

Robert Shuster: 2011 James Jones First Novel Fellowship Winner

Robert Shuster from Bedford, NY is the recipient of the 2011 James Jones First Novel Fellowship for his novel in-progress entitled, *TO ZENZI*. The First Novel Fellowship is co-sponsored by the James Jones Literary Society and the Wilkes University Graduate Creative Writing Program. 2011 marks the 20th year anniversary of this fellowship and partnership. The \$10,000 first prize was



awarded at the joint conference of the Norman Mailer Society and James Jones Society.

The final judges for this year's winners were:

Dr. Bonnie Culver, director of the M.A./M.F.A. Creative Writing Program at Wilkes; Nina Solomon, creative writing faculty member and Jones Advisory Board member; and Laurie Moyer, Wilkes M.A. alum and Jones Advisory Board member.

TO ZENZI is set in WWII Germany and told from the point-of-view of a young boy who is forced into joining the Nazi Army near the end of the war. Robert Shuster's fiction has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Witness*, *The Mississippi Review*, *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Another Chicago Magazine*, among other publications. His short stories have been included in the anthologies *Micro Fiction*, *Yellow Silk II*, and *Short Prose for Critical Readers*. His work has won several awards, among them a fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society. He is a regular contributor to *The Village Voice* with art reviews, and he has also written about arts and culture for *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Portland Oregonian*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Seattle Weekly*. An accomplished tuba player, he performs regularly with Manhattan's award-winning Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, as well as other groups. A graduate of M.I.T., he lives near New York City.