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Kappa Sigma “Polar Plunge” to Benefit Education and Research on Hunter Syndrome

Stockton Fraternity Event Set Saturday, Feb. 3 in Brigantine

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Tim Kelly
Stockton Public Relations
(609) 652-4950

Galloway Twp., NJ – The brothers of Kappa Sigma International Fraternity at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will conduct their annual Polar Plunge to raise funds and awareness for Hunter Syndrome (Mucopolysaccharidosis Type II). The proceeds of this event will be donated to Making Precious Strides, Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for medical research and for increasing awareness of this condition.

Hunter Syndrome is a hereditary disease in which the breakdown of a mucopolysaccharide (a gel-like chemical that is widely distributed in the body outside of cells) is defective. Hunter Syndrome is caused by a metabolic abnormality in which the enzyme iduronate sulfatase is lacking. Without the actions of this enzyme, mucopolysaccharides build up in the body and tissue damage results. This chemical build-up causes a facial appearance that is characteristic of the disorder, and causes abnormal function of multiple organs, and in severe cases, early death.

The Event will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, at the Brigantine Beach at N. 12th St. This year, the Stockton chapter of the fraternity will be joined by other Kappa Sigma Chapters from Temple, Kutztown, Lehigh Universities and the University of Delaware. The public is also invited and encouraged to participate or donate to the cause. Participants will gather at the beach and take an icy plunge into the Atlantic to benefit this worthy cause.

“We are close to this particular cause because it has touched the life of one of the members of the Stockton College administration, whose child is afflicted with Hunter Syndrome,” said Nick Sena of Kappa Sigma.

“We like for our charitable work to help people in our community, and the Polar Plunge is a great opportunity to do so. We are hoping to raise funds for research and to improve the quality of life for all who are affected by this disease.”

Last year’s event raised more than \$1,200 and Sena said the fraternity has set a goal of \$5,000 this year. There is no specific cost to take part in the Polar Plunge, but the fraternity is hoping that all participants donate as much as they can afford. All funds raised will go directly to Making Precious Strides, Inc. More information on the organization can be found at www.makingpreciousstrides.org

“Donations from persons not opting to take the Polar Plunge will also be gratefully welcomed,” Sena said.

For more information, please call Dave Dertinger at (609) 892-4476 or Sena at (609) 304-5154 or e-mail Sena at rscsenatepresident@hotmail.com.

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