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This I Believe

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This I Believe

What do you believe?

It's one of life's big questions, and the answer often serves as the underpinning of both professional and personal success. A guest lecturer at the University of Dayton next week will discuss the importance of core values and help his audience get to the bottom of their own convictions.

Dan Gediman, executive director of This I Believe, a nonprofit organization that collects and presents the personal philosophies of people from all walks of life, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on the University of Dayton campus. He will share the fascinating history of the project as well as audio recordings of essays from writers of the 1950s and today. The event is free and open to the public.

This I Believe is an international organization engaging people in writing, sharing and discussing the core personal beliefs that guide their daily lives. More than 100,000 people across the country — and the world — have answered the call to write and share their own stories of personal belief.

Many of these essays are archived on the This I Believe website, broadcast on public radio, chronicled through books and featured in weekly podcasts. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

These short statements of belief have been featured in a weekly series on public radio since 2005. Currently, essays can be heard on "The Bob Edwards Show" on satellite radio and on "Bob Edwards Weekend" on public radio stations nationwide.

A 25-year public radio veteran, Gediman's work has been heard on "All Things Considered," "Morning Edition," "Fresh Air," "Marketplace" and "This American Life." He has won many of public broadcasting’s most prestigious awards, including a duPont-Columbia Award for excellence in broadcast and digital news.

Gediman is co-editor of five collections of This I Believe essays, including The New York Times bestseller, This I Believe: Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women, which was the summer reading assignment for more than 2,000 incoming first-year students at the University of Dayton.

The summer reading program challenged students to rethink their own beliefs and how they share their beliefs with others. Students wrote reflections on the essays, discussed them with professors at new student orientation and then wrote their own "This I Believe" statement.

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