

# CLASS OF 1996

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## The Beacon

May 13, 1996 • WILLIAM PATERSON COLLEGE

### Graduation day arrives at WPC 163rd commencement today

William Paterson College will hold its 163rd commencement today at 10:30 a.m. on Wightman Field. The rain date is Tuesday, May 14, also at 10:30 a.m.

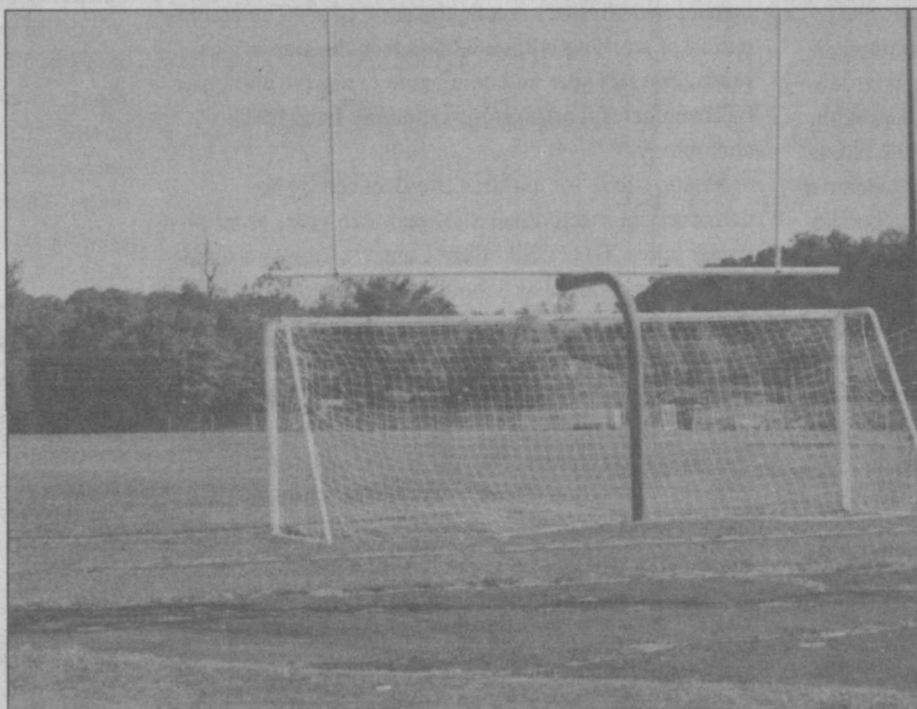
A total of 871 students are scheduled to receive degrees. Bachelor's degrees will be conferred upon 738 undergraduates; 133 students will receive master's degrees. All graduates will have completed their degree requirements between January and May, 1996.

Doris White, senior faculty member and professor of curriculum and instruction, will lead the academic procession to Wightman Field in her role as college marshal. The graduates will proceed by school and degree and later in the ceremony will be individually recognized. President Arnold Speert will address the graduating class along with Sam Ortiz, senior class president, who will deliver the statement for the Class of 1996.

Rafael PiRoman, host and managing editor of the WNET-TV Channel 13 program "Inside New Jersey," will receive the President's Medal, given for "outstanding service to the college community, academe or society as a whole." Clement Alexander Price, professor of history at Rutgers-Newark, will be awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

PiRoman joined Thirteen/WNET in 1992 when he became the station's prime-time host and anchor of Thirteen's "Bulldog Edition," a nightly presentation of the day's top stories and the next morning's newspaper headlines. Since 1993, he has not only hosted "Inside New Jersey" but also co-anchored the Emmy-nominated two-hour 1993 Election Night Special, its 1994 award-winning sequel, and the WNET special "Building Bridges."

PiRoman came to Thirteen from "Visiones," WNBC-TV's weekly public affairs series devoted to the needs and interests of the tri-state Latino communi-



•The normally empty Wightman field will be filled today with proud parents and friends gathered to watch William Paterson College's Class of 1996 graduate.

