

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 55,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the needy 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 difference.

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WTG helps Lakeland student get world on paper



Jodie Liedke of Oakfield, a junior at Lakeland College

Jodie Liedke loves to write, although she's not quite sure what she wants to do with her talent after graduating from Lakeland College. The junior from Oakfield especially loves writing poetry, but

after getting her first taste of writing news for Lakeland's student newspaper, Jodie now sees any number of roads she could travel.

Jodie enrolled in Lakeland's education program initially, but now she's a writing major with minors in English and communication. She has thoughts of one day earning a masters of fine arts degree, but for now is soaking in as many different writing experiences as she can.

A graduate of a small high school, Liedke wanted to attend a smaller, independent

college. Financial aid was critical for her, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is a big part of her aid package.

"I don't have any loans right now, and I'm happy about that," Jodie says. "My parents like that too."

Liedke is in her second year of working on the literary publication "Seems," which is edited by Lakeland Writing Professor and Poet in Residence Karl Elder. Elder has played a major role in expanding Jodie's horizons. "It's not just talking about

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WTG makes the difference in keeping this former Marine, criminal justice major in state



Brian Heggie of Helenville, a senior at Carroll College

Not every student at Carroll College fits the traditional undergraduate mold. Brian Heggie of Helenville, Wisconsin, is a nontraditional

student who took time to experience life before coming to college.

Brian knew he wanted to be a Marine before college. He enlisted in mid-June after his junior year in high school and went to boot camp two days after graduation. Because of this decision, Brian missed the chance to play baseball with his high school team in the state tournament. But serving in the Marines would prove to be a choice with more benefits than winning a championship.

During his time in the

Marines, Brian served in Okinawa, Japan; Thailand; Singapore and Tokyo. He also had the opportunity to visit Iwo Jima, where his grandfather fought in World War II.

Brian's unit was trained to always be on alert, but he still managed to form special friendships. He was amazed that people from all walks of life would form strong bonds in such a short amount of time.

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JODIE LIEDKE *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

academics,” Jodie says. “He’s helped me make decisions about what I’m doing over the summer. He’s given me so many opportunities. He’s challenged me above my abilities.

“And you can always go in and talk to him. He looks out for you in more than just his classes. He’s got the inside scoop.”

Jodie was a busy teenager in high school, and her life at Lakeland is no different. She’s vice president of the Campus Activities Board and student rep for the campus recycling drive; and she also works for the admissions department call team and has been a resident assistant in the residence halls since her first year.

“With all the things I’ve taken on, I feel like I’m needed here,” Jodie says. “I probably would not have gotten all these opportunities at other schools. I hate it when I hear people say they’re bored. If you get involved, there is

no way you’ll be bored here. I mean, seriously, take a look at my life for just one day.”

Jodie says her time at Lakeland has helped her not only become a better, more marketable writer, but it has also allowed her to grow as a person. That is thanks, in large part, to the extra attention Lakeland students get from their professors.

“If you are falling behind, professors will call the hall directors or RAs and check on students,” Jodie says. “I’ve had a lot of professors calling about residents and asking ‘How is this person doing?’ They just don’t let you pass by on a failing grade.

“I have friends at other schools who complain about that all the time. I have friends who come here and I walk by people and say hi, and they say, ‘You know a lot of people.’”

FACT OF THE MONTH

Wages of men over 25 with a four-year college degree are typically 41 percent higher than wages of similar men with a high school diploma. Twenty-five years ago, the differential was just 21 percent. For women, the premium for a college diploma has grown to 46 percent from 25 percent.

Wall Street Journal,
April 2, 2004
Analysis of government data
by the Economic
Policy Institute

BRIAN HEGGIE *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Brian completed his service in June 2001, but still remains close to men from his unit.

After working the summer of 2001, Brian began his college education. He spent time at Waukesha County Technical College, but transferred after two years.

He then had to choose between John Jay College in New York City and Carroll College. Both schools accepted all of his credits, but it eventually came down to the cost.

As a military veteran, Brian gets financial help from the federal government to help pay for his college expenses. He also receives a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. With the help of financial aid, Brian was able to choose Carroll, a private school with a small campus.

He also does not have to worry about a lot of student loans after graduation. “I can pay off my loans in a year” after graduation and get a job, he says.

A senior and a criminal justice major, Brian enjoys being at a school where he is able to spend one-to-one time with professors who have real-life experience in sociology and politics.

Soon Brian will be getting more real-life experience of his own. After graduating in May 2005, he is considering becoming a military officer, going to graduate school, becoming a private investigator, or going into private security. “The door is wide open,” he says.

Wisconsin’s Private Colleges and Universities

Alverno College *Milwaukee*
Beloit College *Beloit*
Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
Carroll College *Waukesha*
Carthage College *Kenosha*
Concordia University *Mequon*
Edgewood College *Madison*

Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
Lawrence University *Appleton*
Marian College *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*



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