

A Day for Women

Once upon a time not so long ago I was a full-time employee of IPFW, and during my time on campus one of my favorite activities was serving on the committee that planned Tapestry: A Day for Women.



Fare Warning

Michele DeVinney

For two of those years I served as co-chair of the event, and it was a mostly delightful experience. (No effort that requires regular meetings and constant consensus building can ever be completely delightful.)

During my years with Tapestry, many remarkable women served as keynote speakers, my favorites being my childhood hero Marlo Thomas, the venerable Linda Ellerbee and the wonderful Dana Reeve, who sadly died only 10 months after visiting Fort Wayne.

This year's event takes place Friday, April 29 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, and the keynote speaker signals a significant generational shift in Tapestry guests. Actress Molly Ringwald will address a large crowd of women (recently numbers have gone four-digit) scheduled to gather to celebrate the day.

Ringwald has had a great deal of recent success with her television series "The Secret Life of the American Teenager" on ABC Family and her book *Getting the Pretty Back: Friendship, Family, and Finding the Perfect Lipstick*.

But let's face it, she will always be best remembered and most loved for her string of John Hughes film hits from the 1980s. I know, I know, most of you love that *Breakfast Club* business, and while I must confess that I do long for the days when the bland Emilio Estevez was Martin Sheen's most famous son, I have never had any love for *The Breakfast Club*. *Sixteen Candles*, however, is another story entirely. I could watch that movie time and time again. Oh, wait, I have watched that movie time and time again. Sweet, funny

and charming without being precious, *Sixteen Candles* is by far my favorite Hughes film, perhaps because it lacks the annoying Brat Pack ensemble. Even Anthony Michael Hall was winning, and that was perhaps the last time such a thing could be said.

The \$65 Tapestry ticket offers more than just an appearance by Ringwald. There's also shopping (the boutique is wonderful, with many local artists selling pieces), breakfast and lunch, a silent auctions, a trade show and a remarkable assortment of breakout sessions. With topics ranging from health to finance, there's plenty to see, hear and learn at Tapestry, regardless of your interests.

I always enjoyed the dance sessions, and this year Patric Didier and his cousin Tony Didier will teach some Latin and ballroom moves, something sure to appeal to the "Dancing with the Stars" fans.

If I were to recommend any session in particular, it would be the annual food-themed presentation by IPFW Chancellor Michael Wartell and Parkview Health President and CEO Mike Packnett. Mike and Mike make a great team, and I still use the sushi rice recipe I got from them a few years back. This year's topic is "Food or Chemistry - You Be the Judge," a timely look at molecular gastronomy, but one of the trendy topics in our growing obsession with food and cooking.

Money raised through Tapestry helps fund scholarships for women at IPFW, particularly those in health-based programs where the campus partners with Parkview Health.

For more information or to register for Tapestry, visit www.ipfw.edu/tapestry or call 260-481-6854.

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