

Alumnus turns bedtime stories into children's book

7/06/07

Dr. Jason Alter, AU class of 1981, turned his children's nightly bedtime stories into a novel now offered on Amazon.com and Borders.com. "John Fastramp and the Dakota 3000 Challenge" is adventure aimed at both boys and girls. The story focuses on the adventures of John Fastramp, his friends and his unique race car. The first story, in a planned series, highlights the Dakota 3000 -- a unique race that begins in the Dakotas but takes John and the other racers to very distant, exotic locations. "It is tremendously satisfying to see it in print," said Alter. "For a long time, children and their parents would approach me in local stores wanting to know when they could buy the book. I'm very excited that other children will have the opportunity to read about John Fastramp, his friends and their adventures." The John Fastramp stories were fleshed out over years of nightly bedtime stories - all with cliffhanger endings. Encouraged by friends and family, Alter wrote the manuscript and tested it in his children's elementary school. It was a tremendous hit. Both boys and girls loved it and demanded to know where they could buy the book, he said. "In 1995 my first child (a boy) was born. In 1998, my daughter was born. The "world" of John Fastramp began as nightly bedtime stories that I invented for my son (Ross) in 1997. Ross and, later Lindsay, hung on every word and complained for years about nightly, cliffhanger endings," said Alter. He explains that John Fastramp and the Dakota 3000 Challenge (www.johnfastramp.com) is action-oriented, adventure fiction aimed at young boys and girls (~grades 3-6). John is a racecar driver that encounters adventure, new friends and villains in every race he enters. John's amazing car is called the Blue Spider. The car is a unique blend of high performance racing machine and a wide array of handy gadgets. John's closest friend is Tom (who has an equally fascinating racing tractor). Together, John, Tom, and their girl friends Ping and Gwen, travel around the world going from one adventure to the next. "I wrote the story in 2005 and introduced it to our local community; the manuscript was incorporated into the 4th grade-reading curriculum at our local elementary school. The children's response (from both boys and girls) was extremely positive and resulted in two local newspapers running stories on John Fastramp. In June 2007, I finally converted the manuscript into a children's novel which is now available on Amazon, Borders.com, and Alibris.com. Many children are already asking for the next book in the John Fastramp series!" For more information visit www.johnfastramp.com, e-mail jasonalter@yahoo.com, or call 1-203-524-0396.