

2. The James H. and Myra Hume Jones International House Program 1946 – 1964

The International House Program at Jacksonville State University in Alabama began in September 1946, one year after the end of World War II and a year and three months after the formation of the United Nations. The initial idea for an International House Program grew out of life experiences of Dr. Jones in France; first as a young soldier in the U.S. Army Rainbow Division from Mississippi (1917-1919) and then in France again from 1932 to 1934 with his wife, Myra Hume Jones, and three young children for the purpose of obtaining a doctor's degree in the French language at the University of Montpellier. Dr. and Mrs. Jones formed life-long friendships with French people to whom they sent care packages during World War II and with whom they corresponded in the following years. From these experiences they were led to believe that one way to promote peace in the world and prevent wars was to get people from different countries to know each other; their cultures, languages, religions, etc. Thus the idea was born for bringing students from other countries to study at Jacksonville State Teachers College, as it was called in 1946. The idea for the International House motto

“Know one another and you will love one another”

came from an address to the United States congress by Senator L. Q. C. Lamar from Mississippi who was attempting to heal the terrible wounds caused by the Civil War. They believed that the words of Senator Lamar were as appropriate in 1946 as they were in 1865. In the first year, the International House Program had only four foreign students, all from France. But the program soon expanded to include other countries and by 1964 when Dr. Jones retired, students came from five continents.

Myra Hume was born on the campus of the University of Mississippi where her father served as Chancellor and Professor of Mathematics. She earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Ole Miss and taught in the public schools of Jacksonville and Piedmont. In 1946 she retired from teaching in order to become a full-time volunteer worker for the newly formed International House Program. Among her contributions were planning of meals and supervision of two cooks who prepared lunch and dinner five days per week for forty students at the International House. She also served as a mother-away-from-home for the foreign students. When they needed a place to sleep or eat during holidays her home was open. She was always available to help with personal problems that young people have. She became affectionately known to the students as “Mama Jones.” To help understand the work of Dr. and Mrs. Jones during these first eighteen years of the program, a few excerpts are quoted here from a letter sent to Dr. Houston Cole, President of Jacksonville State College. The letter was written by Myra Hume Jones June 12, 1964.

"As the time approaches for my husband to turn over to other hands the direction of the work of the International House Program, a work to which he has devoted a large part of his life, I would like to express to you the sincere appreciation of both of us for what you have done through the years to make this possible. He has given himself wholeheartedly to this undertaking because he firmly believes in its primary purpose-- to train and prepare young people from this and other countries for leadership in the interest of brotherhood and peace, based on the proposition that spiritual power is the real strength of this country or any country and that God is the source of all spiritual power. Though success in such an undertaking is obviously a relative thing, and there are failures too, there has grown up in this organization--the International House Program--a spirit not easy to express in words. You might call it faith in the possibility of achieving such a goal, a sense of loyalty to it and to one another, a feeling of worth-whileness, and a challenge to fulfill the purpose to make life better. Our experience in dealing with all these young people, who have come to us from so many different backgrounds, leads us to believe that each one is of great potential value, not necessarily because of his good qualities, but in spite of his faults. Our faith in them depends not so much upon what they are, but upon what they can become and what we would like to believe they will become. We have tried to hold fast to our faith

in the possibility of building a better world with a little more of good will. It is doubtful that any of us have any real comprehension of the power inherent in simple human kindness. That kind of care and concern for one another is what the whole world stands so sorely in need of today. This then has been the primary aim of the International House Program – to prepare young people to do their part in meeting that need.”



International House students in academic year 1952-53: Sitting: Yvonne Goetze (Venezuela), Benjamin Nodal (Cuba), Noemi (Mimi) Balliart (Cuba), Cezar Real (Mexico), Mildred Fernandez (Cuba), Rolanda Goetze (Venezuela); standing: Jacques Corman (Belgium), William Branham (Bill) Jones (co-chairman, USA), Elaine Amyote (Canada), Dan Traylor (co-chairman, USA), Regula Schlatter (Switzerland), Marianne Malandre (France), Francine Cuitte (Belgium), Hans Struth (Germany).

In the first year, 1946-1947, the Program consisted of four students from France, a French chef and twenty-one American students all studying French. The college provided two rooms on the ground floor of the north end of Bibb Graves Hall to be used as a dining room and kitchen. Only French was allowed to be spoken during meals. The French students assisted Dr. Jones in teaching their native language. In the second and third years, 1947-1949, the IH Program was given the use of a small cottage on the hill just north of Bibb Graves Hall. Six French speaking students were brought to the program each year, The American group remained at twenty and the focus continued to be French language and culture.



International House --- Maison Internationale constructed in 1949 by gifts from Alabama citizens

In 1949 the International House Program expanded in size and became more internationally diverse. Dr. Jones had raised \$15,000 through gifts from citizens of Alabama to have a house designed and built especially for the IH Program on the campus across the street and north of the university library. The International House (Maison Internationale), as it was called, had three dining rooms (French, German and Spanish), kitchen, lounge, library, classroom and director's study. Here the students gathered to socialize, study and have meals while practicing a foreign language and getting to know each other. Friendships were formed that have lasted a lifetime and greatly affected the course of lives.

