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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Brandon Wilson, Author of *Along the Templar Trail*,
Takes Gold for Best Travel Book in Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition**

Author/photographer/adventurer Brandon Wilson's latest book, ***Along the Templar Trail: Seven Million Steps for Peace***, has earned the gold for *Best Travel Book* in the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition. The awards, recognized as the most prestigious in their field, were just announced in Guadalajara, Mexico at the annual convention of the Society of American Travel Writers, the professional organization of travel journalists and communicators.

The competition, for work from spring 2008 to spring 2009, drew 1,191 entries judged by faculty at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Along the Templar Trail chronicles Brandon Wilson's incredible 2600-mile peace walk across two continents with his French companion. Their courageous journey from France to Jerusalem traced one marched a millennium ago by those who became the first Knights Templar. *Midwest Book Review* called it, "More than the mere adventure of two brave men, it is a grand and noble quest for peace, as well as a spiritual voyage that will leave readers emotionally and intellectually replenished..."

Competition judges added, "The author is a skillful narrator of people and places far from even the most adventurous traveler. Writing is descriptive and personal and purposeful."

This is Brandon Wilson's third non-fiction travel adventure book. It was also short-listed for the Book of the Year Award held by *ForeWord Magazine*. Wilson is also author of the IPPY award-winning ***Yak Butter Blues*** and ***Dead Men Don't Leave Tips: Adventures X Africa***. His story of a year spent living in the Arctic, "Life When Hell Freezes Over," is part of the Explorers Club recent anthology, ***They Lived to Tell the Tale***. He is currently working on a new book chronicling his most recent adventure: an eight-country trek traversing the length of the Alps. It is slated for publication in late 2010.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the competition, overseen by the Society of American Travel Writers Foundation. The competition is open to all North American journalists. The awards are named for Lowell Thomas, acclaimed broadcast journalist, prolific author and world explorer during five decades in travel journalism.

Along the Templar Trail, published by Pilgrim's Tales (Paia, Hawaii), is available at all booksellers and from your favorite Internet bookstores.

For a preview, visit Pilgrim's Tales' website at www.pilgrimstales.com.

Note: Book jacket and author photos are available as high-quality jpegs upon request

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