

Trailblazing marathoner returns for women's symposium

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Contributing writer

Kathrine Switzer, the trailblazing Syracuse University alum who became the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon, is returning to the city this month to share how she turned her running talents into a business.

Switzer will headline an event for female business leaders in Armory Square later this month, hosted by Syracuse University.

The WISE, or Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship, symposium will feature 15 speakers, and give attendees the chance to network with local business leaders.

The event runs from 8

a.m. to 6 p.m. April 25 at SKY Armory.

Attendees will be able to attend different sessions during the day, including the "WISE Latina Workshop." There will also be a business expo, where participants can learn about different companies.

Switzer completed the marathon in 1967 despite a race official's attempt to usher her off the course. The race in those days only allowed male participants, but Switzer, using her initials K.V., was able to conceal her gender from race officials.

Other featured speakers include:

- › Isisara Bey, a festival and events producer who helped produce



Kathrine Switzer, at the Boston Marathon finish line on Monday. AP

the March on Washington Film Festival, which focuses on civil rights activists. She was also vice president of Count Me in for Women's Economic Independence, which helps support female entrepreneurs.

› Theresa VanderMeer, the founder and CEO of Work+Shelter, a sewing factory that promotes ethical practices in New Delhi, India. Before starting Work+Shelter, VanderMeer worked for big-name companies like

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Kathrine Switzer, the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon in 1967, finishes the race again at age 70. **See Sports, B1**

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› Helen Marie Fox, a Syracuse alumna and health and performance coach. She began her career as an athlete and personal trainer, and now offers coaching and workshops in areas like leadership and finance.

The proceeds from the symposium will help support WISE's Women's Business Center. It helps mentor and give networking opportunities to female entrepreneurs.