3-1-2002

Media Advisory: Erma Bombeck Events

University of Dayton

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The University of Dayton’s National Alumni Association is sponsoring a number of events March 7-9 to honor Erma Bombeck, UD’s most famous graduate. A press room will be available on Saturday, March 9, in Kennedy Union 316 (presidential suite). To arrange interviews, contact Teri Rizvi or Tim Bete at (937) 229-3241. For more information on any of the events, see erma.udayton.edu.

7 p.m., Thursday, March 7: Erma Bombeck Writing Competition Ceremony

Bill Bombeck, Erma’s widower, will be on hand to offer encouragement and give out awards to local and national winners of the annual Erma Bombeck Writing Competition. More than 1,000 budding writers from 18 countries and 49 states vied to capture the essence of Erma Bombeck’s writings and claim first prize in this year’s Erma Bombeck Writing Competition sponsored by Washington-Centerville Public Library and the University of Dayton. The ceremony will take place at the library, 111 W. Spring Valley Road. Contact: Georgia Mergler, library public information director, (937) 433-8091.

10 a.m., Friday, March 8: Bombeck Family Learning Center Dedication

Bill Bombeck and his children, Betsy, Matt and Andy, will help dedicate UD’s Bombeck Family Learning Center, 941 Alberta St. The family donated $1 million to transform UD’s child care center into an early childhood education demonstration school. A group of children will perform for the family as part of the festivities. Contact: Thomas Lasley, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions, (937) 229-3557, or Nancy Sutton, center director, (937) 229-2158.

Noon, Friday, March 8: Great Issues Luncheon with Terry Eberle

Terry Eberle, executive editor and vice president of the Indianapolis Star, will talk to journalism professors about how the events of Sept. 11 have changed the way the media communicates in the U.S. The “Great Issues” luncheon is slated for noon in room 101 of Joseph E. Keller Hall on campus. Eberle, a 1971 University of Dayton graduate, will offer workshops on breaking into newspaper writing at the Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop on Saturday, March 9, at UD. Contact: Teri Rizvi or Tim Bete, co-directors of the Erma Bombeck Writers’ Workshop, at (937) 229-3241.

Noon, Friday, March 8: Brown Bag Luncheon with Judy Gruen

Judy Gruen, author of Carpool Tunnel Syndrome: Motherhood as Shuttle Diplomacy, will speak at a brown-bag lunch at noon at the Washington-Centerville Public Library, 111 W. Spring Valley Road.
Road. Gruen will offer workshops in finding humor in everyday life at the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop on Saturday, March 9, at UD. Contact: Georgia Mergler, library public information director, (937) 433-8091.

6 p.m., Friday, March 8: Photo Opportunity with Phil Donahue and Bombecks

Talk show pioneer Phil Donahue, the Bombeck family and Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop presenters are expected to take part in a private reception and dinner. At approximately 7:15 p.m., some of the workshop presenters will share stories of how Erma influenced their careers.

8 p.m., Friday, March 8: An Evening with Phil Donahue

WHIO-TV anchor Jim Baldridge will emcee Donahue's talk in the Frericks Convocation Center. Donahue, a nine-time Emmy Award-winning TV talk show host, will recall his early days in Dayton. Donahue lived diagonally across the street from the Bombecks on Cushwa Drive in Centerville where "there are some places where the grass is greener than at other places." He'll take questions from the audience. Contact: Teri Rizvi, co-director of the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, at (937) 229-3241.

8:45 a.m., Saturday, March 9: Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, Welcome

Bill Bombeck will offer a welcome in Kennedy Union's Boll Theatre to more than 250 writers from 28 states and Canada at the sold-out Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop.

9 a.m., Saturday, March 9: Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, Loretta LaRoche

Loretta LaRoche calls herself "the Erma Bombeck of stress management" and has made a niche for herself by teaching people how to see their "inner folly" and use humor to overcome everyday hassles. The PBS star and best-selling author will offer the keynote address from 9-10 a.m. in Boll Theatre in Kennedy Union. Her best-selling books include Relax — You May Only Have a Few Minutes Left and Life is Not a Stress Rehearsal.

12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 9: Lunch with Phil Donahue and Bill Bombeck

A highlight of the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop, the luncheon will feature favorite Erma Bombeck stories and memories from Bill Bombeck and Phil Donahue and the official unveiling of the Erma Bombeck Online Museum. WHIO-TV's Becky Grimes will emcee the lunch. The program is expected to begin at approximately 1:15 p.m. A stage will be available for media.

3:15-4:15 p.m., Saturday, March 9: Phil Donahue and Matt Bombeck Workshop

Emmy Award-winning talk show host Phil Donahue and TV screenwriter Matt Bombeck, Erma's son, will talk about how to break into television. The workshop will take place in Kennedy Union's Boll Theatre.

5:30-6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 9: Book Signings

Books & Co. will host seven writers and editors at a networking reception and book signing in Kennedy Union's Torch Lounge on campus. It's open to the public. The authors include Loretta LaRoche, W. Bruce Cameron, Judy Gruen, John Kachuba, Laura Pulfer, Patricia Wynn Brown and Rachel Vater.