By 1964 when Dr. Jones had decided to retire from his position as Head of the Foreign Language Department and Director of the International House Program there were sixteen foreign students and twenty American students representing all of the continents: North and South America, Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia. Moreover, through the International Endowment Foundation he had raised the money and had the new International House constructed in its present site. The principal contributor for the new building was the President of the Board of Trustees of the International House Foundation, Col. Clarence W. Daugette, Jr., the son of the former president of JSTC, Dr. C. W. Daugette. Constructed in 1964, it contains housing for forty students, dormitory supervisor, a formal dining room, large meeting rooms, recreation rooms, and offices for the director and staff. It is located on the northern edge of the campus on the west side of Pelham Road.



The Clarence W. Daugette International House constructed in 1964 .

The Dr. James H. and Myra Hume Jones International House Program.

On April 17, 2006 the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville State University and the Board of Trustees of the International House Foundation approved a resolution that the program founded by Dr. and Mrs. James H. Jones be named **The Dr. James H. and Myra Hume Jones International House Program**. A ceremony commemorating this event was held in Paris, France in the summer of 2006 during a reunion of former members of the International House Program. At that occasion Dr. William A. Meehan, President of Jacksonville State University, presented the resolution to William Branham Jones who represented the family of James H. and Myra Hume Jones. The resolution is shown later.

Dedication of the Plaque. On October 25, 2009 the plaque was unveiled by the President of Jacksonville State University, Dr. William A. Meehan. It states the following:

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JAMES H. AND MYRA HUME JONES IN THE FOUNDING
OF ONE OF THE FIRST INSTITUTIONALLY-SUPPORTED PEACE CURRICULUMS IN THE
SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES,
RESOLVED ON JULY 8, 2006 TO REDEDICATE AND RENAME THE PROGRAM IN THEIR HONOR:

JAMES H. AND MYRA HUME JONES INTERNATIONAL HOUSE PROGRAM

UPON THE RECOMMENDATION AND FULL SUPPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION, INC.,
MR. CLARENCE W. DAUGETTE III, PRESIDENT



DR. AND MRS. JONES FOUNDED THE PROGRAM IN 1946.
REDEDICATION CEREMONY HELD OCTOBER 25, 2009
DR. WILLIAM A. MEEHAN, PRESIDENT
DR. JOHN J. KETTERER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. and Mrs. Jones would have enjoyed being present to witness the very fine way that the International House Program is being run in its 64th year with the outstanding Director, Dr. John Ketterer and the strong support of the Jacksonville State University administration led by President Meehan. The Program would not exist now without the support of many Alabama citizens: three generations of the Daugette family, many other individuals and organizations such as the Anniston Rotary Club and the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs who have funded scholarships for students since the beginning of the Program. Dr. John Stuart served as Director of the Program for twenty-one years and Grindley Curren for ten. After 63 years, the International House Program has more than 2000 alums (former members) living on five continents. Thus the International House Program is truly

"In Alabama, of Alabama but for the world"

as often described by Dr. and Mrs. Jones.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Jacksonville State University International House Program this year observes its 60th anniversary with a reunion of all Alumni in Paris, France; and,

Whereas, Dr. James H. Jones and his beloved spouse, Myra Hume Jones, founded The International House Program in 1946 with the express intention of developing one of the first institutionally-supported peace curriculums in the Southeastern United States, and perhaps in the entire country; and,

Whereas, Dr. and Mrs. Jones served as the intellectual architects of this distinguished program for nearly two decades with the guiding phrase of "Know one another and you shall love one another;" and,

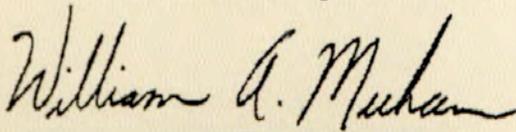
Whereas, Dr. and Mrs. Jones oversaw the development of the International Endowment Foundation, Inc., encouraged the development of supportive university-to-community partnerships, and cooperated to raise funds to build the International House at its present site; and,

Whereas, the International House Alumni of the "Jones Era" have made patent their strong and continued support of the program conceived by Dr. and Mrs. Jones with the commitment to raise \$150,000 before the end of the current Capital Campaign (2008); and,

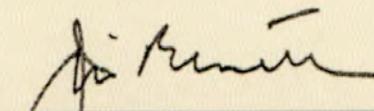
Whereas, the Trustees of the International Endowment Foundation, Inc., led by its President, Clarence W. Dauge III, have petitioned this Board of Trustees to recognize the founders of the International House Program.

Now therefore be it resolved, this world-renowned program shall henceforth be known as *The Dr. James H. and Myra Hume Jones International House Program*, and that a plaque to this effect and understanding shall be placed appropriately in the entry of the International House in recognition of their contributions to the University and to the cause of world peace.

This Resolution presented this 17th day of April, 2006.



William A. Meehan, President
Jacksonville State University



James R. Bennett, Chairman
Board of Trustees

For years after their retirement Dr. and Mrs. Jones kept in touch with former International House students by means of a newsletter called the "International Voice" and by personal correspondence. Reunion gatherings of the former students were held in Paris (1973 and 2006) and in Jacksonville, Alabama (1973, 1981 1996 and 2004). The renaming of the International House Program for its founders, Dr. James H. and Myra Hume Jones, is a recognition of their vision and years of dedication that created this program and made it an integral part of the university, the community and the state of Alabama that continues its mission of promoting world brotherhood and peace.