



February 14, 2000
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Doug Minor (603) 526-3728
dminor@colby-sawyer.edu

SY MONTGOMERY TO PREVIEW BOOK ON AMAZON DOLPHINS **N.H. biologist/author will present *Journey of the Pink Dolphins* Feb. 23 at Colby-Sawyer**

New London, N.H. – In researching her books and articles, field biologist Sy Montgomery has been chased by an angry silverback gorilla in Zaire; bitten by a vampire bat in Costa Rica; stalked by a tiger in India; worked in a pit with 18,000 snakes in Manitoba; and has been deftly undressed by an orangutan in Borneo.

For her forthcoming book, *Journey of the Pink Dolphins: An Amazon Quest*, Montgomery swam with piranhas, eels, and dolphins in the Amazon River. Simon & Schuster will publish her book on March 9, although local audiences can enjoy a preview presented by the author on Wednesday, February 23, at 8 p.m. in Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center, Colby-Sawyer College. Admission is free, and the public and media are invited.

Journey is the true story of the author's quest to follow *Inia geoffrensis*, an enigmatic, little-studied species of freshwater dolphins found in the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers. Her research required four separate expeditions, each a journey not only into some of the world's greatest jungles, but also into a mythical world where dolphins are said to transform themselves into human form and seduce people to live in an enchanted city beneath the toffee-colored waters.

"Sy Montgomery has an insight into the 'others' that every nature writer on this continent envies," writes Farley Mowat, Canada's most widely read author. "I am no exception. Clear, emotionally telling, and always right to the point, her accounts of the other forms of life are without peer."

"Surely, one of the most brilliant books of our time, this enthralling account of the rare and beautiful pink river dolphins of the Amazon is clearly in a class by itself," says best-selling nature writer Elizabeth Marshall Thomas. "Montgomery weaves zoology with myth, natural history with poetry, anthropology with the supernatural, and the result is perfection—a picture not only of animal life, but also of human life in the Amazon Basin. Montgomery has found a new and very perceptive way to present the natural world."

(MORE)

Sy Montgomery @Colby-Sawyer – 2
February 14, 2000

Montgomery herself indicates that pink dolphins are considered to be among the world's most primitive whales. They are "holdovers from a past when crocodiles larger than Tyrannosaurus Rex lurked in the shallows, when the Amazon flowed not to the Atlantic, as it does today, but to the Pacific."

Her first book, *Walking with the Great Apes* (Houghton Mifflin, 1991), was a finalist for the 1991 Los Angeles Times Science Book Award and winner of the New Hampshire Writers and Publishers Project Best Non-fiction Award. Montgomery also writes a nature column for *The Boston Globe*; contributes commentaries to National Public Radio's *Living on Earth*; and writes for magazines in the U.S. and abroad, including *International Wildlife*, *Nature*, *Animals*, *Orion*, *The Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*, and *Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine*. She also wrote for the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Her first book for children, *The Snake Scientist*, was published in 1999 (Houghton Mifflin).

A resident of Hancock, N.H., Montgomery lectures on conservation topics at the Smithsonian Institute; American Museum of Natural History; California Academy of Sciences; and numerous schools, universities, and conservation organizations. She serves as an adjunct faculty member at Antioch/New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire.

Sponsored by the Colby-Sawyer College Cultural Events Committee, the spring Environmental Lecture Series runs through mid-April, presenting outstanding scholars and authors who will address current issues relevant to our regional, national, and international natural environments.

-30-

ASSOCIATED EVENTS:

Monday, March 13, 4 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Ware Campus Center "Environmentalism and Its Enemies." Dr. Patrick Allitt, professor of history at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, examines the history of scientists, historians, philosophers, and politicians who have challenged the central claims of the environmental movement during the past 40 years. About his research, Allitt warns, "There's something to annoy just about everyone." Free admission.

Tuesday, April 4, 8 p.m., Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center Gerry Ellis: "Earth 2000." Internationally acclaimed photographer and naturalist Ellis presents an unprecedented multimedia event that propels audiences through the socio-environmental passages and turmoil of the past century. Free admission.

Wednesday, April 12, 8 p.m., Wheeler Hall, Ware Campus Center Lecture/slide presentation, "Reading the Forested Landscape." This event will expand the focus of natural history from the species to the landscape level. Using evidence of past forest disturbance—logging, fire, agriculture, blow downs, blights, beaver activity—participants will learn to "read" a landscape's history while wandering through the woods. Free admission.

Colby-Sawyer College, 100 Main Street, New London, New Hampshire 03257 (603) 526-3000 telephone/(603) 526-2135 fax