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Contact: Lisa Eitner
Oread Books / KU Bookstores
785-864-4431
oreadbooks@ku.edu

T. L. McCown Talk on Saudi Arabia Scheduled at Oread Books

October 22, 2007 (LAWRENCE, KS) – Author T. L. McCown will talk about and sign copies of her new book "Creating Shamsiyah: Empowering the Saudi Feminist Movement," as part of International Education Week activities at the University of Kansas. The presentation will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at Oread Books on level 2 in the Kansas Union on the KU Campus in Lawrence. The event is free and the public is invited.

"Creating Shamsiyah: Empowering the Saudi Feminist Movement," continues the exploration of Saudi culture begun in McCown's earlier book, "Shifting Sands: Life in Arabia with a Saudi Princess." McCown lived in Saudi Arabia for 10 years, moving there in 1991 just after the Gulf War. She had a unique opportunity to experience Saudi society, first as the English tutor for a Royal Princess' children, and later as the director of a new learning center for Saudi women that the Princess funded and entrusted her to develop. Returning to the U.S. in the summer of 2001, McCown soon decided to step out publicly and explain what she had learned about the Saudi view of the world. She continues that mission in the book "Creating Shamsiyah," which relates the personal growth and shared vision that developed in the friendship between the Princess and McCown as they worked for Saudi women's issues.

"My experiences were rare, even within the Kingdom. However, as much as I was fortunate to experience over the years, I was not of their world. I am still a Christian American with different values and beliefs looking into their world; nevertheless my seat at the theater of Saudi culture was extremely close to the stage. I was honored to experience the Royal family's inner circle first hand, which allows me the opportunity to share insight into Saudi culture that has never been revealed to the western world."

- excerpt from "Shifting Sands"

T. L. McCown, a Georgia native who received a master's degree in communications from Auburn University, is a former public speaking instructor. Her appreciation for Saudi Arabia was sparked by her parents, who lived and worked in Riyadh for many years. McCown's first book, "Shifting Sands: Life in Saudi Arabia with a Saudi Princess," was nominated for the Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence. She lives in the Midwest with her two children, who still think of the Saudi Arabia as "home."

Oread Books is a full-service, independent bookseller located on the University of Kansas Campus in Lawrence on the second floor of the Kansas Union. As a non-profit organization in the division of Student Success, all proceeds are given back to KU through student programs and activities. The selection and events at Oread Books are reflective of the campus community, always current and representing diverse points of view.