

THE JAMES JONES

L I T E R A R Y S O C I E T Y

James Jones Chair in World War II Studies established at Eastern Illinois University

By Ray Elliott, Past JJLS President

A \$10,000 contribution from the James Jones Literary Society will help establish the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill., the dean of the EIU College of Arts & Humanities announced in May.

“The College of Arts & Humanities, Eastern Illinois University, is both delighted and honored to house the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies,” Dean James K. Johnson said in accepting the contribution. “James Jones is one of the most significant American literary

(Continued on page 3)



Taking part in the contribution from the James Jones Literary Society were, from left, Past JJLS President Ray Elliott, Helen Howe, an honorary board member and a JJLS founding member, James K. Johnson, dean of the Eastern Illinois University College of Arts and Humanities, Anita Shelton, EIU History Department chair, and Chris Hanlon, EIU English Department graduate studies coordinator. Lincoln Trail College at Robinson hosted the presentation.

**THE JAMES JONES
LITERARY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 15, No. 4
Summer 2007

Editor

R. Douglas Lawhead

Editorial Advisory Board

Dwight Connelly
Richard King
Michael Mullen
Thomas J. Wood

The James Jones Society Newsletter is published to keep members and interested parties apprised of activities, projects and upcoming events of the Society; to promote public interest and academic research in the works of James Jones; and to celebrate his memory and legacy. The newsletter is published up to four times a year.

Submissions of essays, features, anecdotes, photographs, etc., pertaining to the author James Jones may be sent to the editor for consideration. Every attempt will be made to return material, if requested upon submission. Material may be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. Send submissions to:

R. Douglas Lawhead
P.O. Box 65
Ashmore, IL 61912
Email: rdlawhead@eiu.edu

Writers' guidelines are available upon request and online at the James Jones Literary Society web page at:
<http://jamesjoneslitsociety.vinu.edu>

Information on the James Jones First Novel Fellowship:
<http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/1159.asp>

Mark your calendar

The 17th annual JJLS national symposium is scheduled for November 3 at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. Rooms have been reserved at Quail Creek Country Club, 800-544-8674.

Letter from JJLS President

**Society has faced
good times and bad**

By Kim Cox, JJLS President

Since the last edition of our newsletter, we've had "the best of times, and the worst of times." Thanks to Ray Elliott's leadership, we have donated \$10,000 to Eastern Illinois University to begin to fund a James Jones Chair in World War II Studies. Ray has committed to help raise the funds necessary to make this dream come true, and I encourage members to help him do so. (See the detailed story on this exciting effort elsewhere in this issue.)

From the best to the worst, we lost our esteemed Treasurer, Dave Nightingale. Dave's loss has been felt in every aspect of the workings of our Society. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. Here's my favorite Dave story, regarding the JJLS:

At the 2001 symposium, Helen Howe distributed copies of the Jones' short story "The Valentine," saying that we talked about Jones, but too rarely read his writing. In 2004, at a board meeting, we were discussing ways to expand the appreciation of Jones when I came up with the idea of starting a high school essay competition tied to the story on, appropriately enough, Valentine's Day. My thought was to expose area high school students to his writing, which is something

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Letter from JJLS President

that didn't happen to me when I was a student at Robinson High School.

After the symposium, held in Robinson, I did some traveling and returned to my home in San Diego a couple of weeks thereafter. Dave had sent me an email, saying he'd already been in contact with all Crawford County high schools, as well as Marshall, and had set up the competition. Thanks to Dave, I was the "idea man" and he did the work! This competition, with the continuing involvement of Helen Howe, is helping to ensure that Jones' legacy is appreciated by the residents of his native region.

Dave was a workhorse for our society. He was never shy about expressing his opinion, and he was an inspiration to work with. I have

stated before, and will reiterate in print, that I would not have accepted the position of President without his assistance as Treasurer and keeper of the flame in Robinson. Now that he's gone I feel it is incumbent upon all of us to do the best we can to further the goals of our Society, to which he devoted so much time.

