

Vassar Instructor Receives 1996 First Novel Award

Vassar College English teacher Greg Herbeck is the 1996 winner of the Society's First Novel Fellowship Award for his novel-in-progress, *The Hindenburg Crashes Nightly*.

The \$2,500 award was presented to Herbeck at the sixth annual James Jones Literary Society symposium Nov. 2 in Springfield, Ill.

Herbeck, 27, is a recent graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the recipient of a 1995 James Michener Fellowship. Prior to entering the workshop, he taught kindergarten for three years in San Francisco and New York.

His novel explores a young man's contemporary experience of abortion and his childhood memories of his mother's fatal decision to carry a high-risk pregnancy to term.

The Society's fellowship program is intended to honor the spirit of the unblinking honesty, determination and insight into modern culture exemplified by James Jones, who also received aid from many supporters as a young writer.

This year's recipient was chosen by a panel composed of J. Michael Lennon, vice president for academic affairs at Wilkes University; Patricia B. Heaman, English department chair at Wilkes; Kaylie Jones, novelist and daughter of James Jones; Jon Shirota, a California writer; and Kevin Heisler, a New York City writer.