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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECU CLASSICS PROGRAM PRESENTS “ODYSSEY LIVE!”

GREENVILLE, N.C. (March 2, 2009) — East Carolina University, faculty, students and the community, have the opportunity to attend a unique, upcoming event known as “Odyssey LIVE!” an all-day reading of Homer's epic poem, the *Odyssey*, unabridged, non-stop from beginning to end.

The epic adventure begins at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, March 19, at the Cupola in the center of the ECU campus. The event is free and open to the public. Audiences are invited to come and go, as they need. They can stay for ten minutes, or ten hours.

The *Odyssey* is one of two major, ancient Greek poems attributed to Homer. Considered a sequel to Homer's first work the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey* comprises 12,110 lines of dactylic hexameter and centers on the Greek hero Odysseus – or Ulysses, as he was known in Roman myths – and his long journey home following the fall of Troy.

For approximately 15 hours, audiences can hear the song of the Sirens, cower at the one-eyed Cyclops, travel to the underworld to meet Achilles, marvel at the crafty ploys of Penelope, listen to the tales of Helen of Troy and witness Odysseus take violent revenge on the 100 suitors who dared to vie for his wife's hand.

Readers, who will present the *Odyssey* in English, will include faculty and students from the Classical Studies program in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, with generous assistance from other ECU community faculty and student volunteers.

“Homer's Odyssey was always performed orally in ancient Greece. We want to give our audience the chance to hear the epic, not just read it,” says John Given, director of the Classical Studies Program and coordinator of the event. “Plus, it's just a great story – love, sex, violence, intrigue, monsters, gods – it's got it all.”

For additional information on the production, or the Classical Studies Program, contact Given at 252.328.6538 or givenj@ecu.edu.

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