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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finding inspiration in nature

Children's book illustrator Laura Jacques chosen as Rocky Mountain Artist-in-Residence

MT. PLEASANT, S.C. (July 8, 2008) – Award-winning children's book illustrator and Connecticut native Laura Jacques never expected the honor of an invitation to Rocky Mountain State Park in Colorado. However, thanks to her inspiring and educational illustrations for children, she has been selected as one of six artists chosen to take part in this summer's Artist-in-Residence program, from July 13 to 26.

The Artist-In-Residence Program at Rocky Mountain National Park offers professional writers, composers, and visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline while being surrounded by the park's inspiring landscape. Selected artists stay in a historic, rustic cabin for two-week periods from June through September. According to the Rocky Mountain State Park website, during Laura's two-week stay, she will be "provided with a creative, contemplative environment in which to generate artistic works and share her works with the public."

Laura Jacques was born and raised in Newington, Conn., and little time was spent indoors. The woods, meadows and streams were her playground and provided a stage for endless imagined adventures. Laura graduated magna cum laude from Paier College of Art, Hamden, Conn., with a BFA in Illustration. Laura draws and paints traditionally using pencil, inks, acrylic and oils. She also creates original digital and vector art using Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

She enjoys illustrating children's books that focus on natural history, wildlife and the environment. Her books have won several honors and awards, including the "Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children" sponsored by the Children's Book Council and the "KIND Children's Book Award" sponsored by the Association for Humane and Environmental Education, a division of the Humane Society of the United States. Most recently, Laura released ***Whistling Wings*** (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2008), the story of Marcel, a young tundra swan, and his first winter migration.

During her stay at the park, Laura will share her vision in two public presentations, Tuesdays, July 15 and 22, at 7:30 pm. For more information about Rocky Mountain National Park and its programs, please contact the park information office at 970-586-1206. For additional information regarding children's book illustrator Laura Jacques, contact Sara Dobie, Public Relations, Sylvan Dell Publishing, at SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com or 877-958-2600.

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About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing, based in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. The company specializes in "Science and Math Through Literature" and provides free supplemental parent/teacher resources for every title,



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