May 5, 2010

Dear Family of a William Paterson University August 2009, January 2010 Graduate and May 2010 Graduate Candidate:

Graduations, like the university experience they culminate, are family and institutional events. They celebrate the accomplishments of the student, the reinforcement and support of the family, and the successful effort of every member of the University community.

This ceremony will begin with a procession of candidates and faculty in full academic regalia at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at the Recreation Center. You are invited to attend (we suggest you arrive at 4:30 p.m.) and to help make this special event a memorable celebration for the graduates and all those involved. Only guests with tickets will be admitted. Questions regarding tickets may be directed to the Student Commencement Coordinator, Mr. Francisco Diaz, at 973-720-3246.

Pageantry and dignity are emphasized at William Paterson commencements. You will see faculty in their colorful academic garb march to their seats nearest the stage. Candidates will be hooded with ceremonial hoods rimmed in orange, which along with the black robes will proudly display the institution’s colors. The rich history of University commencements and William Paterson University graduation traditions will be proudly presented for everyone’s appreciation.

A schematic drawing to assist you in finding an appropriate seat at the Recreation Center will be posted on the University website noted below. Indicated are the seating areas reserved for the candidates and the seating areas provided for guests. I hope that this will assist you. Further information about Commencement may be found at the University website at http://www.wpunj.edu/commencement.

If any of your guests are disabled, they can be dropped off and picked up at the Recreation Center, northeast corner of the building. University Police personnel will be stationed in several areas within Parking Lot #6 to facilitate this process and provide parking direction for all vehicles. **Lot #6 has a one-way traffic flow in and out of the lot.** Please follow posted signs and police officers’ directions.

We will graduate approximately 300 students and anticipate a total assemblage of about 1,000 people. Of course, every family wants to pay particular attention to its graduate. The only practical way to accomplish this is before and/or after the ceremony. Attempting to see or photograph your graduating family member during the procession or ceremony not only causes disruption and confusion, but usually ends in disappointment. A professional photographer will be hired to photograph each candidate and these photos will be made available for you to purchase. To give you the greatest opportunity to meet with your graduating family member after the ceremony, I invite you to arrange to meet at the informal reception being held in the tent just outside the Recreation Center.

Again, University graduation ceremonies are very important to many in addition to the candidate. Dignified and serious acknowledgements of an important achievement, they stress academic pageantry and traditions. Your presence adds greatly to all of this, and we sincerely hope that you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

Arnold Speert