

Writing Teacher Wins 2000 James Jones First Novel Fellowship



Steven Phillip Policoff's work-in-progress, "Beautiful Somewhere Else," was selected from among a record 566 entries as the winner of the James Jones First Novel Fellowship for the year 2000. For the first time, the amount of the prize awarded was \$5,000.

Policoff was honored Oct. 28 at the 10th Annual James Jones Literary Society Symposium at the University of Illinois Library in Urbana-Champaign.

"[The award] made me believe in the book," Policoff said to the audience. "There are people who care about writing."

Policoff is a master teacher of writing in the General Studies Program at New York University and lives in Manhattan with his wife and daughter. His children's book, "Cesar's Amazing Journey," (Viking) was published in 1999. He is also the author of "The Dreamer's Companion" (Chicago Review Press, 1997) and the co-author of "Real Toads in Imaginary Gardens: Suggestions and Starting Points for Young Creative Writers" (Chicago Review Press, 1991). His articles and essays have appeared in Parents, New Age Journal, Ladies' Home Journal and other magazines.

Judges for the 2000 James Jones First Novel Fellowship were J. Michael Lennon, a Jones biographer and vice president for academic affairs at

Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Patricia Heaman, chair of the English Department at Wilkes, which conducts the competition for the Society; writer Kevin Heisler, and Kaylie Jones, author and daughter of James Jones.

Entries for the 2001 James Jones First Novel Fellowship already are being accepted. For rules and guidelines, contact the English Department at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18766, or visit the Web site at <http://wilkes.edu/~english/jones.html>.



The 1999 winner of the James Jones First Novel Fellowship, Louise Wareham, received her award check from Kaylie Jones last fall in New York City. Wareham attended the 2000 symposium in Urbana to be formally recognized for her accomplishment and to read a passage from her first novel, Since You Ask.