



## **Greg Mortenson, Co-Author of the Bestselling *Three Cups of Tea*, to Speak at Hollins**

Roanoke, Va. – Greg Mortenson, whose efforts to promote education and literacy in Afghanistan and Pakistan became the basis of the number one *New York Times* bestseller *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*, will speak at Hollins University's duPont Chapel on Monday, April 26, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. A book signing will follow the lecture.

*Three Cups of Tea*, which Mortenson co-authored with David Oliver Relin, has sold more than three million copies in 39 countries since its release in 2006 and is required reading for U.S. senior military commanders, U.S. Special Forces deploying to Afghanistan, and Pentagon officers in counter-insurgency training. The book is seen as an essential guide for those who advocate for building relationships as a part of an overall strategic plan for peace.

As of 2009, Mortenson has established or significantly supports 131 schools in rural and often volatile regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, which provide education to over 58,000 children, including 44,000 girls, where few education opportunities existed before. He is the co-founder of the non-profit Central Asia Institute and the founder of Pennies for Peace, which teaches children the rewards of sharing and working together to bring hope and education opportunities to the children in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

NBC News' Tom Brokaw describes Mortenson as "one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, who is really changing the world," while U.S. Representative Mary Bono (R-CA) says, "I've learned more from Greg

Mortenson about the causes of terrorism than I did during all our briefings on Capitol Hill. He is a true hero, whose courage and compassion exemplify the true ideals of the American spirit.”

In 2009, Mortenson received Pakistan’s highest civilian award, the Star of Pakistan, for his humanitarian work; was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by several Congressional representatives; and was named one of America’s Best Leaders by *U.S. News and World Report*. His new book, *Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, will be published by Viking in December 2009.

Mortenson’s lecture is sponsored by Hollins University’s Distinguished Speakers Series, which brings to campus leading national and international experts from a variety of fields to enlighten students, faculty, and the community at large.

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