

Former student creates new book series

by **Chloe O'Connor**
Editor-in-chief

The Ouachita bubble has long enjoyed Dr. Johnny Wink's daily word game. We also look forward to Dr. Jay Curlin's lexical rhymes which incorporate daily words into a usually comical poem. Now Ouachita alumnus Josh Burk, who graduated with a bachelor of arts in mass communications and Spanish, has become part of another kind of word game.

Maven of Memory Publishing, based out of Burk's hometown of Hurst, Texas, is in the process of creating a continuous publication of works called the VocabCafé Book Series.

The books weave 300 SAT typical word-comparison words into an easy-to-read and engaging story. The featured words are italicized and in bold throughout the story and defined at the bottom of each page.

Burk's novella, "The Summer of Saint Nick" is the first in the series and was released this month. The story follows high school student Nick Franklin who has just been freed



from school for the summer vacation.

After winning ownership rights to an old farmhouse, Nick finds over \$300,000. Nick is plagued by awkwardness and unpopularity, so upon finding the money he dreams of how he can buy his way into being "cool." He soon finds that giving the money away to those truly in need is more rewarding than keeping it for selfish reasons.

This book is a genius idea. Though the story is written for juveniles, anyone can enjoy the adventuresome story of a young boy who finds a ton of money, then has a charitable change of heart in what to do with the money.

There are very few better ways to quickly read and actually remember 300 high-level words, such as "ruminate," "lachrymose," "salubrious" and "pulchritude." Some of the words may be recognized by many readers, but even this reader was learning new words throughout.

Increase your vocabulary; check out the beginning of VocabCafé's series with Josh Burk's "The Summer of Saint Nick."

Currently the book can be purchased through VocabCafé's Web site, vocabcafe.com, for \$12.95.

Photo courtesy of Josh Burk. ■



Mary Handiboe

by **Samantha Allen**
Signal writer

Mary Handiboe, assistant professor of theatre arts, holds a B.A. in speech and theatre from Ouachita Baptist University and an M.F.A. from the University of New Orleans in drama and communications with an emphasis in acting. She teaches acting, Fine Arts: Theatre, voice and diction and helps in performance classes and directing. Handiboe joined the Ouachita faculty in 2002.

Q) What is your favorite thing about Ouachita?

A) "That there is, generally, a greater sense of community than institution among the faculty, staff and students."

Q) What is your favorite movie/play?

A) "It depends on my mood. Some of my favorites are 'Les Miserables,' 'The Incredibles,' 'Forest Gump' and 'Beaches.'"

Q) Do you have a favorite song from a musical?

A) "'Come to Me (Fantine's Death)' in Les Miserables."

Q) What was your most embarrassing moment?

A) "My most embarrassing moment isn't appropriate for popular consumption, so I'll have to plead the fifth. Let's just say the innocence of children combined with laundry and dinner guests can set the stage for a moment of mortification."

Q) What is your favorite food?

A) "Right now, vanilla ice cream in chocolate milk."

Q) What one thing do you want the students to know about you?

A) "Never ask me a question unless you want an honest answer."

Q) You'll be taking next semester off. Can you tell us why?

A) "I'll be taking some of next semester off for maternity leave. We're expecting our third son, the 'Ours' in a 'Yours, Mine, and Ours' situation, in early April." ■

New features editor reflects on first semester

by **Annette Whitehead**
Signal writer



CALLIE PHELPS/Signal

Frightening. Challenging. Exciting. Stressful. Intense. Demanding. Hectic. Fabulous. These are all words to describe my experience so far here at Ouachita.

Allow me to introduce myself as your new features editor for *The Signal*. I am thrilled to have the chance to work on such a great paper with such a great staff.

To tell you about myself, I am not your typical Ouachita student. I am a junior graphic design major with a minor in mass communications who transferred from Ouachita Technical College in Malvern. I am also a 27-year-old single mother of my 8-year-old son, David.

I didn't really know what to expect when I came here. Would I be able to handle the course load? Would I fit in? I didn't exactly come from a religious home, so a Baptist college was a whole new world for me. The idea of going to Chapel was new to me, although I had attended church regularly for a while. I was excited that Bible classes were required because I didn't learn much about it when I was growing up.

Ouachita has exceeded all of my expectations. I have learned a lot about Christianity and faith since I have been here. I have met some great people who have exemplified the standards by which I would like to live. I have felt so welcome on the campus. My son has been welcomed into classes and meetings as if he, too, were a student.

My insecurities have been extinguished because of the great people here. Coming to Ouachita has been such a blessing in my life. I am looking forward to my remaining time at Ouachita and I hope that I will have the privilege of getting to know even more wonderful people. ■