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**NEW YORK TIMES WRITER AND “HOMELESS TO HARVARD”  
LIZ MURRAY TO SPEAK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. -- Liz Murray will speak at the University of Florida on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Murray will be speaking promptly at 7:30 p.m. Admissions are free and open to the public and tickets may be obtained at the door. Murray's appearance is being sponsored by both ACCENT Speaker's Bureau and Women's History Month.

At the age of 15, Murray's mother, a drug addict along with Murray's father, passed away and she became homeless. Determined to take charge of her life, Murray finished high school in just two years while camping out in New York City parks and subway stations. She went on to earn a scholarship from The New York Times and entered Harvard in 2000. In order to be closer to her ill father, Liz has since chosen to attend Columbia University.

Author of the inspirational memoir *Breaking Night* (due out in 2005), her story was captured on Lifetime's Emmy-nominated movie "Homeless to Harvard." She was among one of the first people to receive Oprah Winfrey's "Chutzpah Award." At UF, Murray will be speaking about the triumphs throughout her life.

Women's History Month is a time to celebrate and promote leadership and pride among the women on the University of Florida campus. This year, the Women's History Month Committee, in partnership with the Women's Leadership Council and Dean of Students Office, will develop and promote many exciting events during March 2005. Women's History Month is a vehicle for acknowledging and focusing on the accomplishments and contributions of women in society. The month also is an opportunity for the university community to become more aware of and receptive to the various voices and concerns of women. For more information please visit [www.dso.ufl.edu/whm](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/whm).

For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact (352) 392-1665 ext. 302 or 392-2567 (TDD). E-mail [accommodate@sg.ufl.edu](mailto:accommodate@sg.ufl.edu) or contact the Florida Relay System at 1-800-955-8771 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Real Time Transcription will be provided. For more information, please contact ACCENT at (352) 392-1665 ext. 306.

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