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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alumni Association Honors Three Morris Grads

Summary: Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes professional achievements, public service

MORRIS, Minnesota (May 20, 2016)— Three University of Minnesota, Morris graduates will be honored for their professional achievements and public service. Thomas W. Mahoney '74, Sharon Stewart Reeves '68, and Mark Schuller '96 are recipients of the UMM Alumni Association's 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award. They will be recognized at a reception and banquet October 7 as part of Morris's Homecoming.

Grants developer honored

Tom Mahoney '74, of Hancock, was the creator and founding director of the Grants Development Office at the University of Minnesota, Morris. During his 25-year tenure, average grant awards rose sixfold, to nearly \$1 million per year in public and private funds.

Mahoney—beloved for his sense of humor and amiable personality—worked with faculty to develop and write research grant proposals. He also helped obtain and manage funds to support many special projects, among them the Violence Prevention and Response Program, the AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit, the biomass gasification plant, and the campus's historic building preservation efforts.

Mahoney's work sparked a turning point in Morris's early history, says Elizabeth Blake, vice chancellor and dean emeritus. In 1982, he helped the college win a U.S. Department of Education grant to strengthen the curriculum, leading to national recognition.

Mahoney grew up near Belle Plaine and earned a bachelor of arts with distinction in psychology from Morris. As a student, he co-founded the UMM Drug Information Center. He also worked as a researcher for Psychology Professor Eric Klinger's Project on Fantasy, co-authoring one of the project's first publications, a book chapter published in 1976.

Mahoney, who retired in 2009, has received the Exemplary Adult Educator Award from the Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education, the Outstanding Civil Service Award, and the inaugural University of Minnesota, Morris Academic Staff Award.

"Tom Mahoney has served his campus and his community at the highest level with great care, skill and heart," says Sandy Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs at Morris. "His belief in the promise of the University of Minnesota, Morris and his dedication to helping the campus realize the best of our vision and mission are unrivaled."

Pioneer in online newspaper archives

Sharon Stewart Reeves '68, of San Diego, California, spent 38 years as a special collections librarian. As director of library services for the San Diego Union-Tribune newspapers, she was a pioneer in creating online, searchable newspaper archives.

"News libraries are exciting places to work," Stewart Reeves says. "There is always something going on, and deadlines come at all hours of the day and night." During her 31 years at the newspaper, Stewart Reeves and her staff contributed to many significant news stories: "Olympics, Super Bowls, school shootings, 9/11, crooked

congressmen, fires, and floods,” including the 2006 Pulitzer-prize winning coverage of bribe-taking by former Representative Randy “Duke” Cunningham.

A native of Balaton, Stewart Reeves earned a bachelor of arts in history from Morris and a master of library science from the University of Washington. Before joining the Union-Tribune, she was a librarian at *The Seattle Times*, Batelle Northwest, Boeing Aerospace, and the James S. Copley Library. She is a past president of the San Diego chapter of the Special Libraries Association and a recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Information School at the University of Washington. Stewart Reeves also serves on the Morris campus Archives Advisory Council.

When she retired in 2006, Stewart Reeves turned her love of knitting and crocheting into her “way of giving back.” She has made thousands of baby caps—the count is well over 3,000—which she donates to hospitals. Connie Merritt, a San Diego midwife, helps distribute Stewart Reeves’s handiwork. “Her gifts of precious baby caps spread joy all over the world.”

Anthropologist recognized for Haiti research

Mark Schuller '96, of DeKalb, Illinois, is an associate professor of anthropology and NGO leadership and development at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. His research before and after Haiti’s 2010 earthquake examines why multi-billion-dollar humanitarian aid efforts failed to relieve the poverty and suffering of the Haitian people.

“Six years ago, the world wept with Haiti,” Schuller says, “and along with our tears came one of the most generous humanitarian responses in history.” Private individuals contributed over \$3 billion and governments pledged \$13 billion. Why did all this well-intentioned aid produce so few benefits?

The answers, Schuller says, “go far beyond the blame-game, requiring us to take a sober look at the humanitarian enterprise itself.”

Schuller scrutinizes these failures and suggests new approaches for foreign aid in two books: *Humanitarian Aftershocks in Haiti*, published in 2016, and *Killing with Kindness: Haiti, International Aid, and NGOs*, which won the 2015 Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association and Society for Applied Anthropology. He is also the author of 30 scholarly articles and book chapters. In addition, Schuller has co-edited five books, including *Tectonic Shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake*.

Schuller co-directed the documentary film *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy*, which was based on his field research in Haiti. “The documentary is an important tool in human rights advocacy,” says Faye V. Harrison, a professor at the University of Illinois and president of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.

Schuller, who grew up in Des Plaines, Illinois, earned a bachelor of arts with honors and distinction in anthropology, sociology, and philosophy from Morris, and a PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Before joining the faculty at Northern Illinois University, he taught at City University of New York and Vassar College.

Schuller’s growing body of published work is “recognized nationally and internationally,” says Donna Chollett, Morris professor emeritus of anthropology, who calls him “one of the most influential young voices in contemporary anthropology.” Adds Olson-Loy: “He clearly demonstrates that Morris alumni can—and do—change the world.”

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