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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Chicago Author Releases Second Picture Book

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (January 25, 2007) – “*In Arctic Waters*” is Chicago author Laura Crawford’s entertaining new children’s book that shows a fish, whale, narwhal, seal, walrus and polar bear cavorting around an iceberg.

Illustrated by Ottawa resident Ben Hodson and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, “*In Arctic Waters*” is a variation of the rhyme “*This is the House that Jack Built*.” Ms. Crawford’s cumulative prose is good for early readers and Mr. Hodson’s whimsical illustrations will capture—and keep—any child’s attention.

Like every Sylvan Dell title, “*In Arctic Waters*” is scientifically accurate and includes a five-page “For Creative Minds” educational section that teaches children and parents about the Arctic waters, Inuit culture and Arctic animal adaptations like blubber and fur. In addition, a “Mix-and-Match” activity allows children to make their own Arctic animal.

Parents and educators looking for more information can find kid-friendly “Learning Links” and suggested “Teaching Activities” on Sylvan Dell’s website, [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com). Interested families can also meet Ms. Crawford at her book launch and signing events.

Ms. Crawford will be signing copies of her book at a book launch party hosted by the Shedd Aquarium on Saturday, February 10 from 12 to 3 p.m. The event will take place in the aquarium’s main gift shop so that parents and children can meet Crawford without having to buy tickets to the aquarium. Families will also have an opportunity to meet Ms. Crawford on Sunday, February 11 at Anderson’s Bookshop in Naperville, Ill. She will be reading and signing “*In Arctic Waters*” beginning at 1 p.m.

Ms. Crawford teaches second grade in Geneva, Ill., and is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). “*In Arctic Waters*” is her second picture book. Ms. Crawford’s first, “*The Pilgrims’ Thanksgiving From A to Z*,” was released in 2005 by Pelican Publishing Company.

“I feel very fortunate,” Ms. Crawford explains. “It’s an honor to have my first bookstore signing at Anderson’s and my book launch at the Shedd Aquarium. And Sylvan Dell couldn’t have picked a better artist—Ben’s illustrations are so bright and fun that I’m going to have to bring extra copies of ‘*In Arctic Waters*’ to my classroom!”

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Mr. Hodson is no stranger to the children's book industry. A full-time artist and a member of SCBWI, he illustrated Sylvan Dell Publishing's award-winning 2006 release "*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*." Mr. Hodson has also illustrated "*I Love Yoga*," "*Pigs Aren't Dirty, Bears Aren't Slow and Other Truths about Misunderstood Animals*" and "*Wishes and Worries: A Story to Help Children Understand a Parent Who Drinks Too Much Alcohol*."

"*In Arctic Waters*" 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.

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 "*In Arctic Waters*," "*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*" and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore and find more information by visiting [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or by calling Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600.

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