I quoted Charles Dickens in my opening because a "Charles Dickens theme park" recently opened in London. I understand for the price of admission people get to ask for more gruel, debate with the Pickwick Society, etc. While it may take a few more years for the James Jones Theme Park to be developed, this shows the staying power of great literature. Who's to say that some years from now people won't pay for the privilege of trying to blow "Taps" or play a tennis game against themselves?

(Continued from page 1)

Jones Chair WW II Studies

voices of his generation who wrote on subjects of such importance they defined that very generation. Both our English Department and our History Department are committed to hosting the very best young scholars in literary and historical studies of World War II.

"It is also altogether fitting that the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies should reside at Eastern Illinois University — close to Jones' birthplace in Robinson, and to the Handy Writers Colony in nearby Marshall, where he lived and which he so generously supported after the 1951 publication of "From Here to Eternity" and the 1953 film of the novel," Johnson added.

Founding member and past president of the JJLS, Mike Lennon, whose documentary, "James Jones: From Reveille to Taps," captures an extraordinary look at the author

and includes interviews with those who knew him from childhood on, said, "I am confident the establishment of this endowed chair will be a key moment in the history of the JJLS -- the day when we began the work of re-awakening academe to the huge significance of Jones' work."

The society's contribution to EIU was made possible by the will of the late Charles Robb, a former member of the Handy Writers Colony who died several years ago and wanted to support the work and mission of the JJLS with his bequest.

"I think that using some of the funds from Charlie Robb's bequest for this purpose is a fine way to honor him as well as Jones," Lennon said, who was also an executor of the estate. "Helping to establish a chair, in my judgment, is consistent with the way he left money to various causes."

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Jones Chair WW II Studies

After the \$1.5 million endowment is fully funded, a visiting writer or scholar will be selected by the dean's committee, which will include a society board member, to spend time in residence in either the EIU English or history department to focus on the work of Jones and the studies of World War II.

Meanwhile, the college will host an annual James Jones Lecture Series to raise awareness of James Jones and the chair. Also this year, the annual Embarras Valley Film Festival (Sept. 18-22) is featuring the films made from Jones' work. Jones' daughter and author Kaylie Jones will be on hand to conduct a creative writing workshop for EIU students and to introduce "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries," the acclaimed Merchant-Ivory film made from her novel.

"I appreciate Dean Johnson's agreement in bringing the chair in my father's name to Eastern Illinois University," Kaylie Jones said. "I know my father would be quite pleased that his name and his work will help future generations of students understand and appreciate the dark days of World War II."

Author Winston Groom, perhaps best known in recent memory for his novel, "Forrest Gump," will be a guest at the film festival, too. "Jim was a dear friend," Groom said, "and I would go out of my way if there was something I could do to enhance his memory."

Groom will give the keynote address at the festival, focusing on his friendship with Jones, the significance of his work and his influence on later war novelists. At the time Groom was writing his Vietnam War novel, "Better Times



Ray Elliott, Dean James K. Johnson, Helen Howe, Anita Shelton and Chris Hanlon discuss the items on display in the James Jones Corner at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, following the check presentation.

Than These," he discussed the work with Jones and their mutual friend, the late Willie Morris.

"Willie is probably the finest line editor in the world," Groom wrote in the introduction to the reissued Morris memoir, "James Jones: A Friendship," "and Jim was wonderful, not just in grasping my failures in characterization and story, but in suggesting how I might mend them."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the endowment fund should contact a member of the JJLS Board of Directors at JJLS, P.O. Box 68, Robinson, IL 62454, or make checks payable to the Eastern Illinois Foundation for the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies and send them to Karla Evans, Executive Director of Development, Eastern Illinois University Foundation, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920-3099.

Mark your calendar

The 17th annual JJLS national symposium is scheduled for November 3 at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. This year's topic is the coming of age short stories in Jones' "The Ice-Cream Headache." Rooms are reserved at Quail Creek Country Club, 800-544-8674.

JJLS Treasurer Dave Nightingale passes

The James Jones Literary Society lost a long-time supporter, front-line advocate, past president and current board member and treasurer with the passing of David J. Nightingale on April 11, 2007. Nightingale died at Crawford Memorial Hospital following a heart attack at his home in Robinson.



