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University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

POPULAR AUTHORS TO PARTICIPATE IN BOOK-SIGNING RECEPTION AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ERMA BOMBECK WRITERS' WORKSHOP

DAYTON, Ohio — Want to meet some gifted writers and editors?

The University of Dayton's National Alumni Association, in conjunction with Books & Co., will host seven authors at a networking reception and book signing from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, in Kennedy Union's Torch Lounge on campus. It's open to the public.

The book-signing reception tops off three days of special events paying tribute to the life and works of Erma Bombeck, a 1949 University of Dayton graduate who chronicled life's absurdities in a syndicated column carried by 700 newspapers prior to her death of kidney disease in 1996.

The authors include:

- **W. Bruce Cameron**, a syndicated columnist whose first book last year, *8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter and Other Tips from a Beleaguered Father (Not That Any of Them Work)*, landed at #14 on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Cameron is working on a screenplay for Disney and a television plot for ABC and still is expected to take the trash out to the curb on Wednesday mornings.
- **Loretta LaRoche**, best-selling author, Emmy Award-winning PBS star and an international consultant and lecturer in the field of stress management. Her books include *Relax — You May Only Have a Few Minutes Left* and *Life is Not a Stress Rehearsal*.
- **Judy Gruen**, author of *Carpool Tunnel Syndrome: Motherhood as Shuttle Diplomacy*. Upcoming work will be featured in the *Chocolate for the Woman's Soul* series, the humor anthology, *Mirth of a Nation: The Best Contemporary Humor* and *101 Damnations: Your Guide to Personal Hells*.
- **John Kachuba**, editor of *How to Write Funny*, which provides advice, insights and humor from more than 20 writers, including Dave Barry.

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- **Laura Pulfer**, *Cincinnati Enquirer* columnist and author of *Mothers and Other Heroes* and *I Beg to Differ*.
- **Patricia Wynn Brown**, author of *MOMMA CULPA: One Mother Comes Clean and Makes Her Maternal Confession*. She's a three-time winner of the James Thurber "My Life and Hard Times" writing contest.
- **Rachel Vater**, editor of the *2002 Guide to Literary Agents*.

These prominent authors and editors are among 20 participating in the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, which has attracted 250 attendees from 28 states and Canada and sold out before Christmas.

Besides the writers' workshop, other special events include an 8 p.m. March 8 keynote address by Phil Donahue in the Kennedy Union Ballroom and the unveiling of a virtual Erma Bombeck Museum (www.ErmaMuseum.org). In addition, Bill Bombeck will present awards to winners of the annual Erma Bombeck Writing Competition at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, at the Washington-Centerville Public Library, 111 W. Spring Valley Road. This year's competition attracted more than 1,000 entries from around the world. The Bombeck family will be on hand to help dedicate UD's Bombeck Family Learning Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 8. The family donated \$1 million to transform UD's child care center into an early childhood education demonstration school.

Tickets to the Donahue speech are free, but must be reserved in advance by calling the Kennedy Union box office at (937) 229-2545.

The events are co-sponsored by UD's National Alumni Association; *Dayton Daily News*; Washington-Centerville Public Library; Books & Co.; ActiveDayton.com; WYSO-FM; WHIO-TV; Andrews McMeel Universal; *Writer's Digest* Book Club; and Suburban Newspapers of Dayton.

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For more information, see erma.udayton.edu. To arrange media interviews or for photos, contact **Teri Rizvi** or **Tim Bete** at (937) 229-3241.