

# Wisconsin Achievers

Vol. 16, No. 9

April 2016

## About Wisconsin Grants

The twenty-four private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating nearly 60,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant, now known as Wisconsin Grants, was enacted in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Each month Wisconsin Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites at WAICU member campuses for whom Wisconsin Grants have made a significant difference.

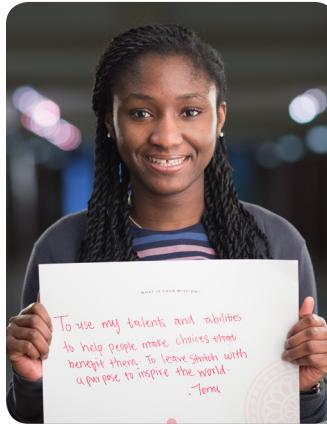
**Wisconsin Achievers** is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
Rebecca Larson  
Senior VP for Advocacy  
Cassandra Krause  
Director of Communications & Marketing, Editor

## Cardinal Stritch University accounting student gives back

Oluwatomisin "Tomi" Ladeinde of Milwaukee is studying accounting at Cardinal Stritch University with plans to follow in the footsteps of both her parents and her grandfather. But a career in accounting is not the only goal Tomi is pursuing. She has a greater vision for the ways she can affect the world through her ever-present positive attitude, her appreciation for the opportunities available to her, and her sense of responsibility to share her blessings with those in need.

"I've been given so much and it's my duty to give back to



Cardinal Stritch junior Tomi Ladeinde volunteers while earning her degree.

the society that helps me," said Tomi, a graduate of St. Joan Antida High School in Milwaukee. Sorting donations at the House of

Peace, an agency that serves Milwaukee's homeless and working poor, visiting the elderly at a local nursing home, and taking a spring break Habitat for Humanity trip, Tomi is well acquainted with the needs of the community. She challenges herself to go out of her comfort zone.

A junior, Tomi achieves high grades while immersing herself in campus life. She earned a certificate in diversity studies and is part of the Leadership, Development, Reflection and Service (LDRS) Initiative, a living-learning community

continued on page 2

## Viterbo student well-equipped for career in health care management

Viterbo University student, Alex Shaker, is very busy. With a double major in business administration & management and leadership, a minor in health care administration, participation on the men's track and field team, and employment as a campus tour guide, he certainly should be. "I want to get everything I can out of my college education," said Alex, a junior from Hillsboro. "It's not always easy, but it's worth it."

Alex chose Viterbo because of his interactions with business faculty member Todd Ondell, who was frequently in the



Viterbo University junior Alex Shaker is pursing a career in health care management.

audience at high school Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) events. Selecting Viterbo turned out to be the right decision for Alex, and he would definitely recommend the university to aspiring college

students. "I'm very happy to be attending Viterbo University," Alex said. "It is the right size to get to know people on a first-name basis, and the faculty always make time to help students and answer any questions they may have."

Alex is the son of Hillsboro dairy farmers. His older sister, Brienne, recently graduated from Viterbo with a degree in social work and

continued on page 2

## Tomi Ladeinde

continued from page 1

for students who are the first in their family to attend college, are students of color, or come from low-income households. She is a founding member and former treasurer of the Hispanic student organization. She is also involved with the Franciscan Servant Scholars (FSS), an education, formation and scholarship program allowing students to integrate their faith with academic and career interests. Additionally, she works as a tour guide and orientation leader. The University honored her with the 2014 Multicultural Image Award recognizing her efforts to create an inclusive, caring community.

Previously an intern at Milwaukee Community Service Corps, she now works as an accounting intern at Northwestern Mutual, "where they know I'm a student but expect professional-level work." She is grateful for the high expectations the company sets for her and said her professors have prepared her well for these experiences.

"Education is such a lifeline," Tomi said. "It's something that can't ever be taken away. I may not be athletic, I may not be artistic, I may not be a whole lot of other things, but I'm smart. And I'll take my education and experiences everywhere I go for the rest of my life."

Tomi is setting an example for her three younger siblings while following a path set by her parents, both college graduates. Her mother, an American citizen, envisioned a brighter future for their children, prompting them to move to Wisconsin from Nigeria several years ago.

"I'm forever grateful for the Wisconsin Grant and the scholarships that have helped me," Tomi said. "I am hard on myself and put a lot of effort into doing well in school because I'm not just working for me, but also doing something good for the people who sponsored me in my journey to get here."

### FACT OF THE MONTH

Nationally, 53 percent of students who began college in 2009 finished their degree by 2015, while for Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities 70 percent completed their degrees in the same time period.

Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center – February 2016

## Alex Shaker

continued from page 1

is now working in the field in Wisconsin while pursuing a master's degree. Financial aid such as the Wisconsin Grant makes his college education possible, he said. It allows him to take full advantage of the many campus and community opportunities that round out his college experience.

Being a member of the track team is a very enjoyable part of college for Alex. "The team has a great bunch of guys, and my best friends are on the team," he said, adding that participating in athletics is possible because at Viterbo, "School comes first, and athletics come second."

As a student at Viterbo, Alex had an "incredible" study abroad experience in China. The opportunity expanded his horizons, and he will participate in another Viterbo trip to South Africa. Experiences such as these greatly enhance a college education and can provide countless future benefits to graduates.

Upon earning a degree, Alex plans to pursue a career in health care management. He became interested in the health care field during a paid internship at Gundersen Health System, a local hospital in La Crosse. All Viterbo business students are guaranteed a paid internship. The university has an excellent reputation

with area employers, and its relationships with these employers facilitate high-quality workplace experiences for students. The combination of classroom work and practical experience ensures that students are well-prepared for their future careers.

"Alex came to Viterbo University with the intent of becoming engaged in university life, the La Crosse community, and his desired profession," said Viterbo business faculty member Todd Ondell. "Alex has interned in his chosen field, volunteered with nonprofits, and become a student leader on campus through his involvement in the classroom and in athletics. He has a very bright future."

### Wisconsin's Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities

- Alverno College Milwaukee
- Bellin College Green Bay
- Beloit College Beloit
- Cardinal Stritch University Milwaukee
- Carroll University Waukesha
- Carthage College Kenosha
- Columbia College of Nursing Milwaukee
- Concordia University Wisconsin Mequon

- Edgewood College Madison
- Lakeland College Sheboygan
- Lawrence University Appleton
- Marian University Fond du Lac
- Marquette University Milwaukee
- Medical College of Wisconsin Milwaukee
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design Milwaukee
- Milwaukee School of Engineering Milwaukee

- Mount Mary University Milwaukee
- Nashotah House Nashotah
- Northland College Ashland
- Ripon College Ripon
- St. Norbert College De Pere
- Silver Lake College Manitowoc
- Viterbo University La Crosse
- Wisconsin Lutheran College Milwaukee

