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one book at a time

providing a foundation
for writers around the globe

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LVF to Invest In Lynn Stegner Novel To Be Published By University of Nebraska Press

BOSTON/NEW YORK—The Literary Ventures Fund, the venture-based non-profit foundation that invests in important works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, today announced its newest project: acclaimed writer Lynn Stegner’s latest novel “Because a Fire Was in My Head,” to be published by the University of Nebraska Press, as part of its Flyover Fiction series, in April 2007.

“We choose book investments based on our belief that each work will resonate with readers long after its initial launch,” said Jim Bildner, Chairman of Literary Ventures Fund. “We feel confident that Lynn Stegner’s latest novel will be read by a growing number of readers for years to come. Partnering with a quality university press like Nebraska is also an important first for us, as it marks our first investment in a university press.”

Founded in 1941, the University of Nebraska Press (UNP) added Bison Books, its trade paperback imprint, in the early 1960s. Together, UNP and Bison Books publish almost 200 books per year. In areas ranging from Western Americana to French avant-garde literature-in-translation, from indigenous studies to narratology, from contemporary fiction and nonfiction to baseball and food culture, Nebraska’s list is known for both its scholarly depth and its daring quirkiness.

“Our mission for the Flyover Fiction series meshes perfectly with that of LVF – helping worthy works of literature flourish in the marketplace. Their efforts on behalf of Stegner’s book will go a long way in helping it reach the audience it richly deserves,” said Margie Rine, UNP Sales and Development Director.

Lynn Stegner is the author of four acclaimed novels, “Undertow” and “Fata Morgana,” both nominated for the National Book Award, “Pipers at the Gates of Dawn,” which was awarded the Faulkner Society’s Gold Medal for Best Novella, and most recently, the soon to be published “Because a Fire Was in My Head,” winner of the 2005 Faulkner Award for best novel in manuscript form. Lynn has also written short stories, poems, and nonfiction essays and articles. Among others, she has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Western States Arts Council, as well as a Fulbright Scholarship to Ireland. Lynn has taught fiction writing at the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of Vermont, the National University of Ireland, Galway, College of Santa Fe, and she currently directs the Santa Fe Writers’ Workshop. At work on a new collection of short stories entitled

“The Anarchic Hand”, Lynn Stegner lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her husband, the writer Page Stegner, and her daughter, Allison.

“This partnership between Literary Ventures and the University of Nebraska Press is not only original but because of changes in publishing, has become essential when it comes to keeping serious literature alive and communally present in America,” said Lynn Stegner. “I am personally excited that my book has been honored with this opportunity, but more importantly this collaborative vision makes me hopeful for the much larger cause of contemporary American literature.”

LVF and the University of Nebraska Press will work together on marketing and publicity for “Because a Fire Was in My Head,” and an author tour for Lynn Stegner. For more information please contact Literary Ventures Fund www.literaryventuresfund.org or University Press of Nebraska www.unp.unl.edu.

About the Literary Ventures Fund

LVF connects readers to great writers—one book at a time.

Founded in 2005 as a not-for-profit private foundation, the Literary Ventures Fund challenges the status quo of literary publishing by creating sustainable publishing models as well as an extended network of integrated resources that support these models and the role of literature in today’s world.

The Literary Ventures Fund believes that literature has a profound impact on our lives. Great books transport readers, illuminate their values, and bring meaning and context to their lives; they have the power to inspire, console, and provoke; they enlighten us and affect us long after we’ve put a book down. But literature is at risk, as are the economic and support systems that traditionally have connected great writers to readers. In many cases these systems no longer exist, disrupted in part by consolidation and the intrinsic pressures on the remaining large publishing houses to give preference to books that sell to the mass market. LVF is built on the premise that, given a level playing field, great works of literature can and will thrive in the marketplace.

The Literary Ventures Fund focuses on a single precept: sustainability. While LVF first and foremost invests in works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry that are exceptionally well written, make an impact, and resonate with the reader, it balances that with the conviction that the projects it funds need to be economically viable and likely to remain in print. LVF seeks to leverage existing resources while acting as a catalyst in creating new ones. Rather than function simply as a funder or grant-maker, LVF becomes an active partner in their invested projects while, at the same time, respecting what their publishing partners do best. LVF's financial and technical support is need-blind and entirely merit-based. By increasing the success of a growing number of worthy books, the LVF investment model generates increasing revenue for more and more titles.

For more information visit our website www.literaryventuresfund.org.