Ancient Documents Lead Stockton Professor to Conclusions About Early Medicine and Religion

Laura Zucconi Takes a Closer Look at the Relationships Between Medicine and Culture in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Israel

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Contact: Tim Kelly Office of Public Relations Galloway Township, NJ 08240 Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu (609) 652-4950

Galloway Township, NJ- The ancient symbols inscribed onto baked clay tablets and papyri dating back to 2700 BCE (Before Common Era) revealed a wealth of knowledge to one Richard Stockton College professor.

Dr. Laura Zucconi, an associate professor of history, studied reproductions of these early documents to explore how religion and medicine shaped each other and evolved in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Israel.

for artifacts on the dig, Zucconi and a number of other archaeologists were exposed to parasites. As a result, infection began to spread amongst the group, which included American, Canadian, British and Jordanian scholars.

Zucconi was surprised to discover that from an emotional standpoint, each of the cultural groups

Medicine and Religion/ page 2

Gorgias Press, Zucconi's publisher, said that Zucconi's book "sheds light on how religious concepts shaped not only the particular medical identity of each society, but also how they can simultaneously participate in a broader medical culture spanning the ancient Near East."

Zucconi, a resident of Galloway, has taught at Stockton College for the past six years. Previously, she taught at Mesa Community College in San Diego and at the University of California, San Diego. Zucconi earned her Ph.D. and her second master's in history from the University of California, San Diego, and she earned her first master's in medieval studies from the University of Connecticut.

#