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Sally Ride Lecture at UNI March 25, 2004

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Note to editors/news directors: A 200 dpi image of Sally Ride is available online at

<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/Ride,Sally.jpg>

A 200 dpi JPEG photo of Joy Corning is available via the Internet at:

<http://www.uni.edu/pubrel/newsroom/photos/corning.jpeg>

Photographers may shoot during the first two minutes of her lecture. Contractual obligations prohibit Ride from granting interviews to the media.

Sally Ride to speak as part of UNI's Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, will speak at the University of Northern Iowa's Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, as part of the Joy Cole Corning Distinguished Leadership Lecture Series. This year's lecture co-sponsor is the UNI Speaker's Committee.

The 4:30 p.m. lecture is a special question-and-answer session designed for students. The 7:30 p.m. event, titled "Leadership and America's Future in Space" is Ride's formal lecture.

Established in 2001 by UNI alumna and former Iowa Lt. Gov. **Joy Cole Corning**, the series' purpose is to bring to campus nationally and internationally renowned leaders in such areas as the arts, business, education, government and the judiciary. A desire to give students the opportunity to hear and interact with leaders in their respective fields from all over the world prompted Corning to make a \$1 million gift to the UNI Foundation's "Students First" campaign.

Ride holds a B.S. in physics and a B.A. in English from Stanford University. She earned both a master's of science and a doctorate in physics from Stanford University. She was selected for astronaut training in 1978, and worked on the support crew for both the second and third space shuttle flights.

Her first flight was aboard the Challenger in 1983. Her second spaceflight was also aboard the Challenger in October 1984.

Ride's training for a third flight was interrupted in 1986 by the Challenger accident. For the next six months she served as a member of the presidential commission investigating the accident. Upon completion of the investigation, Ride was assigned to NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., as assistant to the NASA administrator for long-range planning. In this role she created NASA's Office of Exploration.

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UNI SALLY RIDE/ADD ONE

She is now a physicist and a member of the faculty at the University of California, San Diego.

Ride also is a member of the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology. She wrote a children's book, "To Space and Back," describing her experiences in space; has received the Jefferson Award for Public Service; and has twice been awarded the National Spaceflight Medal.

Her latest books, "Voyager: An Adventure to the Edge of The Solar System" and "The Third Planet: Exploring The Earth From Space," are now in bookstores.

Joy Corning graduated from UNI with a bachelor of arts in elementary education in 1954. She taught school in Greenfield and Waterloo, before leaving the profession to raise her family in Cedar Falls. She now lives in Des Moines.

She was elected to the Cedar Falls school board in 1973, serving 11 years, nine of them as president. After six years in the Iowa Senate, she was elected lieutenant governor, serving for eight years.

Now an active volunteer, Corning serves on nearly a dozen boards, including the UNI Foundation Board of Trustees; UNI's Performing Arts Center advisory board; the boards of the Des Moines Symphony, the National Conference on Community and Justice, and the Institute for Character Development.

Ride is the second speaker in the series. The first was Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State.

There is no cost to attend the lectures, but tickets are required. They may be obtained by calling 273-SHOW. If tickets remain on the date of the lecture, they may be obtained at the box office before the event.

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