

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 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.

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Beloit College grad grateful for help of WTG



Matt Bower of Beloit, a recent graduate of Beloit College

Matt Bower, Class of 2007, has a calm and unassuming presence that belies his many and varied interests. With

academic pursuits in politics, economics, philosophy, and Greek, this recent Beloit College graduate is now applying to Ph.D. programs in philosophy with the ultimate goal of becoming a college professor.

A self-starter from the city of Beloit, Matt arrived at Beloit College with credits he had earned taking classes at a local two-year college while in high school. Initially, his interests focused on politics and economics. But as he began to examine the foundations of the thoughts and ideas in those fields, he was inspired

to study ancient Greek and philosophy.

"I was originally interested in economics — in the theory — as a hobby," Matt says. "I've been studying ancient Greek all along. I read the *Apology* in English in a Plato seminar. I definitely want to keep studying Greek."

The academic trajectory that led Matt to philosophy and Greek linked itself through theory and ideas. Professors and advisors at Beloit helped him along the way.

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WTG gives future physician assistant access to diverse, rigorous experience at Marquette



Sabahat Ali of Wauwatosa, a senior at Marquette University

Sabahat Ali was attracted to Marquette University for two very different reasons: its religious traditions and its strong biomedical sciences

program. Her experiences over the past three years confirmed her initial impressions.

As a Muslim student, Sabahat appreciates the opportunity to explore her own faith, while learning about other beliefs on Marquette's campus. "Faith is a very big part of my life," Sabahat says. "I wanted to go to a Jesuit institution to enhance my understanding of other religions and better interact with different types of people."

She is a member of the Muslim Student Association and has enjoyed "meeting

a surprisingly large Muslim population" at this Catholic, Jesuit university. She has been impressed by Marquette's diverse student body, and also enjoys working with students through her involvement with the Commuter Student Association, the Student Association of Physician Assistants, and the Mock Trial team.

Sabahat has thrived in her studies at Marquette. With a passion for the sciences, she knew right away that pursuing a biomedical sciences major was the right choice for her.

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MATT BOWER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“I really enjoyed Phil Shields, a philosophy professor who specializes in ancient philosophy, and Kosta Hadavas, a professor of Greek,” Matt says.

The foundation that the ancient Greeks laid in philosophy is one of Matt’s favorite subjects, and one he finds filled with relevance to us today. His studies in ancient philosophy converged with his passion for the Greek language. While many may see reading ancient literature and philosophy as far removed from current affairs and matters, Matt connects it with a modern-day mindset.

“The philosophical tradition has totally misunderstood what the Greeks discovered when they were talking about truth,” Matt says, echoing German philosopher Martin Heidegger’s views. “People can still be interested in the Greeks because there is the

challenge that we have forgotten or missed some of the best insights they had to offer.”

His senior year, Matt studied 19th century philosophers, such as Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, and Nietzsche. But two of his favorites are Heidegger and Wittgenstein. While Heidegger talked about how modern philosophers misunderstand the Greeks, Wittgenstein connected the philosophical level of language to everyday life implications.

Through classes and his relationships with professors, Matt’s college experience took him through political science, economics, and philosophy and Greek. But without financial aid and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, attending Beloit College would have been a stretch.

“I probably wouldn’t have been able to go to school,” Matt says. “I am very grateful.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

Wisconsin lags the Midwest in the provision of means-tested student aid. Our neighboring states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Michigan all provide more grant dollars per full-time-equivalent undergraduate than does Wisconsin.

National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs

SABAHAT ALI CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Once she began her classes, however, she realized that there were many options.

“I like working with people,” Sabahat said, so she decided on the physician assistant program. During her junior year, she was accepted into Marquette’s competitive, fast-track PA program. After five years at Marquette, she will graduate with both a bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences and a master’s degree in physician assistant studies. The program is rigorous, but Sabahat welcomes the challenge. She learned a lot by working with human cadavers and

“finally being able to see everything” in her gross anatomy course. She also loves chemistry and admits that organic chemistry, one of the most notoriously difficult courses on Marquette’s campus, was one of her favorites.

Sabahat says the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped to provide her with these opportunities, and she is truly grateful. Now in her fourth year at Marquette, she is taking entirely graduate-level courses. She has spent a lot of time studying in the library this semester, but she finds her classes to be rewarding and does

not mind the hard work. Next year she will be learning strictly outside of the classroom, as the PA program requires her to complete several clinical internships in various medical fields. She is looking forward to the hands-on application of her studies.

Sabahat has narrowed her career goals down to two meaningful options. She may enter the demanding field of neurosurgery, but would also like to make a difference in the elderly community, so she may choose geriatric care. Either way, Wisconsin will reap the benefits.

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*