A Blue Island, Ill., native, Nightingale was the Chicago White Sox beat writer for the Chicago Daily News in the late 1960s and wrote a column from 1973 until the paper closed in 1978. He returned to the baseball beat with the Chicago Tribune until 1981 when he became the first national correspondent for the Sporting News. He covered major sports events until his retirement in 1995. A nationally syndicated columnist, he also frequently served as official scorer at World Series and All-Star Games.

After retiring to Robinson, he and his late wife, Margot Allison Nightingale, became active in the society. Margot died in 2001. Nightingale was the society's treasurer for several years and kept the membership list. He also served on the Editorial Advisory Board for this newsletter. He was society president in 2004. He continued to write freelance articles on golf and was a member of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Robinson, Sigma Pi fraternity and was a voting member of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

"He has just been a wonderful asset to the society. He spent a lot of time and effort for the Jones Society and was one of our guiding lights," Helen Howe, a society founder and honorary board member explained in a Robinson Daily News story. "We owe him a great deal. He did a wonderful job for us and was a great friend. He will be sadly missed."

Current society President Kim Cox, San Diego, had known Nightingale for years before the society was formed. "He was a pleasure to work with and we enjoyed chatting about Illinois sports as we were both U of I grads. He was a dynamo of the society. I don't know who we're going to get to duplicate everything he's done for us," Cox said in the Robinson newspaper article.

He worked very, very hard on the society's newsletter and was also its major contributor and proofreader. "He was my tie to everything that was going on in Crawford County in regard to the society," said newsletter editor Doug Lawhead. "Dave was very dedicated to the society. He was out there doing a lot of work for it. We're certainly going to miss him. My sympathies go out to his family."

Born Feb. 7, 1935, in Blue Island, Ill., to Vincent F. and Mary Krueger Nightingale who preceded him in death, he began covering sports in his high school days in Blue Island and Toledo, Ohio, and at the University of Illinois, where he was sports editor of the Daily Illini before graduating in 1956.

After two years as sports editor of the Dixon Evening Telegraph and three years as a reporter
(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

JJLS Treasurer Dave Nightingale passes

on the Rockford Morning Star, he joined the Chicago Daily News staff in 1961, working as night editor and reporter in the sports department until being assigned the Chicago White Sox beat in July 1966.

On June 23, 1956, he married Margot Allison Nightingale, who preceded him in death on April 20, 2001.

On May 17, 2002, he married Rebecca L. (Tennyson) Roth, who survives. Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, C. Van and Pam Nightingale, Orange, Calif.; a daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Jim Rush, Victorville, Calif.; two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Angela Rush; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Martin and Lisa Roth, Evansville, Ind.; a stepdaughter and son-in-law, Kerry and Andy Zerla, Fishers, Ind.; stepgrandchildren, Levi and Stephanie Roth and Nickolas, Laura and Jenny Zerla; a sister and brother-in-law, Marcia and Brian Carlson, Reston, Va.; a niece and husband, Marinn and Darren McClure, Fairfax, Va.; and several cousins.

The funeral was April 17, at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Robinson, with Rev. Jeff Goeckner officiating.

Memorials may be made to the James Jones Society, Lincoln Trail College Athletic Department or to St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.

-30-

World War II s affect on art and literature

Embarras Valley Film Festival features Jones films

The works of James Jones will be featured at the Third Annual Embarras Valley Film Festival (EVFF), Sept. 18-22 in Charleston, Ill. Not only will the week-long festival include the movie adaptations of Jones's novels and that of his daughter, Kaylie, but it will also include discussions, presentations, displays and music that show the effect World War II had on film, art and literature.

The EVFF will take place six weeks before the 17th annual JJLS national symposium scheduled for Nov. 3 at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill.

The festival is sponsored by the Coles County Arts Council and Eastern Illinois University's College of Arts and Humanities. The EVFF is a yearly event that takes place the third week in September. It honors a person or theme relevant to the Embarras

River Valley, which encompasses much of East Central Illinois.



