

# Southard's Work Spans Many Genres

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"Everyone in Heaven writes an autobiography sooner or later," says Scott D. Southard '88, explaining why he chose that theme for his first novel, *3 Days In Rome*. In 2001, the Heeken Novel Writing Fellowship for Work in Progress honored his book about a young man who relates his earthly and heavenly travails while perched behind the Pearly Gates.

Southard also received awards for *The Dante Experience*, a 10-episode radio series that receives play on National Public Radio. He is currently scouting publishers for his next novel, *Cassandra on the Island*.

Since graduating from Aquinas, Southard has studied at Michigan State University and the University of Southern California, where he earned a master's degree in writing. His stage play will premiere off-Broadway this year. One of Southard's proudest moments was his marriage in December 2002 to Heather Vaughan. "Convincing her to marry me was a great accomplishment on my part!" he says.

The Los Angeles resident learned much at Aquinas. "Dr. Chesley, Dr. Raikes, Mr. Eberle and Dr. Brooks...all have been major influences. I cannot say enough for how important they have each been in my life," Southard relates.