

Contact: Sara Dobie, (877) 958-2600
SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawaii family wins \$500 in the Sylvan Dell Challenge...and Share Some Great Memories along the Way

MT. PLEASANT, S.C. (June 18, 2008) – What do planetariums, zoos, libraries and books all have in common? They are all part of the Sylvan Dell Challenge! Just ask Pearl City, Hawaii, native Tralen Miyamoto and his family.

In order to be eligible for the first prize of a \$500 scholarship and ten Sylvan Dell books, families with young children participated in five different activities, between March 1 and June 1. These family activities included things like visiting an aquarium, museum or science center, plus activities like bird watching, animal research and reading a minimum of ten books. (One 3-year-old contestant even read a total of 68 books!) The final requirement was a written summary of the experience. Winners were chosen at random, and the Miyamoto family came out on top! Two runners-up were also chosen to receive ten free books from Sylvan Dell: John Michael Stagliano, of Summerville, S.C., and Cora Ann Ray, of Charleston, S.C.

“I learned things that I either forgot or never knew, while Tralen was busy learning things for the first time,” said Jaime Miyamoto, Tralen’s mother. “In every aspect, we both had something to learn. And we had great fun spending time together!”

After retiring from the US Navy and before launching Sylvan Dell Publishing in 2004, owners Lee and Donna German took some time off to travel the United States with their three daughters. They packed up their van, rented out their house and, armed with Association of Zoos and Aquariums and US National Park memberships they began their adventure. After visiting 72 parks and completing 68 Junior Ranger programs, Lee, Donna and their daughters came home with a lifelong love of travel, exploration and family learning. Their continued passion inspired the Sylvan Dell Challenge.

“It made me realize the simple pleasures of learning that occur in our everyday routines in our living room and the not so ordinary experiences in our own backyard,” wrote one participant. And as one parent said, “Children are curious, and it is our responsibility to give them chances to explore the world around them.”

Entries were received from across the nation. Participants’ ages ranged from age 2 through age 8. This was the first year for the Sylvan Dell Challenge, and Sylvan Dell looks forward to continuing this educational opportunity for years to come. Those hoping to take part in next year’s challenge should keep an eye on the Sylvan Dell Publishing website, www.SylvanDellPublishing.com.

For more information, contact Public Relations Coordinator Sara Dobie, at SaraDobie@SylvanDellPublishing.com or 877-958-2600.

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