Eastern Illinois University Tarble Arts Center will host a portion of the festival.

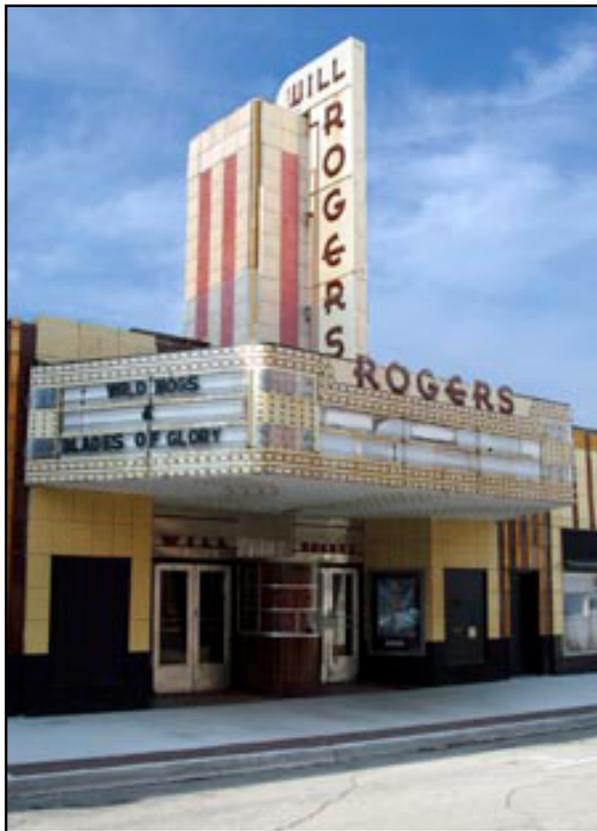
The events include a selection of free film viewings at the Tarble Arts Center on the Eastern Illinois University campus, a viewing of a documentary about the Handy Writer's

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

EVFF features Jones

Colony by Dawn Shapiro, speakers as well as an exhibit at EIU's Booth Library, a workshop provided by the Library of Congress, a writer's workshop for EIU students with Kaylie Jones, a one-day conference on campus on September 21, and free viewings of films in 35mm print at an all-day film festival on September 22 at the historic Will Rogers Theater on the Square in Charleston.



The Will Rogers Theater in Charleston.

Additionally, the Marshall Public Library is providing programming as part of the event.

The festival's roots began in 2003 when Joy Pratte, then an EIU student, and Kit Morice of the Tarble Arts Center were discussing research on cinematographer Gregg Toland that was being conducted by J. Sain, the EIU Theatre Department business, publicity and promotions manager.

"We thought it would be fun and that something needed to be done to promote the work of Gregg Toland in his hometown," explained Pratte. It has grown out of that.

Toland was born May 29, 1904, in Charleston and is considered one of the most influential and innovative cinematographers of the sound era. In 1924 he built the first

(Continued on page 8)

EVFF Schedule

Tuesday, September 18:

3:00 Race in Context, Racial barriers of WWII, Deb Reid, Michael Loudon, Anita Shelton

7:00 Handy Writers' Colony, documentary by Dawn Shapiro

Wednesday, September 19:

3:00 John Guzlowski Poetry Reading

7:00 Showing of "Some Came Running"

Thursday, September 20:

3:00 Writers Workshop with Kaylie Jones for EIU students

7:00 Showing of "A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries"

Friday, September 21: Conference

9:30 Dan Perrino

11:00 Evolution of a Soldier, Ray Elliott

Break for Lunch

1:00 Don Burgett, Plenary speaker

2:00 Robinson, Marshall and the geography of "Some Came Running" Doug Lawhead

3:00 Helen Howe

4:00 Chris Walsh (Boston University)

5:00 Matthew Barton, Library of Congress Presentation

Break for Dinner

7:00—Keynote Presentation (Winston Groom)

8:00—Music and Dancing at Millers

Saturday, September 22:

At Will Rogers Theater

2:00 Showing of "Thin Red Line"

7:00 Showing of "From Here to Eternity"

(Continued from page 7)

EVFF features Jones

soundproof movie camera housing that ended the problem of the camera's mechanical noises reaching sound recording equipment. By the age of 27 he was the youngest first-unit cameraman in Hollywood. Known for his innovative lighting and crystal clear deep focus, he won an Oscar for his work in "Wuthering Heights" (1939). Other film credits include "Dead End" (1939), John Ford's 1940 adaptation of John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," and "Citizen Kane" and "Little Foxes" (1941) and "The Best Years of Our Lives" (1946). His final film, "Enchantment," was released after his death on Sept. 28, 1948.

