghton Mifflin, 1978). This story was also produced in the 1992 PBS series, *Aging in America*, and was included in Narodny Kalendar, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Slovak Society. She published several other short stories, and in 2002, Wayne State Press published her nonfiction book, *Writing Humor: Creativity and the Comic Mind.* From 1975 to 2002, she taught writing at Ithaca College, and in 2003, she accepted a professorship with the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, where she continued to teach writing as well as medical humanities, critical analysis, and moral epistemologies. Her last publication, "For Better or for Worse: A Marriage of Humor and Comedy," came out in June 2023 in the volume, *Teaching Comedy*, published by the Modern Language Association. Over the last 30-plus years, Mary Ann had been a gracious supporter of the International Society for Humor Studies, contributing generously to the ISHS scholarship fund each year and lending assistance when needed. She will be greatly missed.



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