## Who are they?

### Salvatore Lombardo: Realizing a Dream

When Salvatore Lombardo was growing up, he dreamed of becoming a doctor, but was unsure whether that dream was realistic. The Wayne resident, who graduates from WPC with a second bachelor's degree in biology, magna cum laude, on May 13, is today well on his way to realizing his goal.

Lombardo, who earned his first bachelor's degree in business administration and management from WPC in 1992, has been accepted into four medical schools, and has chosen to attend the Medical College of Pennsylvania at Hahnemann University beginning in August. He credits WPC's biology department with much of his success.

"There is a supportive and nurturing environment among the students and the faculty," he says. "I received a lot of personalized attention which I know helped me to thrive."

A National Dean's List student and member of Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society, Lombardo served for two years as president of the college's chapter of the Galen Society, an organization for health-related majors. He also worked as a research assistant to Dr. Eileen Gardner, a WPC assistant professor of biology, volunteered as a lab technician for Dr. Robert Benno, a professor of biology, and served as a master tutor in WPC's Science Enrichment Center.

Off campus, Lombardo teaches a science education program which he created titled "Science with Mr. Wiz," for

ty. A native of Cuba, he received his bachelor's degree in English and history and a master's degree in international affairs from Florida State University. A leader in community involvement, he has received many awards for outstanding service, most recently the Annual Achievement Award from the National Hispanic Academy of Media Arts and Sciences for "outstanding work as an on-air talent."

Price, a specialist in African-American history and culture, United States urban and social history and New Jersey history, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in American and African-American history at Rutgers. He is the author of numerous publications, including "Freedom Not Far Distant: A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey," the standard text in this field, and is currently completing a major study of African-American social and cultural life in the 20th Century Newark. In addition, Price has curated photographic exhibitions focusing on the black experience in the United States, has served as a historical consultant for museums and films, and was featured in the documentary film "Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance," which aired nationally on PBS in 1994.

Born in Washington, D.C., Price briefly attended college in Raleigh, N.C. before enrolling at the University of Bridgeport, Conn., where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in history. After earning a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University-New Brunswick, he rose through the faculty ranks at Rutgers-Newark, where he has won many awards for teaching excellence. Price has played a leadership role in many community organizations including the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the City of Newark Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission.

# A closer look at some who make up the class of 1996

elementary school children at Pearl Miller Grammar School in Kinnelon. This summer, he will take the program to "Happiness is Camping," a Blairstown camp for children with cancer. Lombardo has also volunteered on the surgical floor at Wayne General Hospital.

Lombardo, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Italy 30 years ago, returned to Sicily with his family when he was 13. The family came back to the U.S. five years later, and he completed his senior year at Hawthorne High School.

"I am the first person in my family to earn a college degree. They are really proud of me," Lombardo says of his parents, Salvatore and Antonia. "My family has been very supportive; they were instrumental in keeping me going."

## Photography Project With The Circus Leads To A Career For WPC Grad

Most people who graduate from college with a bachelor's degree wither seek a job in their field or pursue advanced studies.

Not Diane Driggs-Seiden. The WPC photography major, who receives her bachelor of fine arts degree from the college on May 13, has already embarked on her new and unusual career as a performer in the circus.

Driggs-Seiden, a resident of Landing and graduate of Roxbury High School, came to WPC intent on becoming a photojournalist. However, fate intervened last April and pointed her in another direction. "David Horton, a photographer and assistant professor of art, and I were talking in his office one day," she explains. "He mentioned that he had always wanted to photograph elephants. It sounded like something that I would like to do."

Driving home one day, Driggs-Seiden saw a billboard announcing a local performance of the Royal Hanneford Circus. After consulting again with Horton and making the right connections, Driggs-Seiden received permission to photograph the circus.

The decision was an important one. Her initial photographs became the genesis of her thesis project, a documentary of circus life, which required her to travel with the circus full-time for several months. She also met and married Adam Seiden, a member of the equestrian act.

Driggs-Seiden now performs with her husband as the circus travels up and down the East Coast. She also provides publicity photos for her fellow circus performers. "The circus has grown to be a part of me. When I'm not there, I miss it."

