

## 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 59,000 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.

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## MSOE grad soars with the help of the WTG

Heather DeLany is busy—really, really busy.

The MSOE student from West Bend managed to find time to compete in track and cross country while finishing her degree in structural engineering. But she didn't stop there. As a student, DeLany was also involved in the American Society of Civil Engineers, which builds and races a concrete canoe every year, as



Heather DeLany, of West Bend, balances her love for track and field with her structural engineering degree at MSOE.

well as Tau Beta Pi and the Intersarsity Christian Fellowship.

would have had to settle for a lesser-quality education."

Thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG), DeLany was able to pursue her dreams at MSOE. "The WTG has helped me go to this great university.

Without that support, I

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## Marian junior committed to lifelong learning with WTG

For Nicole Weinert, getting a good education and helping others are important goals in her life. "Getting an education doesn't happen just in the classroom," said Weinert. "I want to take the lessons from my classes into the real world and keep learning by helping others."

Mentoring new students is another of Nicole's passions, as she enjoys helping first-year students make the transition from high school to college. Through Marian's First-Year Experience Program, Nicole



Nicole Weinert, of Slinger, is focused on her own education while helping students transition to college.

attends seminar classes, helps with special projects, plans review sessions, and coordinates educational programs throughout the year.

Being a Student Mentor is a job that Nicole truly enjoys. "I really feel that I am making a difference in students' lives by helping them get through their first year."

Nicole, a junior accounting major, is an alumna of Slinger High School, lives on campus, and, in addition to her work as a mentor, also belongs to a variety of organizations like the Society

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DeLany spent part of her junior year studying abroad at the Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic. While there she gained valuable life skills and learned how to adapt to a different culture and language. “When I couldn’t communicate through a language I knew, I learned to read Czech and related to people in different ways,” said DeLany. In addition, she was able to use her weekends and breaks to travel throughout Europe and experience different countries. “There were many things I liked; I am very glad that the program allowed for cultural experience and was not just books and studying all the time.”

DeLany also worked as an intern at Ambrose Engineering, a job she got after meeting with Ambrose representatives at a career fair on campus. She enjoyed the experience, saying, “It gave me industry exposure so that when teachers

would mention something in the classroom, I had an easier time understanding or visualizing what they were saying.” Because of her excellent MSOE education, DeLany is looking forward to a bright future. Having graduated in June, she was offered a job at a structural engineering firm, and started last month.

DeLany offers this advice for incoming freshmen: “Become friends with your teachers. They are awesome, helpful people, beyond lecturing in the classroom. And they are really the key to succeeding here.” DeLany says she enjoyed her college experience, something that was made possible through the help of the WTG. Noted DeLany, “There were tough times but they didn’t define the experience. What I will remember most are the people. The ones I met, laughed with, and worked hard with. Those are the times that defined MSOE for me.”



WAICU private colleges and universities excel at teaching people how to teach, graduating more than one-third of Wisconsin’s certified teachers and administrators, as well as 85% of school principals and 75% of the state’s reading teachers.

Source: WAICU research archives

**Nicole Weinert** continued from page 1

of Human Resource Management, Business Club, Model UN, and the General Education Committee.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has helped Nicole immensely this year, “This grant has helped me pay my tuition bill,” said Nicole, “and, along with a part-time job in the financial aid office, it has helped me keep the priority on my studies.”

Nicole’s enthusiasm for Marian is obvious. Nicole chose Marian because it was the perfect academic fit for her accounting major and because her father also attended

Marian. “I knew that this was the school for me when I came to visit with him. I like the small classes, the community atmosphere, and that it is close to home.”

Nicole will graduate in 2011 and has goals for both her remaining time at Marian and, not surprisingly given her dedication to her studies, after she graduates. “While I’m here, I want to continue meeting new people and forming lifelong friendships.” As for her post-graduation goals, Nicole is up for any challenge when it comes to applying her education. “After graduation, I hope to get a job that I know I can be

successful in and something that interests and challenges me at the same time.”

Nicole also had some words of wisdom for new students choosing a school. “Take every aspect of the school into consideration, such as the size of the school and classes, the curriculum, location and proximity to home, and the activities that are provided on campus. Pick a school where you can become part of the community, and feel comfortable and safe”—wise words for a young student who has already learned that some of life’s most important lessons are still on the horizon.

**Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities**

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

