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SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES WITH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

October 15, 2013

Lindenwood University's 2013-14 Speaker Series will continue with this year's student choice speaker, Olympic gold medalist and Dancing with the Stars winner Shawn Johnson at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the university's Hyland Arena. Admission is free and open to the public.

Johnson's talk is titled "Winning Balance: An Evening with Shawn Johnson." A renowned gymnast, Johnson won her first senior national championships and individual-all around world championship in 2007. She reclaimed the National championship title in 2008 and was named part of the U.S. Olympic Team.



At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Johnson won the gold medal in the balance beam and three silver medals in the individual all-around, floor exercise, and team categories.

In 2009, Johnson became the youngest person ever to win ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." In April of that same year, she was presented the 79th Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Sullivan Award, one of the most prestigious honors in amateur sports.

Johnson published a memoir, *Winning Balance*, in 2012 and announced her retirement from competitive gymnastics. She was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in August 2013.

Currently, Johnson is involved in many philanthropic activities, including charities for animals, children, and cancer research, as well as programs that seek to build good character amongst youth across the country.

Also appearing in the Lindenwood University 2013-2014 Speaker Series are:

Daymond John -- Nov. 14, 2013, 7 p.m., J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts—Bezemes Family Theater -- CEO of FUBU Clothing, John is a featured investor on ABC's *Shark Tank*. He will speak on "Fundamental Keys for Business and Personal Success."

Deborah Horan -- Feb. 18, 2014, 7 p.m., Spellmann Campus Center—Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room -- A journalist who has covered the Middle East since 1993, Horan will present, "My Observations on Israel and the Middle East."

Adam Steltzner -- March 25, 2014, 7 p.m., J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts—Bezemes Family Theater -- Steltzner was the lead NASA engineer for the Curiosity Mars rover landing, which amazed the world. Steltzner will present, "How Curiosity Changed My Life."

Mark Noah -- April 22, 2014, 7 p.m., Spellmann Campus Center—Anheuser-Busch Leadership Room -- Noah, who has a passion for historic airplanes, is also the founder of History Flight, which has dedicated itself to finding the locations of American missing-in-action service members. He will present, "Finding the Fallen: The Search for America's Missing-in-Action Servicemen."

For more information about the 2013-14 Lindenwood University Speaker Series, visit www.lindenwood.edu/academics/speakerseries.


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