Kent State Journalism and Broadcast Alumni to Return to Kent During 30th May 4 Commemoration Events

The week of May 1, 2000 will mark a reunion of journalism and broadcasting alumni who attended Kent State University during the years around 1965 through 1975. For print and broadcast majors the events related to May 4, 1970 hold much meaning.

These include alums that were members of the Kent Stater newspaper, Burr yearbook, TV-2 and WKSU radio. Alumni of that era, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and JMC Alumni Council are planning a reunion that is certain to be a meaningful experience for these alumni, according to Margaret Garmon, JMC Alumni Council President.

Here are the some of the reunion events planned to date:

During the evening and early morning of May 3 and May 4, attend the traditional candlelight walk and vigil programs on May 4.

An informal buffet dinner for alumni, their families and guests on May 5 in the Kent Student Center. Dinner reservations are $35 per person, which includes a specialty buffet dinner, DJ entertainment and cash bar. For reservations, contact the Alumni Association, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242-0001. Make checks payable to Kent Alumni Association. For further information on hotels or regarding reservations, call (330) 672-KENT or e-mail alumni@kent.edu.

Nancy Birk, archivist for the University Library Special Collections and Archives, is coordinating a display of pictures, stories, books, Burrs, Staters, publications, film, tapes and artifacts about this era. Alumni interested in providing items, on loan or permanently, can contact Birk at (330) 672-2270 or by e-mail at nbirk@lms.kent.edu. Alumni are also invited to participate in the Oral History Project coordinated through Archives and Special Collections.

The JMC School is also working on a panel of nationally known journalists - Kent Alumni included - who will address the topic of "Media and Democracy." The Ohio Center for Privacy and the First Amendment, based in the JMC School is coordinating the panel.

Any alumni interested in participating in the event or attending, or who want to be updated as plans progress, send an e-mail to mgarmon@kent.edu or call Margaret Garmon at (330) 672-2727.

The May 4 portal website at Kent State is http://www.may4.net and includes a comprehensive list of all May 4 Commemoration events.

The Kent State Alumni Association Website is http://www.saed.kent.edu/alumni/.

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03-24-00
Dance Alloy, Kent State Dance Division to Present
Performance Commemorating Events of May 4, 1970

The nationally acclaimed Dance Alloy and the Dance Division of the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University will premiere a dance commemorating the events of May 4, 1970.

The May 4, 1970, Site and Memorial and Commons of Kent State University will provide an outdoor setting for the Dance Alloy/May 4 Project performance to take place May 3. A prologue to the piece will begin at 5:10 p.m. at several outdoor sites on the Kent campus. The performance portion will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the Prentice parking lot site where four Kent State students died May 4, 1970, during an anti-Vietnam war protest. The performance will continue as dancers travel to the university commons. The performance is free and open to the public.

During an 18-day Dance Alloy residency, nationally recognized artistic director/choreographer Mark Taylor will create a piece for the 30th commemoration of the May 4 shootings on the Kent campus. Performers for the piece will include the Pittsburgh based Dance Alloy Company, members of the Kent Dance Ensemble, individuals from the community, public school children from Freshman Academy in Canton, Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent, Miller South School in Akron and Campus Intermediate School in Streetsboro.

The Dance Alloy Project is among the more than programs of the overall Commemoration, the theme of which is “Experiencing Democracy: Inquire, Learn, Reflect.” The dance project is supported by a grant from the Pittsburgh Arts on Tour, a program funded by the Vira I. Heinz Endowment and administered by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation; the Ohio Arts Council; the Midland Hardware Company; and Kent State’s May 4 30th Commemoration Committee and several university departments.

(more)
First Add: Dance Alloy / May 4 Project

Kent State professor emeritus of music, Walter Watson, will compose an original score for the performance. The Kent State University Steel Drum Band and several professional musicians from the community will perform the music.

Critics’ praise for Dance Alloy includes both national media and dance media. “The infusing of arts into the academic curriculum is becoming more pronounced and Dance Alloy links movement with education while developing original choreography enhanced by every new relationship … Dance Alloy’s projects are definitely interactive … incorporates(s) people into a performance,” writes Natalie San Pietro of Showcase. Jane Vranish of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, described Dance Alloy as “a company continually in the hunt for the moment of truth in its movement.”

The 18-day Dance Alloy residency also will include daily master classes in modern dance technique, improvisation, and movement for actors and body therapy techniques for students in Kent State’s School of Theatre and Dance, and a one-day residency at a selected public school.

