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Alumnus Ackmann Here July 13 to Promote Book

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Lindenwood University alumna Martha Ackmann will promote her new book, *Curveball* with a book signing and reading at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, at 6:00 p.m. at Butler Library on Lindenwood University's campus (209 S. Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO 63301).

Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League (Lawrence Hill Books, June 2010) is the first biography of the groundbreaking Toni Stone. Tracing Stone's life and the trajectory of her surprising baseball career, *Curveball* expounds on her personal and professional struggles and accomplishments while offering details from baseball history to satiate sports fanatics. Known in her time as "the female Jackie Robinson," Toni Stone played with the greats—Satchel Paige, Buck O'Neil, Willie Mays, and Ernie Banks.

When Hank Aaron moved from the Negro League to the majors, Stone took his spot on the Indianapolis Clowns, fulfilling her lifelong dream to play pro ball. By the end of her 15-year Negro League career, which included the Kansas City Monarchs, she had a batting average was .250 and had competed in Yankee Stadium, Connie Mack Stadium, Briggs Field and Comiskey Park.

Curveball is Ackmann's follow-up to her book *The Mercury 13*, which tells the little known tale of 13 women who trained in secret for the Mercury space program. Ackmann, from Lindenwood's class of 1973, was the winner of the university's Alumni Merit Award in 2008 and teaches gender studies at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and has served as the August Amson Whitney Scholar for Nonfiction at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute.

For more information on the event, contact Lindenwood faculty member Sue Tretter at stretter@lindenwood.edu or 636-949-4872.