

Office of Public Relations
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Stockton Student Takes Active Role in Fighting Drunken Driving Campus Events Planned for March 6, 7, and 8 Including Mock Car Crash and Talk by Bill Elliott

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Galloway Twp., NJ -- Richard Stockton College student Sheryl Lynn DeJesus was lucky. She suffered only cuts, bruises and other minor injuries last April when an alleged drunken driver slammed into her car, which was stopped at an intersection near campus.

The driver of the vehicle failed to negotiate a turn and broadsided DeJesus' car. Although the senior accounting major from Woodbridge suffered injuries that were relatively minor, the incident still had a profound effect. "I felt invaded," she said. "My car and my independence were taken away. I was feeling trapped and needed a way to address the issue and express the problems of drunken and impaired driving."

DeJesus responded by organizing a series of events planned at Stockton from Tuesday, March 6 through Thursday, March 8, 2007. She was assisted by fellow student Christina Pascucci and several sponsors. The events will include talks by Atlantic County Medical Examiner Ralph Hinckle, a presentation by the mothers of two young victims of drunk drivers, a mock car crash and a keynote speech by Bill Elliott, whose HERO Campaign promotes designated drivers, champions anti-drunk driving efforts and was instrumental in the passage of "John's Law," which requires drunk driving suspects' cars to be impounded for up to 12 hours.

The schedule of events is as follows:

"The Greatest Loss" on Tuesday, March 6 at 8:30 p.m. at Lakeside Center. Donnah Marvel and Sherry Brenca, mothers who lost sons in tragic accidents involving drunken driving, will speak.

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“Speed Kills” on Wednesday, March 7 at 8:30 p.m. in the Townsend Residential Life Center. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Ralph Hinckle will explain the anatomy of a car crash and what happens to the occupants of the cars involved.

Mock car crash on Thursday, March 8 at 4:30 p.m. (exact location pending). A crashed car will be displayed and police will simulate the arrest of a “drunken driver” and “victims” will be transported. The Richard Stockton College Police and Pomona Fire Department will participate.

Bill Elliott Keynote Speech on Thursday, March 8 at 6 p.m. in the Alton Auditorium (former A-Wing Lecture Hall) Elliott will discuss the HERO Campaign, a positive legacy for his son, Ensign John Elliott who was killed in a tragic accident involving a DUI suspect. The campaign lobbies for tougher laws to prevent drunk drivers who have been arrested from again taking the wheel while under the influence, working with tavern owners to promote designated driving, and spreading awareness of the problem of drunk and impaired driving.

All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the “Greatest Loss” and “Speed Kills” presentations.

The events are co-sponsored by Stockton Housing and Residential Life, Student Senate, The Wellness Center, MALES, Stockton Residents’ Association, Students Rights and Responsibilities, NAACP, and the Unified Black Students Society.

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