

## About the WTG

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

*The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income students who apply for the WTG are turned away every year for lack of funds. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom the WTG has made a significant difference.*

WTG 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

Wendy Wink  
Executive Vice President

Katy Kaiser, editor  
Director of Publications and Reports

## Campus beekeeper creates a real “buzz”

There's a new buzz on the Lawrence University campus—literally—and it is music to Hava Blair's ears.

It is the sound of more than 200,000 European honeybees happily making honey under the watchful eye of Hava, Lawrence's first-ever beekeeper.

The duties are an extension of her role as manager of the Sustainable Lawrence Uni-



*Hava Blair, of Jefferson, is the first official beekeeper at Lawrence.*

versity Garden (SLUG), one of the features that attracted her to Lawrence. Hava, a junior, got involved with

SLUG shortly after arriving at Lawrence.

“I'm surprised at what a big part of my life working in the garden and tending to the bees has become. It's totally different from a traditional academic experience,” says

Hava, a geology major with a 3.91 grade point average who originally considered

*continued on page 2*

## Aspiring surgeon grateful for opportunities

Academics have always been important to Ben Giertych. With plans for a career in robotic surgery utilizing nanotechnology, a quality education in the sciences is a major priority.

Ben, a junior at Viterbo University, plans to attend medical school upon graduation.

A self-described technology junkie, he has a bright future in the medical profession and robotic surgery. “I'm very interested in micro-invasive surgery because



*Ben Giertych, of Tomah, hopes to go to medical school and study robotic surgery.*

of the minimal amount of trauma it causes the body,” he says. “I also find technology and the complexity of the human body fascinating.”

When he is not busy in the science lab or classroom, Ben is very involved on campus. He is a member of Tri-Beta (the biology honor society), the biochemistry club, and will soon be joining the pre-med club. His favorite pastime is rugby. Ben plays

on the Viterbo team and is also an officer for the group.

“I love it,” Ben says. “There is great camaraderie on the

*continued on page 2*

**Hava Blair** continued from page 1

pursuing a theatre arts major. “Lawrence has allowed me to pursue a wide range of interests as well as get involved in some exciting campus and community initiatives.

“The integration of academics and activities is a big reason I wanted to come to Lawrence,” says Hava. “Without the diversity of activities, I think I would be absolutely bored.”

Financial aid also played a crucial role in her college decision.

“Scholarships are the reason I am able to attend Lawrence and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is an important part of those scholarships,” says Hava. “I’m grateful for all the support the WTG provides.”

Now beginning her second spring as the careful

custodian of Lawrence’s five beehives, Hava took a night class at the local technical college to learn as much as she could about raising bees.

“It’s been a fun learning experience,” Hava says of her beekeeping duties. “It also has generated a lot of interest from people in the community. We want to make this an educational experience not only for Lawrence students but people in the Appleton community, too.”

While the educational purpose is primary, Lawrence is also benefiting from the honey production and the plant pollination.

Next year, Hava will apply her expertise in the classroom. She will team-teach an environmental studies seminar on sustainable agriculture, leading hands-on exercises in the garden, orchard, and apiary.



Nearly 25,000 low-income Wisconsin students at Wisconsin’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities are receiving financial aid, an increase of 1,500 since the last official report. Nonetheless, these students’ “unmet need” is approximately \$66,000,000.

Source: Derived from data collected by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

**Ben Giertych** continued from page 1

team; it’s great exercise; and it’s a lot of fun.” Ben also finds time to work three nights a week to help finance his education.

But Ben says receiving a Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other financial aid is what makes his college education possible. His oldest sister is a recent college graduate, another sister is a student at Wisconsin Lutheran College, and his mother is also taking college courses.

“Without financial aid, I wouldn’t be able to attend Viterbo,” says Ben.

Ben enjoys helping people and understands the importance of patient care—skills critical in the medical field, and characteristics that have been reinforced through the values curriculum at Viterbo. He is also a participant in the university’s honors program which offers students an enhanced academic experience.

“Viterbo offers great academics, close relationships with faculty members, and opportunities for research,” says Ben. “The research I’ve been conducting will be very beneficial in my future career.”

His peers and professors agree. “Over this academic year, Ben and I have worked very hard to devise a research plan and begin working in the lab,” says Ward Jones, Viterbo biology professor and Ben’s research advisor. “Ben demonstrated excellent understanding and did an outstanding job.”

With medical school over a year away, Ben will continue to make the most of his time at Viterbo.

“I am very happy with the quality education I am receiving.”

**Wisconsin’s Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities**

Alverno College *Milwaukee*  
 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*  
 Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design *Milwaukee*  
 Milwaukee School of Engineering *Milwaukee*

Mount Mary College *Milwaukee*  
 Northland College *Ashland*  
 Ripon College *Ripon*  
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*  
 Silver Lake College of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

