

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Inaugural Reading Marathon to Benefit American Red Cross

Can Stockton Students Read Homer's *Odyssey* in Thirteen Uninterrupted Hours?

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- In response to recent natural disasters around the world, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Order of Greco-Roman Enthusiasts (OGRE) will be sponsoring the first annual "Marathon Reading of Literature" on **Thursday, April 1, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 9/9:30 p.m.** The event will take place at the K-Wing Circle on the College's main Galloway Township campus.

Each participant will volunteer to read Homer's *Odyssey* for a 15 minute interval. Volunteers are allowed to recruit up to 15 sponsors, and all proceeds raised from the sponsorships will be donated to the American Red Cross.

Katherine Panagakos, assistant professor of classics and faculty advisor for OGRE, said, "We hope that our marathon reading of Homer's *Odyssey* calls to mind the recent tragic events in Haiti and Chile and reminds us that without a home and family, people are truly lost."

Homer's *Odyssey* is a Greek heroic tale set in the ten years following the end of the Trojan War. Ultimately it is a story of one man trying against all odds to return home. The themes of life and death, home and family, and gods and humanity pervade every line of the epic. Home to Odysseus represents all that is good, pure and worthwhile in life.

Readers do not need to be Greek enthusiasts or literature majors to participate. The fundraiser is open to anyone interested in volunteering their time for a good cause. To participate, please contact Katherine Panagakos at Katherine.Panagakos@Stockton.edu.

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