In 2005 the festival returned as an annual event and featured the works of William Phipps, an Eastern Illinois University alumnus, who left for Hollywood in the early 1940s. Phipps filmography boasts 83 movies including the voice of Prince Charming in Walt Disney's "Cinderella" as well as supporting roles in epic movies such as the original "War of the Worlds and Invaders from Mars." He was cast as Teddy Roosevelt in the television mini-series "Eleanor and Franklin."

Phipps, now 75 years old, was freshman class president at Eastern, an accounting major with a minor in literature, a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon and a head cheerleader. He was born on Feb. 4, 1922, in Vincennes, Ind.

Burl Ives, another Eastern alumnus,

was the centerpiece of the 2006 film festival. Born in Jasper County, Illinois, Burl Ives attended Eastern when it was known as Eastern Illinois State Teachers College and New York University but dropped out, choosing to play professional football for a while and travel the country as a handyman and itinerant singer. He was jailed in Mona, Utah, for singing "Foggy Foggy Dew," which was seen as a bawdy song. He moved to New York City in 1937. By the end of 1938, he had made his Broadway debut, and he also sang folk songs in Greenwich Village clubs.

In 1940, Ives began to appear regularly on radio, including his own show, "The Wayfarin' Stranger" on CBS. Ives made his first records for Stinson, a small folk label, then was signed to Decca, a major label. He made his movie debut in "Smoky" in 1946. Ives starred in other movies, including "East of Eden" (1955), "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958), "The Big Country" (1958), for which he won an Academy Award, and many others. He is well known as the narrator, Sam the Snowman in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (1964) and performed in other television productions, even "The Ren and Stimpy Show" and a Star Wars made-for-tv movie, "Caravan of Courage: An Ewok Adventure" (1984).

Additional information about the EVFF is available at the festival website at <http://www.evff.net/>, or by contacting Pratte at 217-549-2876 or email joypratte@gmail.com.

Nancy Claypool named to JJLS Board

Nancy Claypool, the director of the Marshall Public Library has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the JJLS Board of Directors that was created by the death of David Nightingale. Claypool was instrumental in arranging James Jones Day and Friends of the Library plaque for James Jones in Marshall in July 2006. She has also coordinated efforts of "The Valentine" essay contest at Marshall High School. In addition she is on the Embarras Valley Film Festival committee.

Past society president Jerry Bayne temporarily assumed the duties of treasurer. Warren Mason is now the treasurer.

Novelist Kurt Vonnegut dies from injuries

Novelist and James Jones Literary Society member Kurt Vonnegut died on April 11, 2007, at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital. Vonnegut had been hospitalized for several weeks after suffering brain injuries when he fell at his East Side Manhattan home. He was 84.

Vonnegut's novels and short stories often blend black humor, bitterness and deep insight. "He was a man who combined a wicked sense of humor and sort of steady moral compass, who was always sort of looking at the big picture of the things that were most important," Joel Bleifuss, editor of the liberal magazine "In These Times," told The Associated Press. Vonnegut occasionally contributed to "In These Times."

Vonnegut was an advance scout with the 106th Infantry Division during World War II. At the Battle of the Bulge he was cut off from his battalion and wandered alone behind enemy lines for several days before he was captured and imprisoned in Dresden. There, during February 1945, he witnessed the Allied firebombing of the city that historians believe killed tens of thousands of people. Vonnegut was one of only seven American prisoners of war in Dresden who survived. He was in a cell in an underground meat locker with four of the other prisoners during the bombing, which became the inspiration for the title "Slaughterhouse Five."

