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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Parents, Children can go on a Global Safari**

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Feb. 10, 2007) – Parents and educators can take children on a global safari to see cheetahs, iguanas, koalas, penguins and yaks this month as Raleigh resident Karen Lee releases her new picture book, “*ABC Safari*.”

Lee is the author and illustrator for this around-the-world animal adventure that visits different habitats on each continent, from the hot deserts to the African jungle and then to the high Himalayan Mountains, and teaches children the alphabet at the same time. Published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, “*ABC Safari*” is written for children ages three to seven.

“I’m thrilled to be working with Sylvan Dell again,” explains Lee, who illustrated the company’s Sept. 2006 release, “*One Odd Day*.” “It’s been exciting to wear both ‘hats’ this time as author and illustrator, and I’m very happy with ‘*ABC Safari*.’ I especially like to watch children look for the safari boy and his pet parrot in each illustration.”

To celebrate the release of “*ABC Safari*,” Lee will attend several story time events, the first of which will be held at the Raleigh Playspace Museum at 10 a.m. on February 27. Lee will also visit Quail Ridge Books & Music at 10 a.m. on March 12 and the Cary Barnes & Noble at 10 a.m. on March 14.

Like every Sylvan Dell book, “*ABC Safari*” contains a “For Creative Minds” educational section in the back of the book. The section includes animal fun facts and sorting cards that explain animal classes, the difference between carnivores and herbivores and the distinction between uppercase and lowercase letters. Ron Fricke, Vice President of Education at the Philadelphia Zoo, has vetted the book for scientific accuracy.

In addition, Lee’s picture book is under consideration by Renaissance Learning to be part of the Accelerated Reader program. To date, all 14 of Sylvan Dell Publishing’s titles have been accepted into the program, which is used in over 57,000 schools.

Lee majored in illustration at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. She began her career as a storyboard artist and editorial illustrator and realized her passion for children’s illustration after having children of her own. A member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Karen received the 2004 SCBWI Magazine Merit Award for Illustration for her work in *Highlights for Children* and was named runner-up for the 2005 SCBWI Don



Freeman Grant after submitting sketches of “*ABC Safari*.” The Don Freeman Grant is awarded to picture book illustrators to further their understanding, training and work in the genre.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for “*ABC Safari*,” “*One Odd Day*” and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. They can also find more information by calling Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 or by visiting www.SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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