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**LAUNCH OF NEW AHSN WEB-SITE**

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**MESSAGE FROM PROF. GERALDINE BARNES FAHA, Head, School of Letters, Art and Media, University of Sydney:**

Dear members of the Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN)

I am pleased to announce the launch of the new web-site for the Australasian Humour Studies Network, hosted by the School of Letters, Art and Media (SLAM) in the Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney, where AHSN Co-ordinator, Jessica Milner Davis, is now an Honorary Associate.

As part of our support for the work of the AHSN, a new and expanded web-site has been designed and is ready to be launched. It offers many resources for humour scholars, provides a complete Archive of past AHSN events, and links to the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) and other humour-related research groups around the world. Details of upcoming AHSN Colloquia and related events are also posted on the site.

Please draw the web-site to the attention of others who might be interested in joining the E-list Network – this can be done on line, and e-mail addresses and other details can also be updated at

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/humourstudies>

I welcome you to the School and look forward to a successful future for the AHSN.

Geraldine Barnes

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**MESSAGE OF GREETINGS** from AHSN co-ordinator, Jessica Milner Davis:

I hope you enjoy our new web-site with its slightly varied title. On advice from the University of Sydney's very supportive IT specialists who have been assisting me to build an attractive and functional new web-site, AHSN has morphed from a 'Humour Scholars Network' into a 'Humour Studies Network'. The terminology helps with on-line searches and links to the ISHS (international Society for Humor Studies) – but the acronym happily remains the same! Please have a look at the new contents:

- Lists of on-line resources
- Links to members' recent books on humour research
- Complete archives of all AHSN events
- Cartoons and images from both AHSN and ISHS events (courtesy of various photographers and especially, Lindsay Foyle, pocket cartoonist extraordinaire)
- IMPORTANT INFORMATION about the **FEBRUARY 2009 COLLOQUIUM, 20-21 FEBRUARY**, at The Womens College, University of Sydney, including Registration Form and Information Sheet
- 'CALL FOR PAPERS' ON-LINE SUBMISSION -- **DEADLINE: 17 NOVEMBER, 2008**

**IMPORTANT ADMINISTRIVIA:** Shortly after you receive this Newsletter, the new mailing list will “go live” and you will hopefully receive an unsolicited “Welcome Message” to the new list which is of course linked to the new web-site. Please follow the instructions in this message to ensure that you remain on the mailing list – or that you are removed from it, if that is your wish. In case of problems, email me at [jessica.davis@usyd.edu.au](mailto:jessica.davis@usyd.edu.au)

Best wishes and hope to see you at the February Colloquium.

Jessica

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**ADDITIONAL NOTICES**

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**World Première of new Translation of Aristophanes’ Comedy, *Peace***

Aristophanes *Peace*, directed in his own new translation by Michael Ewans and starring Carl Caulfield as Trygaios, Wed-Sat 1-4 April 2009 at 730 pm in the Drama Theatre at the University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus. All AHSN members welcome. Experience this classical dramatist’s lively satire translated for today’s audiences (Michael presented about the challenge this presents at the February 2008 Colloquium). For further information, tel: 02 49 21 5001

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**Martin Place, Sydney, Exhibition of Michael Leunig Cartoons**

On Wednesday, 8 October, 2008 -- World Mental Health Day – the NSW Mental Health Association organized another *Healthy Minds Festival* in Martin Place, Sydney, to which Sundar Ramanathaiyer and Jim Bridges contributed a Michael Leunig cartoon exhibition on the theme of ‘Celebrations’. Sundar and Jim initiated the idea last year and once again their contribution drew the attention of passers-by to the themes and needs of sufferers and non-sufferers alike. [Hint: if you visit the web-site you will spot both these gentlemen and you can also read a detailed review of Sundar’s book on the important Indian cartoonist, O. J. Vijayan]

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**Arts in Dementia: the Role of Humour**

Dr Peter Spitzer, founder of The Humour Foundation and its Clown Doctors, has returned from presenting on his program for hospitals and caring institutions of ‘The LaughterBoss’ at the 3rd International Conference on Creative Expression, Communication and Dementia, organized by The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care: <http://www.cecd-society.org> Peter is seeking NHMRC funding for an evaluation program on which he hopes to report at a future AHSN Colloquium. Peter also taught at Windsor Uni, Ontario, and recently gave a workshop at the National Dementia Research Forum in Sydney entitled ‘Finding the Funny Bone in Dementia Care’.

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**20<sup>th</sup> ISHS Conference at University de Alcalà, Alcalà de Heñares, Birthplace of Miguel Cervantes**

Several intrepid (and very fortunate) AHSN members were able to attend the 2008 ISHS Conference, enjoying the historic surroundings and summer sun of La Mancha. David Rawlings (Melbourne), Jessica Davis (Sydney), Bruce Findlay and Maren Rawlings (Swinburne UT) and Mike Lloyd from VUWellington, as well as Goh Abe from Japan, all read their papers and caught up on the latest

presentations on gelotophobia, hedonics and humour, and other topics. [Hint: visit the new web-site to swoon with envy at the experience of mediaeval musicians piping delegates into the banquet-hall of the Parador at Siguenza, and spot Don Quixote and Sancho, large as life].

The 21<sup>st</sup> ISHS Conference will be in Long Beach, California, 17-22 June, 2009 (Chair, Dr Amy Bippus, Communication Studies, California State University at Long Beach). Call for proposals opens December 1<sup>st</sup> and closes March 1, 2009 and you must register when making a submission. Conference web-site: <http://www.ishs2009.com/> The 22<sup>nd</sup> ISHS Conference will be hosted by the City University of Hong Kong, 24-27 June, 2010 (Chair, Dr Xiaodong Yue, Psychology, CUHK).

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### **Hold the Pickle!' Enjoys Extended Success in Melbourne**

Rachel Berger's most recent show, *Hold the Pickle!*, is having an extended season of four days only, 16-19 October, at Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne, following a sell-out run at La Mama. Rachel brings her unique comic style to the demanding subjects of her parents' precarious survival as Jews in German occupied Poland and thus to her own cultural heritage -- and the audiences love it, according to <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2008/06/25/1214073299201.html>

For bookings tel: 03 8290 7000 or visit <http://www.chapeloffchapel.com.au>

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### **'Deus Ridens: The Redemptive Power of Humor in Religion' at Universiteit Antwerpen, April 2009**

The University Centre Saint-Ignatius at Antwerp, Belgium (UCSIA) is planning an International conference entitled 'DEUS RIDENS: THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF HUMOR IN RELIGION' from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21st April 2009 in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Hans Geybels of the Department of Systematic Theology of the Catholic University of Leuven (spokesperson of Cardinal Danneels) and Prof. Dr. Walter Van Herck of the Department of Philosophy of Religion and the Centre Pieter Gillis of the University of Antwerp.

The call for papers is now open and submission and application forms as well as more information can be found posted on the AHSN website at "Related Events". The deadline for submission is 1 December 2008. For more information, contact Heleen Van Nyen, Project Coordination, at: [heleen.vannyen@student.kuleuven.be](mailto:heleen.vannyen@student.kuleuven.be) or visit UCSIA at [www.ucsia.org](http://www.ucsia.org)