In an August 24, 2006, *Rolling Stone Magazine* article Vonnegut spoke of the experience. "Utter destruction," he recalled, "carnage unfathomable." The Germans put him to work gathering bodies for mass burial. "But there were too many corpses to bury," he said. "So instead the Nazis sent in troops with flame throwers. All these civilians' remains were burned to ashes."

This experience haunted him and formed the core of what most consider his breakout novel and his most famous work, "Slaughterhouse - Five; or, The Children's Crusade: A Duty-Dance With Death" (1969) and is a theme in several of his other books.

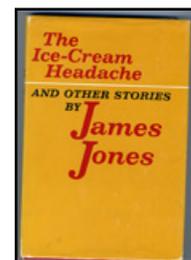
Vonnegut was born on Nov. 11, 1922, in Indianapolis. As a high school student he worked on the nation's first daily high school newspaper. He went on to study chemistry at Cornell University but joined the Army before finishing his degree. After the war he did public relations for General Electric for a time in Schenectady, New York, an experience that informed 1952's "Player Piano."

His other early novels such as "The Sirens of Titan" and "Mother Night" were dismissed by critics. He started to gain a following with the publication of "Cat's Cradle" (1963) that featured a substance called "ice-nine" that apocalyptically turns all water to ice. Other well-known Vonnegut novels include "Breakfast of Champions" (1973), "Slapstick" (1973) and "Hocus Pocus" (1990).

His last novel, "Timequake," was published in 1997; however, he continued to write short stories, essays and other works until his death. His last book, "A Man Without a Country" (2005), a collection of essays, takes aim at the Bush administration, the war in Iraq, corporate America and conformist Americans. The work became a best-seller.

Mark your calendar

The 17th annual JJLS national symposium is scheduled for November 3 at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, Ill. This year's topic is the coming of age short stories in Jones's "The Ice-Cream Headache." Rooms are reserved at Quail Creek Country Club, 800-544-8674. Reservations should be made as soon as possible.



Winners named in 'The Valentine' essay contest

By Helen Howe, JJLS Honorary Board Member

The results of the Second Annual "The Valentine Essay" Contest were announced on February 14 at Robinson, Palestine and Marshall high schools. This year's contest was the first time two Crawford County schools participated in event. It also set a new high mark for the total number of entries with 41 from two senior English classes at Robinson, 19 from Palestine and 2 from Marshall.

Winners were Tim Potsmisil from RHS, Ashlei Friedrich from Palestine and Serena Simeoli from Marshall.

Teachers Jenelle Oxford from Robinson, Stephanie England from Palestine and Jill Sisson from Marshall developed interest in the classes and prepared the students who participated. Society Board member Helen Howe visited both Crawford County schools and talked with the classes about Jones, the story and the relationship to the Robinson area.

Due to the large number of students from Robinson High School involved in the contest, it was decided by the contest committee to award one Robinson winner and then name two second place finishers, two third place winners and award five honorable mentions. In this way winning entries at each school were held to only one but each class received a second and third as well as honorable mention.

The winning essays will be published in the next edition of the newsletter and will be read at the 2007 Symposium on Nov. 3 at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson, IL. Plans are also being made to have a panel of high school students to discuss Jones's "coming of age" short stories at the symposium. The panel will be chaired by Howe and Oxford.

Much credit must be given to David Nightingale for the success of this project. His interest and participation was instrumental in the organization and conduct of the contest.

Why I'm a James Jones enthusiast

By Barbara Jones, JJLS Vice President

I became a member of the James Jones Literary Society because of George Hendrick, for whom I have the highest regard. But my story starts way back before George, with my love of big, fat novels by Midwesterners.

When I was in junior high school, my mother had to go down to the local public library and scream at them to let me read adult fiction. I had read all the young adult stuff. Right here, I want to thank both of my parents, who always let me read what I wanted, which was not true of some of my girlfriends, whose parents would actually tear pages out of books! I think that's why I am such an advocate for intellectual freedom in libraries and such an opponent of censorship. I remember seeing, in the margins of the UIUC manuscript for *Eternity*: James Jones' own notes: "Please don't delete that!" He was pleading with his editor not to censor his language. I would love to see an unexpurgated version of *Eternity* get published.

