



## **Stockton Hellenic Studies to Sponsor Symposium Celebrating a Pivotal Moment for Religious Tolerance and Church-State Relations**

Two-Day Event Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stockton's Interdisciplinary  
Center for Hellenic Studies

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Galloway Township, NJ-** In honor of the 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Edict of Milan, a turning point in the history of Christianity, the Interdisciplinary Center for Hellenic Studies (ICHS) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is co-sponsoring a free two-day symposium, Constantine: Religious Faith and Imperial Policy.

Emperors Constantine and Licinius met in Milan in the year 313 for a political agreement, known as the Edict of Milan, which resulted in religious freedom for Christians within the Roman Empire.

ICHS and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University are co-sponsoring the symposium, which will bring experts from across the country to Stockton's Galloway campus for presentations.

"This symposium on the politics of Church and State in the ancient world should resonate with a contemporary audience, providing a context for understanding the benefits of religious freedom and tolerance as well as the conflicts over these issues playing out all over the world today," said Dr. Lisa Honaker, interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

On **Friday, Oct. 4**, H.A. Drake, emeritus professor of History at the University of California Santa Barbara, will deliver the opening lecture, "What Hath Constantine Wrought: The Edict of Milan and Constantine's Religious Policy." His lecture is given in honor of the Rev. Dr. Demetrios Constantelos, distinguished professor emeritus at Stockton, and the 10th Anniversary of the founding of ICHS. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center  
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Theater and is followed by a reception.

On **Saturday, Oct. 5**, a series of presentations begins at 9 a.m. on the main campus in L-Wing. Lectures will be given by Raymond Van Dam, professor of History at the University of Michigan, George Demacopoulos, professor of Historical Theology and director and co-founder of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University, Noel Lenski, associate professor of Classics at the University of Colorado, Charles Odahl, emeritus professor of History at Boise State University and Peter Leithart, president of Trinity House in Birmingham, Alabama and adjunct senior fellow at New St. Andrew's College in Idaho.

To register for the Saturday lectures, email [Madeline.Perez@Stockton.edu](mailto:Madeline.Perez@Stockton.edu).

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