

2008 James Jones First Novel Fellowship Winner Announced

Margarite Landry, of Southborough, MA, won first place for her novel *Blue Moon* in the 17th Annual James Jones First Novel Fellowship, co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Department of Wilkes University and the James Jones Literary Society.

Landry was awarded \$10,000. Her novel, which competed with about 520 other submissions, follows the story of a single mother and her son, who bring a lively, troubled foster child into their home.



Margarite Landry

Landry, who earned a Ph.D. in Victorian Literature from Columbia University, was inspired to craft the story after a boy on the street asked her where she was going. She told him she was going to teach at a college down the street, but the boy didn't even know what a college was.

"I fell in love with the boy," Landry said. "He was so vulnerable."

Throughout the years, Landry has had a variety of writing jobs, including editing math books and ghost writing self-help books. She currently is an associate professor of English/Professional Writing at Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts.

Now that her novel is award-winning, Landry plans to make some final revisions and try to get it published. She also has short stories slated to be released in *Pisgah Review* and *The Bellingham Review*.

The runner-up winners were Matthew Dillon, of Port Townsend, WA, for his manuscript titled *Restoration*, and Nicholas Gerogiannis, of Birmingham, AL, for his manuscript titled *SERE*. They were each awarded \$750.

The James Jones 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." Requests for guidelines should be sent, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to James Jones