May 5, 2010

Dear Family of a William Paterson University August 2009, January 2010 Graduate and May 2010 Undergraduate 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.

William Paterson University’s Spring 2010 commencement ceremony will begin with a procession of candidates and faculty in full academic regalia at 10:30 a.m. on Wightman Field, Tuesday, May 18, 2010. The rain date is the following day - same place and time. You are invited to attend and to help make this special event a memorable celebration for the candidates and all those involved.

Pageantry and dignity are emphasized at William Paterson commencements. You will see faculty in their colorful academic garb march to elevated platforms aside the main speakers’ platform. Candidates will wear 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.

In the interest of campus safety and crowd capacity, graduates are limited to six (6) tickets that were made available at the Graduate Finale, April 13, 14. Questions regarding tickets may be directed to the Student Commencement Coordinator, Francisco Diaz at 973-720-3246.

Please note that the conferral of degrees will follow only after all candidates’ names are read. Attendees should stay seated until after the degrees are conferred and the Alma Mater is sung. You and your graduate should pre-arrange a meeting place outside the field after the ceremony.

A schematic drawing to assist you in finding an appropriate seat at Wightman Field will be posted on the University website below. Indicated are the seating areas reserved for the candidates, and the seating areas provided for guests. I hope that this will assist you. In order to protect the field turf, please refrain from smoking and eating on the field, or drinking beverages other than plain water. If any of your guests are disabled, they should be dropped off and picked up at the Field House, Wightman Field, by using the road just past parking Lot #2 (Tennis Court Rd.). There is still a short walk from this point to the seating on the field and only limited availability of golf carts to assist with this distance. After dropping off your guest, University Police, who will be stationed at the entrance to this road to facilitate this process, will direct you to available parking in Lot #2. Further information about Commencement may be found on the University website at http://www.wpunj.edu/commencement.

We will graduate approximately 1,800 students and anticipate a total assemblage of more than 12,000 people. Of course, every family wants to pay particular attention to its graduate. May we suggest that the only practical way to accomplish this is before and 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 present to photograph each candidate and these photos will be made available for you to purchase.

Again, University graduation ceremonies are very important to many in addition to the candidate. Dignified and serious acknowledgments 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