

# 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 56,000 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 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 talented student show his leadership



*Nicholas Farrell of Eagle River, a senior at Cardinal Stritch University*

Nicholas Farrell hesitates to admit that Cardinal Stritch University might not have been his first choice if not for the university's very favorable financial aid package, including the Wisconsin

Tuition Grant and an honors scholarship that covers the rest of his tuition. Yet, three-and-a-half years later, he is proud to say that Stritch ended up being the best fit for him, a definite home away from home.

"I couldn't have chosen a better school," says Nicholas, whose older brother, uncle, and cousin are Stritch alumni.

Next spring, Nicholas will graduate from Stritch with a double major in psychology and writing with plans to take a summer course to finish a minor in Spanish.

He has already submitted his application to enroll in Stritch's Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology program next fall. After that, a Ph.D. is a definite possibility.

No matter what career or educational track he ultimately chooses, Nicholas will enter the job market with an impressive resume. A superior student, he earned honor roll and dean's list distinctions throughout high school and college, and he has a history of seeking out leadership positions and being a part of student organizations that

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## Lawrence pianist already is developing an international reputation, thanks to WTG



*Eric Jenkins of Portage, a senior at Lawrence University*

Pianist Eric Jenkins has long dreamed about the chance to play music at concert halls around the world. The Lawrence senior never imagined two such opportunities would

come along before he even finished college. The past two Christmas recesses, Eric found himself halfway around the world, thanks to invitations from Turkish and Austrian officials.

In December 2005, Eric and his playing partner, violinist Burcu Goker, were asked to perform at one of Turkey's most celebrated national events — an annual memorial tribute to Ismet Inönü, the country's first prime minister (1923-38) and second president (1938-50). It was the first time in the history

of the service that a concert element was included, and Eric had the unprecedented privilege of performing it.

The event was televised live throughout Turkey and the performance led to other concert offers. While several opportunities had to be declined because of school conflicts, an invitation from the Austrian government fit nicely into Eric's 2006 Christmas recess. In mid-December, he and Goker returned to Turkey, where they

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**NICHOLAS FARRELL** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

give a voice to the student body. At Northland Pines High School, Nicholas served on student council, as vice president of the National Honor Society, and as a member of Future Business Leaders of America. He also played soccer and basketball. "Out of high school, I was looking for a private school with smaller class sizes where I could sort out my future career path and be involved," Nicholas says.

At Stritch, he has found many ways to continue the high level of involvement he considered important in high school. He is president of the Student Government Association (SGA), an organization that represents about 7,200 Stritch students. Previously he served as secretary and as a senator of SGA. The group is a liaison to the administration, oversees student-centered programming, and strives to make positive changes in student life.

Besides his work with SGA, Nicholas has been a resident assistant in Stritch's residence hall for the past two and a half years, managing problems that arise, scheduling educational and social programs, and helping the 27 men under his care cope with personal issues. Last semester, he also held an internship with Milwaukee's *Metroparent* magazine as an editor's assistant and gained valuable experience and academic credit toward his writing degree. Nicholas has been the goalkeeper for Stritch's soccer team during his four years at the university. He says he will dearly miss the team's camaraderie after he graduates.

"Had I gone to a different school, I might not have had the opportunity to be president of SGA or to be on the soccer team or to graduate in four years with two majors," Nicholas says.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

"The single biggest predictor of income growth is the number of college-educated people in your town."

Carol Coletta, president of CEOs for Cities, an urban planning group, as reported in The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel December 13, 2006, in an editorial titled "The power of education," p. 20A.

**ERIC JENKINS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

performed at the 250-year-old Austrian Embassy in Istanbul for an invited audience of 300 diplomats, ambassadors, and other dignitaries.

"It's amazing how many doors can be opened, how many people you can meet from one concert," says Eric, who performs traditional Greek folk music every Friday and Saturday night at an Appleton restaurant near campus.

Eric says the WTG is critical to helping him hone his musical skill at Lawrence. "Being a musician requires large amounts of intense practice," says Eric, a piano performance major at Lawrence. "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has contributed

significantly to my education by helping alleviate some of the stress of taking on an additional job to pay for school. It has enabled me to focus that much more on my studies."

The WTG is part of Eric's financial aid package that also includes a Lawrence Trustee Scholarship and an Accompanying Fellowship for a select group of pianists. As such, Eric has performed in three Lawrence operas and two musical productions.

Given the difficulty of establishing a performance-only career, Eric is focusing on teaching at the collegiate level following graduate school. But having

had a small taste of the international stage, he is looking forward to future performance opportunities to complement his teaching. "I'd like to think we could play other venues around the world. That would be the ultimate if we were able to do that on a semi-regular basis."

The first member of his family to attend college, Eric is confident the WTG has been an investment in him that will pay big dividends. "Thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, the extra time that I have now to practice and improve my skills is making me a better musician. Eventually, it will allow me to give my time and talent back to future students through teaching and community service."

**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*

