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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A Career Migration

Debut children's book author Laura Goering releases *Whistling Wings*

**MT. PLEASANT, S.C.** (Aug. 18, 2008) – There is a joke in Laura Goering's family that birds fly away and hide the instant they see her. It's a good thing the tundra swans head south through the Midwest in numbers too great to hide, or Goering may have missed the inspiration for her newly released children's book *Whistling Wings*.

*Whistling Wings* (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2008) is about Marcel, a young tundra swan, tired from the first half of a winter migration. One thousand miles is a long way to fly—too long for Marcel, so he hides in the rushes to stay behind while his parents and the flock continue south. But with the lake nearly frozen over, he soon realizes that he is not cut out for life on ice. Other animals offer advice about how to survive the winter, but their ways of living aren't right for the swan. Hungry and scared, he falls asleep – only to be awakened by a big surprise!

Goering is a multi-lingual Russian language and literature professor at Carleton College in Minnesota. In 1992, she played in the Ultimate Frisbee Championship in Japan, so where did a passion for children's picture books come from? "My interest in children's literature grew out of a course I teach at Carleton called 'Russian Literature for Children,'" said Goering. "There are so many splendid Russian children's writers, I at first planned to translate their work into English. As I learned more about the children's market in the US, I decided to try my hand at writing stories and poems for children myself, spurred on, in part, by spending hours reading picture books of varying quality to my young daughter."

*Whistling Wings* illustrator Laura Jacques has had a similarly multi-faceted career path. She has more than 25 years of experience illustrating in the advertising and publishing world. She most enjoys illustrating children's books that focus on natural history, wildlife and the environment, and those illustrations have garnered her a number of awards. Most recently, Jacques was chosen to be an Artist-in-Residence at Rocky Mountain State Park in Colorado.

For Goering, writing *Whistling Wings* has been a new and positive experience, and she feels the book serves a greater purpose. "It lends itself to use in the classroom in conjunction with NSES Life Science standards that require an understanding of how organisms interact with their environments," she said. "In the lower grades it can be used as an introduction to migration, hibernation and other wintering behaviors. For older elementary students, it can also be linked with discussions of changes in animal behavior that occur when the habitat is modified. Its educational goals are subordinate, though, to an engaging story with a likable main character."

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Readers interested in learning more about Laura Goering can visit the Sylvan Dell website. Laura Jacques has additional information on the Sylvan Dell website, as well as at her own website, <http://www.laurajacques.com/>. Ordering information and free supplemental materials—such as audio readings, activity ideas, learning links and interactive quizzes—are also available at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).

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