Dear colleagues:

The General Foundation of the University of Alcalá (FGUA) is preparing the 20th International Society for Humor Studies Conference, which will take place in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid) from July 7th to July 11th 2008.

This communication is the first of a series that we will be sending in the next months in preparation for the conference.

The FGUA has created three committees that will coordinate the organization of the conference (Scientific Committee, Organizing Committee and Executive Committee), and a Technical Secretariat. This Secretariat, which will be in charge of future communications, can be contacted at the following address:

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Departamento de Formación y Congresos
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28801 Alcalá de Henares
Phone: + 34 91 879 74 30    Fax: + 34 91 879 74 55
E-mail: 20ISHS@fgua.es    WEB: Http://www.20ISHS.fgua.es/
Office timetable:
Mondays to Thursdays, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Fridays, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (Central European Time, GMT +1)

The members of each committee are listed on our website. Organizing coordinators will be Begoña Carbelo, Juan García and Carmen Valero.

The University of Alcalá is one of the most ancient in Europe. It was founded by Cardinal Cisneros in 1499 on the foundation of an earlier college (Los Estudios Generales) created by Sancho IV in 1293. Today the University of Alcalá is one of the most important universities and research centers in Spain, with over 20,000 students working in different areas. For further information about the University of Alcalá, please visit www.uah.es
The General Foundation of the University of Alcalá is an autonomous institution created by the university which carries out various academic and cultural initiatives. Among other projects, for many years the FGUA has developed a broad program devoted to humor. This program pursues various lines of work, including:

- Publications: The graphic humor information magazine “Quevedos”, and the book collection “Graphic Humor History in Latin America”.

- Awards: This foundation is in charge of the Latin American Graphic Humor Award “Quevedos”, announced by the Spanish Culture and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministries.

- Exhibitions: This institution develops a wide exhibitive activity, with works from different collections, as well as from its own.

- Teaching: Different courses and conferences are given. “Graphic Humor as a Didactic Resource” and “Graphic Humor and Communication” are two of the most important.

- Humor Aula: A network of Humor Researchers in Spain, who meet once a year at a seminar organized by the FGUA.

- Research: Several research programs devoted to humor are developed in the different departments of the Universidad de Alcalá. The main lines of these programs are:
  - Humor and Health, directed by Professor Begoña Carbelo.
  - Humor and Pedagogy, directed by Professor Pilar La Casa.
  - Humor, Translation and Migration, directed by Professor Carmen Valero.

In addition, the Graphic Humor Department of the FGUA, directed by Juan García, develops different research programs related to Graphic Humor, such as: Graphic Humor and Terrorism, Spanish Graphic Humor and Exile, etc… For further information about the General Foundation of the University of Alcalá, please visit www.fgua.es

All the information regarding the 20th ISHS Conference will be available on the Web at www.20ishs.fgua.es. It will be available in both Spanish and English, as these will be the official conference languages. The Conference logo has been designed by the cartoonist and graphic designer Jesús Zulet.
Inscription fees for the Conference are:

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<th>Before March 20th</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISHS members</td>
<td>€ 175</td>
<td>€ 250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>€ 225</td>
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<td>Students</td>
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Inscription fee includes:
- Book of abstracts
- Attendance certificate
- Lunches
- Coffee-breaks
- Welcome Cocktail
- Spanish wine at the Closing Ceremony
- Gala dinner
- Tourist trip to Madrid
- Tourist trip to Sigüenza
- Tourist trip to Alcalá de Henares.

We hope that this information will be useful. The organization will be sending periodic updates and information as the conference approaches.

Best regards,

Juan García Cerrada
On behalf of the Organizing Committee