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## University of Dayton to Stage Celebration of Academic Excellence, Former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to Keynote Stander Symposium

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Contact: Teri Rizvi  
rizvi@udayton.edu  
(937) 229-3241

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## NEWS RELEASE

*(Editor's Note: Media are invited to cover Stander Symposium events. To request an advance telephone interview or to make arrangements to cover Mario Cuomo's talk at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, at the Schuster Center, contact Linda Robertson at (937) 229-3257.)*

### UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON TO STAGE CELEBRATION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, FORMER NEW YORK GOV. MARIO CUOMO TO KEYNOTE STANDER SYMPOSIUM

DAYTON, Ohio – The University of Dayton will involve the entire campus in a blockbuster celebration of academic excellence that draws former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo as keynote speaker and spills onto the stages of downtown Dayton's best venues.

It's all part of UD's 17th annual Bro. Joseph W. Stander Symposium and Honors Convocation April 5-6. Undergraduate classes will not meet on April 6 to allow students to showcase achievements in the classroom, lab and studios. It's envisioned as the academic equivalent to UD's popular Christmas on Campus celebration in which classes are cancelled so that UD students can "adopt" inner-city children for a big Christmas celebration.

Described by the "Boston Globe" as "the nation's most gifted philosopher-politician," Cuomo will address "Values and the Pursuit of Social Justice" at **3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center.** Admission is free and open to public, but a ticket is required. Call (937) 229-2545. Tickets for any remaining seats will be available at the Schuster Center one hour before the address.

"This symposium is a day when students will leave their own studio, classroom, practice room or laboratory to present or perform their finest work – a day when all disciplines come together to share equally in an expression of excellence," said Jayne B. Robinson, associate professor of biology and co-coordinator of the Stander Symposium.

The symposium is an outgrowth of a UD tradition that can be traced back to the 1960s. "As late as the mid-60s, UD students were regularly required to meet on Wednesdays at noontime to participate in collective academic discussions – that is, symposia. Really, we're just renewing a UD tradition to help the University more fully realize its vision for the

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679  
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax  
www.udayton.edu

future," said Steven P. Dandaneau, director of the Honors and John W. Berry Sr. Scholars Program and co-coordinator of the event.

The symposium is packed with events and presentations – ranging from poster sessions, panel discussions, performances and artistic displays – spanning 31 hours. Some highlights include:

#### **Tuesday, April 5**

- 4:30 p.m.: A Red Mass in celebration of the gift of wisdom, Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Celebrated by the Rev. James Heft, S.M., chancellor and professor of faith and culture. Open to the public.

- 6 p.m.: International cultural immersion dinner, Kennedy Union ballroom. Open to the public. Tickets are \$35 or \$25 for students. Call the Center for Social Concern at (937) 229-2576. Ann Hudock, an assistant representative with the Asia Foundation in Hanoi, Vietnam, and a 1993 UD graduate, is the guest speaker.

- 8 p.m.: Celebration of the Arts, Victoria Theatre. Featuring UD student performances and faculty collaborations. Master of ceremonies: Herbert Woodward Martin. Guest appearance by Neal Gittleman, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra conductor. Tickets are \$5, and the public is invited. For tickets, call (937) 229-2545.

#### **Wednesday, April 6**

A number of keynote addresses at lunches and receptions sponsored by individual UD schools are open to the media, but not the general public:

- 11:45 a.m.: Keith Taylor, senior vice president of NCR Corp.'s financial solutions division and a guest of the School of Business Administration, will speak in O'Leary Auditorium.

- Noon: Roderick McDavis, president of Ohio University who earned a master's degree from the University of Dayton in 1971, will address "The Value of Student Scholarship and Academic Excellence" at a luncheon sponsored by the School of Education and Allied Professions in Virginia Kettering Residence Hall.

- 1:30 p.m.: Vincent Russo, retired Aeronautical Systems Center executive director at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and a guest of the School of Engineering, will speak on "Implications for the War on Terror for U.S. Research and Technology Development" in Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center.

- 7:30 p.m.: Honors Convocation. The dinner and program in the Kennedy Union Ballroom recognizes outstanding achievement in student scholarship, service and leadership in community. Joan Herbers, dean of the College of Biological Sciences at The Ohio State University and a 1973 UD graduate, will give the keynote address.

The Horvath art exhibit of student works will be on display in the Rike Center Gallery throughout the symposium, which will end with a battle of the bands between the Back Porch Jam, an eclectic faculty and staff band, and student bands. For details about all events, see <http://symposium.udayton.edu/>.