In addition, Taylor will teach an open modern dance master class for the public on May 1 from 12:15 to 2 p.m. The fee for the master class is $10. For more information on the performance and/or master class reservations, contact Project Director, Darwin Prioleau, (330) 672-2069 or dpriolea@kent.edu.

Founded in 1976, Dance Alloy explores dance as a creative performance medium as well as an educational process. Dance Alloy performs special projects, which emerge from diverse sources of experiences, reflect our dynamic and changing world and hold relevance to people from many walks of life and wide range of geographical areas.

A choreographer since 1979, Taylor joined Dance Alloy as its artistic director during the 1990-91 season. Under his direction, the company’s mission has emphasized the creation of new work (both his own and that of guest choreographers) and educational programming. Taylor’s choreography has been performed internationally and earned prestigious awards.

Information on this and other commemorative programs, including an academic symposium on May 1 and 2, “The Boundaries of Freedom of Expression and Order in a Democratic Society,” can be found at the Web site of http://www.May4.net.

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03-24-00
Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, to Speak at Kent State May 3

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and cofounder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, will speak on May 3 at 4:30 p.m. at Kent State University's Kiva in the Student Center. Gandhi will speak on "Nonviolence or Nonexistence? Options for the New Millennium."

Gandhi's appearance is sponsored by the College and Graduate School of Education and the Gerald H. Read Distinguished Lecture Series. Admission is free and open to the public.

Gandhi will meet with high school students from the area during a workshop on the morning of May 4.

Arun Gandhi, born in 1934 in South Africa, was the object of bigoted attacks from white South Africans for not being white and from black South Africans for not being black. His growing anger and resentment led his parents to send to him to visit his grandfather in India during India's struggle to free itself from British rule. During the next 18 months, the young Gandhi learned the powerful philosophy of nonviolence which became the foundation for his life's work.

(more)
First add: Arun Gandhi to Speak at Kent State

He has since been a leader for economic and social reform in India. While a young reporter for the Times of India, he and several colleagues started India's Center for Social Unity, aiming to alleviate poverty and caste discrimination. He has written several books, including the controversial best-seller in India, *Morarji Papers*.

In 1988, he came to the U.S. to complete research for a comparative study on racism in America. He and his wife Sunanda founded the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, based at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. The institute fosters understanding of nonviolence and puts the philosophy to practical use through workshops, lectures, and community outreach programs.

He has spoken before hundreds of colleges, universities, corporations, and civic organizations. For the last six years, he has participated in the renowned Renaissance Weekend with President Bill Clinton and other eminent leaders and scholars.

This lecture is part of Kent State University’s 30th May 4 commemoration series. The theme for this series is “Experiencing Democracy: Inquire, Learn, Reflect.” For more information, visit www.May4.net, or call (330) 672-2727.

### 04-17-00
Experiencing Democracy is Theme of Kent State's 30th May 4 Commemoration

The 30th commemoration of the May 4, 1970, at Kent State University will include more than 50 events, ranging from the traditional student observances to scholarly discussion and artistic vision.

Under the inclusive theme, "Experiencing Democracy: Inquire, Learn, Reflect," the university-wide 30th May 4 Commemoration Committee is coordinating programs that will honor the students slain in the 1970 confrontation with the Ohio National Guard. In addition, the programming this year is decidedly forward-looking, seeking ways to apply the lessons of that confrontation to help the nation shape a more civil, democratic future.

"Kent State's learning community is honoring the memories of Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder with an enduring dedication to scholarship that seeks to prevent violence and to promote such democratic values as public service and civility," said Kent State President Carol A. Cartwright.

A highlight of this dedication to the future will be an academic symposium, May 1-2, exploring freedom of expression in America. The symposium will be an annual event, bringing scholars to Kent State to study and teach about major issues of democratic values.

This year's multi-disciplinary academic symposium explores "The Boundaries of Freedom of Expression and Order in a Democratic Society," to be held Monday, May 1, and Tuesday, May 2, at the Kent Student Center. The program includes three featured speakers, and the presentation, critique, and discussion of nine papers selected through an international call for papers. The keynote address, by Kathleen M. Sullivan, a constitutional law scholar and dean of the Stanford Law School, will be on "Freedom of Expression in the United States: Past and Present." On Tuesday, Anthony Lewis, New York Times columnist, will speak at a noon luncheon, and at 3:15 p.m., Cass Sunstein, Karl N. Llewellyn Professor of Jurisprudence at The University of Chicago Law School, will deliver the closing address on "Freedom of Expression in the United States: The Future."

