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**Local Cable Employee Swaps Technology for the Pen,
Fulfills Lifelong Dream by Publishing Book of Poetry**

*-- Knology employee, Alan Clanton, uses life experiences, observations to inspire
'Conversations Overheard in a Restaurant' --*

DOTHAN (September 13, 2010) – For Alan Clanton, writing has always been a part of who he is. In fact, it was his knack for writing that began his career in the cable business 20 years ago. But after answering an inward call to compile his personal poetry, the Knology employee can now add “published writer” to his resume.

His first book of poetry, “*Conversations Overheard in a Restaurant*,” was published by Author House in July and is available in both hardback and paperback at Books-A-Million, Barnes & Noble, Borders and via Amazon.com.

“I always knew I wanted to select some of my best poems written over the years and put them into a book; it’s just been something I felt compelled to do,” says Clanton. “I write daily, no matter how busy I get – sometimes for a mere 10 to 15 minutes, longer on weekends.”

Clanton majored in English while at Florida State University, writing poetry and even getting a few pieces published while in and immediately after college. Upon graduation, he was hired to write advertising and script for cable commercials. Two decades later, he is still part of the cable industry.

A Customer Sales Representative with Knology of the Wiregrass for seven years, Clanton currently spends his days coordinating installation schedules, radio traffic and service agreements. Despite a deeply rooted and successful career, however, he still could not dismiss the call to publish an entire collection of his poems, written over the span of 30 years and encompassing subjects of relationships, nature and the tastes, sounds and sights impacting him over time.

“Don’t let the title of the book deceive you,” says Clanton. “Only a few of the poems in this collection stem from conversations in restaurants. Most are taken from two compilations written over the years about people I’ve known, nature, travel and various personal experiences.”

For example, Clanton's poem, *Chapel of the Transfiguration* -- one of his favorites -- was written after a trip to Wyoming's Grand Tetons where he visited a small chapel built in the early 20th century. Its beauty amidst an unbelievable natural backdrop served as his inspiration.

"I am extremely proud of this book, and that stands true even in knowing I'm not going to 'strike it rich' off what I've done," says Clanton. "Additionally, I want proceeds of this book to help others as well."

Clanton has chosen to donate a portion of sales to the American Cancer Society, as well as Hospice Organizations in both Alabama and Florida. His father passed away from cancer, and a young video producer friend -- to whom the book is dedicated -- also lost his battle with cancer.

"You'll find several poems in the book that refer back to these relationships, and dealing with these losses due to cancer," says Clanton. "I feel donating money through book sales is another way to give back, instead of through words alone."

From cable to "*Conversations Overheard in a Restaurant*," Alan Clanton certainly has much to be proud of and, through the fulfillment of a lifelong dream, has given back to himself as much as others.

About Alan Clanton

Dothan, Alabama resident, Alan Clanton, is a native of Jacksonville, Florida and a graduate of Florida State University. A lifelong student of poetry, his first formal collection as an English major was titled *Godzilla Versus Opie Taylor*, for which he won the Cody Allen Harris undergraduate poetry prize at Florida State University. His poems have appeared in *Kudzu Review* and *Snake Nation Review*. The poems which appear in *Conversations Overheard in a Restaurant* are taken from two previous collections: *The Geometry of the Clouds* (completed in 1999) and *Transparent Moon* (2006).

He was the editor of the student newspaper *Thursday Review* in Jacksonville, and in 2007 and 2008 wrote the weekly newsletter *Roadshow: The Presidential Campaign in Review*. He has lived in Alabama for the past 15 years. For more information, please visit www.alanclanton.com.

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