

WTG Achievers

Vol. 8, No. 7

February 2008

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 57,000 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 53703-2718; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org. For more information or for back issues of **WTG Achievers**, visit our website: www.waicu.org

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WTG allows MSOE engineer to play in the dirt



Adam Hodge of Waukesha, a senior at MSOE

Like most of his fellow students at MSOE, mechanical engineering senior Adam Hodge has taken college very seriously.

"Most students take advantage of the great education available at MSOE," he said. "They're willing to go the extra mile to get good grades."

In Adam's case, going the extra mile can be taken quite literally, since his senior project involves designing and building the chassis for a Mini-Baja vehicle. The Mini-Baja will race in a national competition, sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), that challenges engineering students to design and build a vehicle to "survive the severe punishment of rough terrain."

It is a hands-on competition that allows students to get dirty.

Adam has been involved in SAE for three years, last year as the MSOE-chapter president and this year as involvement coordinator. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) not only enables Adam to attend MSOE, but also allows him to make the most of his time in college and prepare for a future career.

"I actually worked for two years after high school," Adam said, describing his job

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Multifaceted artist/designer at MIAD achieves national recognition with help of WTG



Annabelle Luedtke of Beaver Dam, a junior at MIAD

Annabelle Luedtke's passion to express herself began at Beaver Dam Community High School. From there her love of painting, fashion design, and

music took her first to study at the American Intercontinental University of London and then to the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD).

At MIAD, said Annabelle, "I found a college and major that combined the things I love about fashion and painting, and where form and concept converge to allow me to prepare to make an expressive impact on my environment."

As an Interior Architecture + Design (IA+D) major, the junior-year student has already done that at the highest levels. She and her team partner,

"D" Jones, won first place in the December 2007 national competition to design a transit stop for the Milwaukee County Transit System.

Explained Annabelle, "The competition, sponsored by the Vinyl Institute and administered by the Association of Architecture Students (AIAS), merged concept, city planning, and environmentally responsible design to create a landmark for the citizens of Milwaukee."

IA+D students solve spatial problems with solutions that

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ADAM HODGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at a computer sales firm where he ordered parts and coordinated orders. Tired of a dead-end job, he earned an associate's degree, then found that with scholarships and grants, including the WTG, an education from MSOE would cost about the same as going to other institutions.

"Without the WTG, I would have looked elsewhere," he said, possibly missing the opportunity to compete with the SAE — and the accompanying chance to gain valuable professional experience.

SAE is an international, professional organization that Adam will remain with after graduation. SAE sponsors other competitions throughout the year, including formula racecar, solar boat, and AeroDesign. Projects like the Mini-Baja allow students to develop close bonds with professors who mentor the groups through the design process, not to mention

direct, applicable career experience.

"Since my junior year, I've been pretty much traveling with the same group of mechanical engineering majors," he added, commenting on the close-knit feel of MSOE's 2,500-student campus. Adam also appreciates the small class sizes, and the fact that MSOE doesn't use teaching assistants. "If I have a question, I go directly to the professor."

Adam is confident of his future success as reflected by MSOE's impressive placement rate (98 percent) and the Board of Regents that helps guide MSOE. "It's a Who's Who of business leaders from Wisconsin and beyond," he said. With the end of his college years approaching, Adam already has a couple of career opportunities lined up. After graduation in late February, Adam will return in the spring as part of the SAE competition team.

FACT OF THE MONTH

The U.S. ranked first in the world in the share of its 25-to-34-year-olds with a bachelor's degree in 1998. By 2005 we ranked seventh.

Should these trends continue, the U.S. will rank 22nd by 2019.

Postsecondary Education Opportunity, November 2007

ANNABELLE LUEDTKE

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embody both aesthetic and practical concerns, defining the spaces in which people live, work, and play.

According to IA+D Professor Robert Lynch, "In the AIAS competition, MIAD students were up against some of the best programs in the country, including Ivy League schools and highly acclaimed graduate programs."

For Annabelle, "MIAD's multidisciplinary approach to design and the dedication of creative educators working in the field with the latest technology supported

my team partner and me throughout the project. Faculty were there for us during lunch breaks and after hours to assure that we had the tools to achieve our best."

Annabelle's impact on her environment is seen in many ways at MIAD. Drawing on her multicultural experience, she has been an ambassador to incoming Thai students, who have become her "great friends and colleagues."

She has also drawn on her knowledge of IA+D to work on MIAD's main floor plan and to help out in her major. And she

and Jones will be starting the first MIAD AIAS chapter, "just one of the valuable things we can give back to the college and community, which has helped us so much," she says.

"I would not be at MIAD without the WTG," says Annabelle, "because financing for my education was something my family did not have the opportunity to provide."

Thanks to the WTG, MIAD and external communities are richer for Annabelle's talented and committed presence.

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