Programming around the commemoration May 3-4 is organized by the May 4 Task Force student organization, including the annual candlelight walk and vigil, the night of May 3 and morning of May 4. The May 4 programming will begin at noon.

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First Add – Commemoration of May 4, 1970

The following is a partial list of this year's significant events:

- The Kent State Museum is holding an exhibit, "Revolutionizing Fashion: The Politics of Style," from April 12 to Sept. 17, in Rockwell Hall, examining how the politics of the time created evocative and powerful new styles of dress. The museum will be open Monday, May 1 and Tuesday May 2 in addition to the regular hours of Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:45 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4:45 p.m. General admission is $5; Kent State students, free; under age 7, free; ages 7-18, $3; senior citizens, $4. Call (330) 672-3450.

- A choir made up of Kent community members and Kent State University faculty and students will recreate the community concert held after May 4, 1970, with a reprise of Cherubini's Requiem in C-minor, on Sunday, April 30, at 4 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, 1427 Horning Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

- Veteran Columbus area folk singer Bill Cohen will recreate the atmosphere of a 1960s coffeehouse at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 30, at the Presbyterian Church, 1456 East Summit St., in Kent. There will be anti-war songs and other music from the '60s along with a trivia contest. Proceeds from a suggested $10 donation will go to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

- Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and cofounder of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, will speak at 4:30 p.m., May 3, in Kent State University's Kiva, in the Kent Student Center, on "Nonviolence or Nonexistence? Options for the New Millennium." His appearance is sponsored by the College and Graduate School of Education and the Gerald H. Read Distinguished Lecture Series. The lecture is free and open to the public. Gandhi will also meet with high school students from the area during a workshop on the morning of May 4.

- A panel of nationally known journalists who are Kent State alumni will join in a discussion of "Media and Democracy" at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, in Room 115 Taylor Hall. The Ohio Center for Privacy and the First Amendment, based in Kent State's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is coordinating the panel. A reunion for Kent State journalism alumni who were students during the '60s and '70s will be held May 1 – 5. Call 1-888-320-KENT for details and dinner reservations.
Second Add — Commemoration of May 4, 1970

- The traditional Candlelight Walk and Vigil honoring those who died May 4, 1970, begins at 11 p.m. May 3 at the Commons with participants gathering at 10:30 p.m. Participants will hold candles and silently walk the perimeter of the campus. At the end of the walk, about midnight, a silent vigil begins at each site where the slain students fell, in the area of the Prentice Hall parking lot. Participants will stand half-hour watches at each site until 12:24 p.m., May 4, the time of the shootings. To sign up for a half-hour vigil, call the May 4 Task Force at (330) 672-3096.

- Around noon on the Commons, the May 4 Task Force, a student organization, will sponsor the 30th Annual May 4 Commemoration, under the theme, “Peace: Learn It, Live It, Teach It.” In case of rain, the event will move to the Memorial Athletic and Convocation (MACC) Center.

- The Kent Choral Society and the Kent State University Wind Ensemble will perform Dona nobis pacem, a work commissioned from alumnus Kenneth Langer, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. The performance will be in University Auditorium on the Kent State campus and is free and open to the public. The Kent State University Jazz Ensemble will play two pieces performed in 1971 at the first observance of May 4, 1970, Dido's Lament, by Henry Purcell, and The Balcony, by Bill Dobbins, a Kent State student in 1970.

- Students and faculty from Kent State's Department of Theatre and Dance, community residents, local students in grades kindergarten through 12, will join members of the Pittsburgh-based Dance Alloy company in an original performance choreographed by Dance Alloy's artistic director Mark Taylor. Walter Watson, KSU professor emeritus of music, has composed a new score for the project. The performance will be on the Commons at 5:30 p.m., May 3.

- On July 1 and 2, at Blossom Music Center, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Blossom Festival Choir, conducted by Jahja Ling, will perform the premiere of an orchestral work commissioned for the 30th May 4 commemoration. Augusta Read Thomas, composer in residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, has written the work for orchestra, chorus, and a soprano soloist.

For up-to-date information on all May 4-related activities, please visit the commemoration Web site, www.may4.net.
Local Choirs, Prominent Artists Commemorate Events of May 4 With Music

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carole Harwood
Margaret Garmon

Music ranging from orchestral works to choral performances will play a part in the 30th commemoration of the events of May 4, 1970, at Kent State University. The musical tributes range from specially commissioned works to anti-war songs of the 1960s. All but the Cleveland Orchestra performance will occur on or near campus.

