

WTG *Achievers*

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About the WTG

The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 58,000 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.

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WTG recipient at Beloit finds himself at home



Jeff Gage of Beloit, a senior at Beloit College

Jeff Gage of Beloit did not expect to attend college in his hometown. Along with many others in his high school class, he had always pictured himself

going away to school, either outside of Wisconsin or farther north.

Although he had grown up close by, Jeff had never made a formal visit to Beloit College. However, before he made his college decision, he thought he might as well investigate it just for comparison's sake.

To his surprise, he found it to be a perfect match with his interests. After touring the college as a prospective student, he decided to enroll. "I liked the atmosphere, the people, the campus," he says. "Even though it was in my hometown,

it seemed like the place I wanted to be."

Jeff is grateful for all of the financial aid he received, including a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which made it possible for him to attend Beloit. He says that as a WTG recipient, he will have at least \$5,000 less in loans to pay back, a significant sum that will make a big difference when he graduates.

Entering Beloit with an interest in literary studies, Jeff spent a few semesters exploring other disciplines before choosing the subject as his major. A highlight

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The sky's the limit for future nurse at MSOE, thanks to help from the WTG



Lisa Wos of Mukwonago, a senior at MSOE

Lisa Wos transferred to Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) after spending time at a public university where she felt the emphasis was put on grades

rather than developing the person as a whole. She realized she had to make a change. "After deciding to transfer, interviewing MSOE, and repeatedly hearing about quality students graduating from MSOE, I knew it was where I belonged," said Lisa, who is studying nursing.

"The clinical portion of the nursing program is what impressed me the most," she said. "Having three years of clinicals in areas that encompass a broad range of possibilities within the nursing field is what sets MSOE apart from other institutions." Lisa expects to finish her undergraduate studies and receive her degree

from MSOE in May 2009.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has allowed Lisa to attend MSOE without putting undue hardship on her or her family. She said, "It has allowed me to avoid working an additional job to make that money. It has reduced my stress levels and allowed me to focus more on my school-work."

After graduation Lisa would like to work full-time in an emergency room—and then she wants to spread her wings and take to the skies. Once she has gained the necessary experience, she'd

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JEFF GAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of his college experience has been the close ties he developed with professors.

Now a senior, Jeff says he tries to pick out the most popular instructors on campus and study with them as much as possible. “As a result, I’ve had a lot of good experiences and built good relationships along the way,” he reflects. “Just about everyone I’ve had classes with has helped me somehow.”

Jeff especially appreciates the global outlook he found at Beloit College, where fully half of the students study or do research in another country before they graduate. He cites his study abroad experience in Budapest, Hungary, as a high point in his college career.

Among other things, Beloit has given Jeff a renewed sense of self. “I’ve gotten a better understanding of who I am and what I want to get out of

life,” he says. “That’s huge, because it raises your confidence. I’ve also gotten a little more laid back, and I have a better perspective on my ambitions.”

Pursuing activities that interested him helped shape his insight. A committed runner, Jeff is a member of the cross-country team, as well as the indoor and outdoor track and field teams. He is on the board of directors of Beloit College’s radio station, WBCR, and serves as its new music director and a regular programmer. In his free time, he enjoys reading, playing guitar, and joining in games of Frisbee—the quintessential Beloit pastime.

Radio may factor into Jeff’s post-graduation plans. He wants to work in either publishing or broadcasting before continuing his education in graduate school. Noting that his future is open to anything, he says, “I’m just now beginning to think about some of the different possibilities.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 2006-2007, the average price for tuition and fees at a Wisconsin private college or university was \$20,925. At the same time, the average freshman financial aid package was \$14,372, leaving average net tuition costs of just \$6,553.

National Center for Education Statistics

LISA WOS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

like to attain a position on the Flight for Life and trauma team. “I have always known that the emergency department—with its fast pace, constant change, and challenges—is where I want to work. I hope eventually to obtain my master’s so I can become a Nurse Practitioner, and specialize in acute care flight nursing,” said Lisa.

An active volunteer on and off campus, Lisa has tutored in MSOE’s Writing Center. She is also a member of MSOE’s Nursing Honors Society and president of MSOE’s Student Nurses Association. Off campus, she has been a volunteer firefighter and worked

at the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety’s Burn Camp, the Paddock Medical Clinic at Road America, and Froedtert Hospital.

“I plan to stay in Milwaukee after graduation,” she said. At the same time, she wants to learn about the rest of the U.S. as well, and she’s found the perfect way to do that. “Another avenue I would like to pursue is traveling nursing. I want to travel and learn new skills from hospitals around the country that exemplify extraordinary emergency medicine. Traveling nursing will allow me to continue to work and grow in the nursing profession,” explained Lisa.

When asked if there is anyone who inspired her, Lisa responded, “It is hard to pinpoint one person; I believe everyone in my life has inspired me in some way. There are two people who have made a great impact on my life: my older brother Mike and my dear friend Dr. Anne Hoch.” Dr. Hoch is an associate professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and director of the Froedtert & Medical College Sports Medicine Program.

Lisa is no doubt an inspiring person herself. Thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, she will be able to care for and be an inspiration to others in her nursing career.

Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
 Beloit College *Beloit*
 Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
 Carroll University *Waukesha*
 Carthage College *Kenosha*
 Concordia University *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 *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

