

## About the WTG

*The twenty 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

Paul Nelson  
Senior VP for Public Policy

Wendy Wink  
Senior VP Educational Services

Jerry Huffman  
VP for Communications

## Building a new life in a new country starts with college

Sieng Her doesn't remember much about her birthplace in Thailand as she was only two when her family sought refuge in the United States.

But what she does remember is how much her parents wanted her to have a better life and how they did everything they could to provide one.

Now as Sieng begins her junior year in the radiologic technology program at Mount



*Sieng Her, originally from Thailand, works with fellow students to help them pursue their own academic dreams.*

gratitude for her family's sacrifices. Although Sieng is the age of a traditional junior in college, she doesn't fit the traditional student profile.

Married at 17, she had her first child while completing high school

*continued on page 2*

## Busy student makes a difference by helping others

Cardinal Stritch University senior Ryan Treviranus is a busy, busy guy.

On any given day, the Greendale native may be working in a campus photography lab, training for his next cross-country meet, participating in a service project, helping backstage at a theater production, working one of his three jobs, or attending a campus ministry retreat.

In his three years at Stritch, Ryan has immersed himself in campus life where he has



*As a student, Ryan Treviranus, of Greendale, has found twin passions of photography and serving others.*

explored his creative side, community service, and athletic, as well as leadership potential. His busy schedule reflects his openness to new

experiences, allowing life to lead him to new and unexpected places.

A 2008 graduate of Greendale High School, Ryan chose Stritch because of the chance to enroll in its outstanding photography program.

A complete financial aid package, which included the

*continued on page 2*

**Sieng Her** continued from page 1

at Harold Vincent High in Milwaukee. Her guidance counselor knew Sieng dreamed of going to college and recommended the Midtown Program at Mount Mary.

Designed for first-generation college students, the program provided the personal attention and support that Sieng needed to navigate through the first year of college studies at its off-site campus. With the support of her husband and his family, with whom they live, Sieng decided to pursue a health care career, following in her father's footsteps. He had been a nurse in Thailand.

The poverty of her early childhood and the similar circumstances she faced as a refugee made her cautious about the financial challenges of paying for college. Sieng credits the Mount Mary admission and financial aid staff with helping her find the aid she needed, including the Wisconsin

Tuition Grant. "Financial aid was absolutely essential for me," said the future medical technician. Looking forward to her upcoming clinical placement at a Milwaukee hospital, Sieng says that she is happy her hard work is paying off. She feels that both the academic and financial support at Mount Mary have brought her closer to a career that will allow Sieng and her husband to purchase their own home someday.

Hard work is a normal part of Sieng's busy life. A dedicated student, Sieng only missed two days of classes five months ago after giving birth to her second child, an accomplishment that impressed both teachers and classmates.

She is quick to express her appreciation for all the help she receives from her extended family and says that when she graduates it will be a shared accomplishment for all of them.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

In the fall of 2010, fifteen percent of students enrolled at WAICU members reported they are students of color. This is the largest percentage ever. By contrast, UW minority enrollment was only twelve percent last fall.

Source:

WAICU research archives

**Ryan Treviranus** continued from page 1

Wisconsin Tuition Grant, gave Ryan the freedom to explore all of his options and find the school that was the perfect fit for him. "The cost was kind of a shock at first because I come from a lower income family," Ryan said. "The grants, scholarships, and loans help take the stress off of financial issues and allow me to focus more on my future."

Since enrolling as a photography major at Stritch, Ryan not only has honed his growing sense of visual skills, but his interest has evolved now to include a possible career in the film-making industry.

"When I started, I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, so it was cool I got to learn all the different aspects of photography," Ryan said. "The Stritch program and all of the other extracurricular options outside of academics have helped lead me to my interest in documentary film."

While he's still relatively new to the world of film, Ryan expects to gain even more experience by spending this summer in Costa Rica studying and helping others.

"I'm doing a unique program," Ryan said. "It's an athletic program combined with

study abroad. I'll be training for cross-country with a bunch of other students from all over the nation and we'll be coaching at a kids sports camp in a rural community, and then I'll be taking a documentary film course."

When he graduates next May, Ryan will combine his love for adventure by joining AmeriCorps, a nationwide network of volunteers. "It's hard to see myself in one place because I love to explore. It would be cool to get the experience of helping other people around the nation," Ryan said. "I'm up for anything, wherever life takes me."

**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*