University, Community Join in Commemoration Chorus at United Church of Christ in Kent

A choir made up of Kent community members and Kent State University faculty and students will recreate the community concert held after May 4, 1970, with a reprise of Cherubini's Requiem in C-minor, on 

**Sunday, April 30, at 4 p.m. at the United Church of Christ (UCC), 1427 Horning Road, Kent.**

Admission is free and open to the public. Dr. Walter Watson, director emeritus of Kent State's Hugh A. Glauser School of Music and organist and choirmaster at the UCC, will conduct the choir. David Carnell, a student here in May 1970, will play the organ.

On June 3, 1970, a choir composed of university and community singers gathered at the UCC for the first memorial service for the students who died on campus May 4, 1970, and performed Cherubini’s Requiem as a part of that service.

"Since this is the 30th commemoration, I thought it was time to do it again, and a nice way to involve the community," Watson said.

Watson anticipates as many as 80 singers and will rehearse at the UCC on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. and again Sunday, April 30 from 1:30-3 p.m.

A reception will follow the performance at the church.

Folksinger Bill Cohen to Revive Coffeehouse Music in Candlelight Setting

Veteran Columbus area folk singer Bill Cohen will recreate the atmosphere of the anti-war movement with a recreation of a coffeehouse. The “coffeehouse doors” open at 

**7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 30, at the Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 1456 East Summit Street, Kent.**

Anti-war songs and other music from the 1960s along with a trivia contest are among the evening’s highlights. Proceeds from a $10 donation will go to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Cohen will display anti-war posters, political buttons and “far-out” ‘60s clothing.

(more)
First Add – Music is Tribute to May 4, 1970

"Cohen captures the nostalgia and meaning of the sixties through song and humor," said Dr. Jerry M. Lewis, who is organizing the coffeehouse. Lewis is a sociology faculty member and a noted scholar on the events of May 4, 1970.

The coffeehouse movement originated near military bases as gathering places for soldiers opposed to the Vietnam War. Cohen has performed his coffeehouse show more than 100 times over the past 13 years.

Kent Choral Society, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble To Perform May 4

The Kent Choral Society and the Kent State University Wind Ensemble, will perform a piece commissioned from alumnus Dr. Kenneth Langer at a concert at 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4. The performance will be in University Auditorium on the Kent State campus and is free and open to the public.

The four-movement composition Dona nobis pacem "God grant us peace," is in English. "It is an uplifting piece, which, because of the text, we thought appropriate for May 4," said Clarence M. Shearer, professor of music and director of the chorus.

The Wind Ensemble, directed by Wayne Gorder, and the Kent State Jazz Band will also perform.

Under the direction of Chas Baker, associate professor of music, the Kent State University Jazz Ensemble will play two pieces performed in 1971 at the first observance of May 4, 1970: Dido's "Lament," adapted by Paul Ferguson for a jazz band from Henry Purcell's 1682 composition, and "The Balcony," written by Bill Dobbins, a Kent State student in 1970.

Kent Gospel Choir to Dedicate Concert to Kent State and Jackson State Victims

The university and greater Kent communities are invited to a special commemoration concert featuring the Kent State University Gospel Choir and the Glencoe High School Choirs of Cleveland, James Phillips, director.

The concert will be held May 5 at 8 p.m. in E. Turner Stump Theatre of the Music and Speech Building on the Kent Campus. The concert is free and open to the public. For more details contact Dr. Linda B. Walker, Gospel Choir Director and associate professor of the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music. Walker can be reached at (330) 672-2431.

Cleveland Orchestra, Blossom Festival Choir to Perform May 4 Piece in July

On July 1 and 2, The Cleveland Orchestra will premiere a major new work commissioned by Kent State University for the 30th commemoration of the events of May 4, 1970. The premiere of "Song in Sorrow" will take place at Blossom Music Center.

Augusta Read Thomas, composer in residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, has written the large-scale work for orchestra, chorus, and a soprano soloist. Jahja Ling will conduct the Orchestra and the Blossom Festival Chorus.

"The concert combines the talents of a leading American composer and a great American orchestra in memory of a cataclysmic American event," said Richard Worthing, assistant dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts. For ticket information call (216) 231-1111.

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04-24-00