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## **Lecture March 8 Focuses on Women as Astronauts**

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# LINDENWOOD

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## Lecture March 8 Focuses on Women as Astronauts

After decades of silence, a little-known secret about the U.S. space program has been revealed—and the story's author is coming to Lindenwood University to share her amazing tale.

Martha Ackmann, LU Class of '73 and author of "The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight" will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8 at Lindenwood's Hyland Performance Arena. The event is the first in a new series of lectures in which high-profile alums return to campus to speak.

The event is being held in the Performance Arena to accommodate entire Lindenwood classes. Organizers have also issued invitations to several high school groups.

Ackmann is a member of the gender studies faculty at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. Her best-selling book tells the remarkable story of women pilots who were secretly tested to be astronauts in the early days of the U.S. space program. When the women scored too well, NASA scrapped the experiment.

"The Mercury 13" received the Amelia Earhart Medal for outstanding contributions to women and flight and the Media Prize from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Ackmann has appeared on the "Today" show, CNN, NPR, and the BBC. A popular speaker, she has lectured at the Kennedy Space Center, for many colleges around the country and abroad and for audiences ranging from the Arizona Women Lawyers to the Texas National Guard.

Seating for Ackmann's lecture will go fast. All attendees must have tickets. Tickets will be available later this week in the Welcome Center or at the LU Box office in Roemer Hall. For information on tickets, please call Charlsie Floyd at 636-949-4909.

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