I was always fascinated by war novels, because my father served in World War II. I would listen to his stories and look at my parents' scrapbooks. I remember wondering what it must have been like for my mother to wait for his letters from England. I remember sometimes I

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Why I'm a James Jones enthusiast

would pretend I was sick and stay home from school, curled up in bed reading big novels. I also remember long, hot midwestern summers, sitting in a lawn chair, or at the pool, reading paperback novels. I remember reading "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and I remember "From Here to Eternity." I loved the idea of romance under the shadow of war. Those long novels took me far, far away to places I've now visited, like the sites of the Spanish Civil War and Normandy Beach. I remember the tug at my heart of young, naive, earnest midwestern boys going overseas to serve their country. I also remember "Some Came Running," and I knew people just like the people in the book - in my small town of Sterling, Illinois.

If I were a good writer and literary critic, I would write about what I see of the midwest in James Jones' novels, and even in Ernest Hemingway's.

When I got to University of Illinois as Head of Special Collections, I met George Hendrick and he told me all about the JJLS. He encouraged me to present a paper at the Springfield conference. The Jones papers, and George's stories, made me want to meet Gloria Jones. She sounded absolutely wonderful! So I went out to Long Island to do an oral history. I ended up returning several times, and she would always drive me by the ocean and say, "All midwesterners who come out here want to see the ocean." She was right! I remember her cats and dogs, the kitchen table, meeting Kaylie and all the other wonderful, interesting guests for her Italian dinners.

I love the JJLS because it is a wonderful mix of scholars and non-academics who either knew James Jones or who love his work. I have met some of the neatest people and I hope we can grow! I remember the thrill of the Austin conference, of hearing James Jones' voice from a lecture. And our dinner at the Broken Spoke. I haven't been as active in JJLS as I'd like, but I guess being president next year, that will change!

Editor's Notebook

No excuses, just sorting things out

By Doug Lawhead, Editor

Needless to say, the loss of Dave Nightingale came as a shock. He was totally dedicated to the society and was my connection to JJLS activities in Crawford County.

This is very strange, but true. As I was driving to work the day we lost Dave, I was thinking about calling him to see what he had for the next newsletter. It was time to get to work on it, and I was really surprised that he had not contacted me. I had a meeting that morning then taught a class. When I returned to the office the first thing I saw was an email from Kim Cox about Dave.

I put the newsletter on hold and after everyone had a little time to regroup we went to work on this newsletter. Like "the Company" the society's leaders have regrouped and will soldier on.

Helen Howe pitched in with story on the Valentine essay contest with help from Nancy Claypool on the information on the Marshall winner. Ray Elliott stepped up with the story on the James Jones Chair in World War II Studies at Eastern Illinois University, and Jerry Bayne volunteered to take over mailing the newsletter. Kim and Jerry also helped with organizing and editing copy. It was a team effort.

The -30- at the end of the story about Dave is my little way of saying farewell and thanks to him. In the newspaper world it means end of copy. Everything he ever sent me was so marked.

Join or renew

The James Jones Literary Society

Membership / Contribution Form

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

\$15 Annual Individual

\$25 Annual Couple

\$50 Four-Year Individual

\$250 Life Individual

I / We wish to join or renew membership in the James Jones Literary Society and have enclosed the appropriate dues payment.

I / We wish to support the activities of the James Jones Literary Society and would like to make a contribution. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.

(Please indicate how you would like your contribution to be used.)

To support The James Jones First Novelist Fellowship Award honoring promising new fiction authors.

To support The James Jones Literary Society General Fund.

Make checks payable to The James Jones Literary Society and mail to P.O. Box 68, Robinson, IL 62454. Contributions are tax-deductible. This form may be duplicated for additional memberships and/or gifts.

**THE
JAMES JONES**
L I T E R A R Y S O C I E T Y

P.O. Box 68
Robinson, Illinois
62454