



## **Gina Ventre of Columbus, Ohio, Wins 2010 James Jones First Novel Fellowship**

WILKES-BARRE, PA. (Oct. 1, 2010) – The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual James Jones First Novel Fellowship awarded first place and \$10,000 to Gina Ventre of Columbus, Ohio, for her novel *Moon's Extra Mile*. The competition is co-sponsored by the Graduate Creative Writing Program of Wilkes University and the James Jones Literary Society.

Ventre was notified by competition judge Kaylie Jones, daughter of James Jones, a Wilkes creative writing professor and founder of the fellowship.

The James Jones First Novel Fellowship was established in 1992 to “honor the spirit of unblinking honesty, determination, and insight into modern culture as exemplified by (the writings of) James Jones.” It is awarded to an American author of a first novel-in-progress. This year’s competition drew 502 submissions.

Runners-up in the competition were David Kim of Costa Mesa, Calif., for his manuscript *Serendipity*; and Laura Walter of Lakewood, Ohio, for her manuscript *Finding Opal*. They were each awarded \$750.

Five finalists rounded out the top eight of 502 submissions. Finalists include Rita Ariyoshi of Honolulu, Hawaii, for *The Black Confessor*; William Henry of St. Paul, Minn., for *Seven Acts of Mercy*; Geraldine Johnson of St. Paul, Minn., for *The Wish Bone Collection*; Holly Goddard Jones of Greensboro, N.C., for *The Remains*; and Frank Wallace of Cape Neddick, Maine, for *Simon Seeker*.

Requests for guidelines for entering the annual competition should be sent, along with a stamped, self-address envelope, to James Jones First Novel Fellowship, c/o The Graduate Creative Writing Department, Wilkes University, 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, or via e-mail to [jamesjonesfirstnovel@wilkes.edu](mailto:jamesjonesfirstnovel@wilkes.edu).