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Event celebrates literacy with 12 hours of reading aloud.

**ORANGE, Calif., Apr. 12, 2004** With the illiteracy rate in America rising by roughly 2.3 million each year and one out of every five adult Americans functionally illiterate, something needs to be done. Chapman University's School of Education is addressing the problem by holding its second annual Read Around the Clock fundraising event Friday, April 23, from noon to midnight.

Read Around the Clock celebrates and encourages the efforts of individuals who are learning to read or working to become better readers. With community support, Chapmans School of Education is able to use its reading program to help the next generation of readers. Contributions go towards scholarships for children and to support the program that raises awareness about illiteracy while contributing to literacy efforts.

People of all ages will join Chapman faculty, students and staff at the event, as well as V.I.P. readers including Jay Johnstone, of Anaheim Angel fame, and Eddie Arnold of KOCE TV.

Refreshments will be sold, as well as memorabilia to include T-shirts, coffee mugs and book bags, with proceeds benefiting the program.

A diverse group of books has been chosen by the literacy committee to represent a variety of cultures while complementing this years multicultural theme Read Around the Clock, Read Around the World. Selections include Si Se Puede! Yes We Can! by Diana Cohn (Latino), I Hate to Read! by Rita Marshall (American), and She Wanted to Read: The Story of Mary McLeod Bethune, by Ella K. Carruth (African-American).

For more information please contact Margie McCoy at (714) 997-6692.