

**Don and Alleen Nilsen, Co-Founders**  
**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMOR STUDIES**  
**Co-Chairs, Emeritus Humanities Faculty**  
**Arizona State University**  
**1884 East Alameda Drive**  
**Tempe, AZ 85282-2873**

**Name:** Don and Alleen Nilsen Young-Scholars Award for Humor Research

**Amount of Donation:** \$10,000 to be donated to Holy Names University for scholarship distribution through the International Society for Humor Studies. Our suggestion is \$1,000 per year from 2012 to 2021, divided into one \$500 First Place award and two Runner-up Awards of \$250 each. These will be awarded at the annual conference of the International Society for Humor Studies.

**Purpose:** To inspire young scholars to prepare high quality presentations for the annual ISHS Conferences. The judges would look for such qualities as originality, value to the field of humor studies, accuracy of information, and skill in presentation.

**Eligibility:** Students enrolled in graduate programs (masters or doctoral level) but who have not yet completed all of their requirements. Their academic advisors will need to sign the application form documenting that they are students in good standing.

**Suggested Procedures:** When applicants submit their conference proposals, they will check that they wish to be considered for one of the Don and Alleen Nilsen Young-Scholar Awards. If their proposal is accepted, they will be asked to send in a form along with their complete written paper at least six weeks prior to the conference so that it will be eligible for judging in the competition. Once the judges have made their decision, all applicants should be notified of the winners prior to the conference so they will know whether or not they can count on the additional money to help cover conference costs. To receive the prize money, the individuals must present their papers in person at the conference. Papers co-written with an advisor will not be eligible. But if two students work together, they could be co-recipients of the prize and split the money evenly. It would be good if winners were given some kind of documentation and a special place on the program. A congratulatory letter sent to each winner's university and a press release sent to their local news outlets would provide good publicity both for the recipients and the ISHS organization.

**Selection Committee:** The conference organizer should serve as chair and select two other ISHS members to serve as judges for the award. People should not agree to be a judge if they are "sponsoring" a student in the competition. It would also be good if committee members could represent different areas of expertise in the field of humor studies. For convenience, it might be efficient to have the same people who are judging proposals serve on the Awards committee, but that might be asking for too much work from them. The conference organizer is probably the best person to direct the affair, but he or she might decide on a different plan, such as asking the three most recent past presidents or three specified members of the Executive Committee to be the judges.