

Dear Journalism Program Alumnus,

A year ago, I was just another commuter student at William Paterson University, going to campus for my Broadcast Journalism classes and leaving right after. I felt something was missing.

Then an email popped in my inbox in August.

Our university was contacting students to gauge their interest in starting a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, the oldest journalism organization in the United States. Founded in 1909, SPJ addresses important issues confronting journalists, fighting and winning battles for Freedom of Information and First Amendment rights that might not otherwise be waged at all. On college campuses like ours, SPJ chapters create a journalism culture that extends outside the classroom and into educational and networking opportunities.

I signed on, and now I am the first president of WPSPJ.

Joining SPJ has given me the opportunity to interact with a group of bright and committed William Paterson students who share my perspective that journalism is vital to our democracy. Our faculty adviser, Dr. Nicholas Hirshon, has helped us organize an outdoor screening of the Oscar-winning film "Spotlight" and a trip to cover a New Jersey Devils hockey game from the press box at the Prudential Center. We have also started a guest speaker series that brings journalists from major news outlets such as *amNewYork*, the Associated Press, CBS, the *Journal News*, and the *New York Daily News* to Hobart Hall.

We have made lots of progress in a single semester. But in order to keep growing, we need the support of alumni like yourself.

There are three easy ways for you to help:

1. Follow us on Twitter at @WPSPJ. This is the best way to stay up to date on everything our chapter is doing.
2. Not on Twitter? Like us on Facebook at William Paterson SPJ.
3. Contribute to our \$1,000 GoFundMe campaign by typing this link into your browser:
<http://bit.ly/2gOTfUr>

If you would like to learn more about our chapter, please feel free to contact our faculty adviser, Dr. Hirshon, at hirshonn@wpunj.edu or (973) 720-3285.

Thank you, and we hope our chapter will make you proud.

Sincerely,

Maynor Castillo

President

William Paterson University chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists