

About the WTG

The twenty-three 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.

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WTG enables student to pursue important research

The effects of socioeconomic status (SES) on childhood obesity are the focus of research recently undertaken by Ripon College senior Max Roy of Fredonia. Roy is a recipient of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. The exercise science major participates in Ripon's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which helps prepare first-generation, low-income or racially underrepresented



Max Roy of Fredonia, a student at Ripon College.

students for graduate school and the attainment of doctoral degrees.

"The basics of my project were to look at the

association—whether a positive or negative correlation—that socioeconomic status has with the prevalence of childhood obesity in a developed country," Roy said. There appears to be a great deal of difference in the role of socioeconomic status when comparing developed, developing or underdeveloped countries,

continued on page 2

WTG helps double value of education success at Carroll

Twin sisters Janezia and Natezia Ketchel aspired to be the first in their family to attend college. To reach such a goal simultaneously was doubly challenging. The sisters, seniors from Stockbridge, appreciate the opportunities afforded by the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and their Carroll University education.



Twin sisters Janezia and Natezia Ketchel of Stockbridge, students at Carroll University.

Janezia, a book art and professional writing double major, did not initially foresee a future at Carroll. Her out-of-state college

destination changed when Natezia, an elementary education major and early childhood minor, received a handwritten Christmas letter from her admission

counselor at Carroll.

"The personal connection made Carroll more approachable and friendly than other colleges we had contacted," Natezia said. That made the sisters decide to share the welcoming college campus experience in Waukesha.

Financial aid has enabled Janezia and Natezia to pursue a fulfilling higher education.

continued on page 2

Max Roy continued from page 1

he found through his research.

Roy identified eight studies conducted in developed countries worldwide that examined associations that may exist between socioeconomic status and childhood obesity. The subjects were children between ages 5 and 12. Factors making up socioeconomic status included parents' education, income, and occupation.

Roy's analysis showed that low socioeconomic status is correlated with higher numbers of children with obesity in developed countries. "With this in mind, we now are able to develop intervention and prevention strategies," he said.

Those strategies include developing more efficient curriculum and school-food programs, with a special emphasis on healthy options

offered at school lunches and in vending machines, Roy said. There also should be more focus on health education and physical education, he added. Children should be encouraged to learn the concepts of diet and eating habits to promote better health, and the importance of physical activity.

"The main conclusion of my study is that there is a strong association between low socioeconomic status and increased childhood obesity prevalence," he said. "My second conclusion is that, although socio-economic status plays a strong role in the association, there also are many other factors that need to be researched; factors that could also play a role in increased childhood obesity prevalence include such things as parenting as related to food choice and physical activity levels of children, education, and influence of culture," he added.



Wisconsin private, non-profit schools have a 76% higher four-year bachelor's degree graduation rate than UW system schools.

(Source: IPEDS Data Center Graduation Rates survey)

Ketchel Sisters continued from page 1

Both are grateful for its ongoing benefits. As roommates, they support one another's academic pursuits.

Natezia needs to complete a field experience for her education studies, and the public and private aid will help make that possible. Because WTG covers tuition, Janezia also was able to marshal her other resources to defray the cost of her major's study-abroad requirement. She spent a full semester at Florence University of the Arts in Italy, where she wrote articles for the school's "Blending" literary magazine and explored Europe

on weekends. The experience enriched her and reinforced her devotion to both writing and book design.

On campus, Janezia is involved in Century Magazine and recently presented at a President's Advisory Council meeting about Carroll's new book art major. Natezia is excited to work at a local daycare. "I always wanted to work with young children, whether in a daycare or classroom setting. Now I get to chance to do both," she explained.

Janezia plans to pursue graduate studies

at Emerson College after she graduates from Carroll in spring 2015. "Carroll has given us the tools to excel in our futures, no matter where they take us," she said.

"Carroll University has given me an edge that I don't think another college could have," said Natezia. "Every year of my program to become an elementary teacher, I have been able to go into various classroom settings to observe, prepare lessons and practice teaching children of all ages." She will finish her degree in spring 2014, and looks forward to instructing her own class.

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*
 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*