Though Driggs-Seiden will be unable to join her fellow graduates on commencement day (she will be performing in Connecticut), she looks forward to seeing her friends and professors the next time the circus is nearby.

## Outstanding Education Major Ready For New Challenges

When Rosemary Meatto joins her fellow graduates on Wightman Field for the commencement ceremony at WPC in Wayne on May 13, the Guttenberg resident will be ready to take on a new role: as a teacher.

Meatto, named one of four Outstanding Undergraduate Students by WPC's School of Education, has also been nominated for the

Commissioner's Distinguished Candidate Award, given by the New Jersey Department of Education. She will graduate cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology and education, having also completed the college's rigorous Humanities Honors Program.

Dr. Anthony Colletta, a WPC professor of curriculum and instruction, praises Meatto's dedication to her chosen profession. "In my 22 years of college teaching, I have seldom taught and supervised a student of such high quality, who combines both intellectual and teaching competence as well as Rosemary," he says. "She combines a scholarly approach with excellent teaching skills and a true love for children."

Meatto has spent the past academic year as both a student and a teacher in the Teaching/Learning Collaborative at Paterson School #26. The collaborative is a partnership between WPC and the Paterson Public Schools designed to enhance professional roles for pre-service teachers, cooperative teachers and college supervisors in year-long placements in Paterson schools.

"What I've experienced this year at School #26 has been incredibly beneficial," says Meatto, who worked in a first grade class. As part of the program, she was able to submit her lesson plans to her collaborative teacher and advisor via a laptop computer. "The combination of working with one teacher in the same classroom for a full year and being able to use the computer has been helpful and has increased my knowledge of technology."

Meatto's love for children is evidenced by her extracurricular activities. She spent two years as a volunteer at the WPC Child Care Center, and spent a semester tutoring children at School #18 in Paterson. "The children in Paterson were so happy that someone cared," she says. "It didn't matter how much time I had to put into my work as long as I could be there for the students."

A dean's list student, Meatto is a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, and Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society in Education. She has served as president and vice president of WPC's Early Childhood Elementary Education Club and been a member of the Psychology Club.

This summer, Meatto will work as a camp counselor for six-to 11-year-old children at Immaculate Heart of Mary camp in Wayne while exploring job opportunities. A graduate of North Bergen High School, she is

the daughter of Ann Meatto.

## Jim Craig: Building A Future On A Special Chance

Jim Craig knows he was given a unique opportunity. The 38-year-old Wayne resident, who dropped out of high school in the 1970s and later earned his high school equivalency diploma, is looking forward to a proud moment: receiving his bachelor's degree in nursing cum laude during WPC's commencement ceremony on May 13.

Craig, who was a construction worker prior to enrolling at the college, credits Dr. Sandra DeYoung, chair of WPC's nursing department, with making this day possible. "I enrolled at WPC in 1991 unsure of my career goals and I took an aptitude test that pointed to nursing as a strong choice for me," he explains. "I talked to Dr. DeYoung one day about entering the nursing major, which is very rigorous. All she had to base her decision on was two semesters worth of grades and my G.E.D. - no high school transcripts or SAT scores. And she gave me a very special chance."

Adding to the challenge of earning his degree was his status as a non-traditional student. "Sometimes I questioned whether I would get through the program," he admits. "But I worked closely with other students and we helped each other. And, I wasn't afraid to ask for help if I needed it."

Craig includes his wife, Sharon, who is expecting their first child in August, as a key factor in his success. "She has been a phenomenal support," he says. "She has worked and done more than her share."

Calling his years at WPC "a very good experience," Craig has been actively involved on campus. He served as senior class representative to WPC's Student Nurses Association and a delegate to the New Jersey Student Nursing Association convention. A member of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Nursing Society, Craig has volunteered as a tutor for sophomore and junior nursing majors.

Off campus, Craig volunteers several hours each week at a hospice in Totowa where he is currently caring for two patients. "I've met some really wonderful people working at the hospice," he says. Craig hopes to eventually obtain an advanced degree specializing in geriatrics.

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