

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 recipient says Beloit fits all his needs



Jeff Schultz from Wilton, a junior at Beloit College

Beloit College junior Jeff Schultz may have stumbled into an unexpected interest in political science, but his decision to attend Beloit was no accident.

When he started his college search, this Wilton native knew that he wanted a small school where he could study anthropology and play football. Upon visiting Beloit, Jeff says he liked what he saw.

“Beloit provided the three things I was looking for: a handsome and fair financial aid package, an excellent academic reputation, and a chance to play football,” Jeff says. Out of all the colleges that Jeff visited, Beloit was the only one that met all his requirements.

In his first semester, Jeff took

an introductory-level political science course, a move that would lead him eventually to major in political science and history.

“Political science forces a person to look at all sides of an issue and to search for the causes of societal problems. Since there are so many variables to consider when developing theories of causality, political science forces students to develop mental discipline,” he explains.

History fits well with political

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Lakeland psych major finds perfect college close to home; will use degree to help others



Laura LeClair from Sheboygan, a junior at Lakeland College

Laura LeClair didn't have to go far to find a college to meet her needs—including a few needs she didn't even know she had.

Laura grew up in Sheboygan

and wanted to stay close to home, so nearby Lakeland College was always an option. After applying to three other private colleges, Laura made her first visit to Lakeland, where she was introduced to Lakeland's psychology program.

She had an opportunity to sit in on a class with Dr. Elizabeth Stroot, assistant professor of psychology.

“I was amazed. It was so interesting,” says Laura. “Something told me I had to be here. I felt really

comfortable. I knew I would fit here.”

That campus visit, coupled with a financial aid package that includes funding from a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, has allowed Laura to keep opening new doors at Lakeland.

Laura never suspected that a college so close to home would be where she would discover her independence. Laura could commute to Lakeland if she wanted to,

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JEFF SCHULTZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

science. Jeff has always loved history and was pleased to discover that his academic focus on that field leaves him with more career options than he initially expected. "I was scared that the only profession available to history majors would be in the realm of teaching, but I was pleasantly surprised to find this is not the case," he says. "At this point, I am not sure what my life goals are, but mental discipline is critical in any field."

Besides history and political science, football can be counted among Jeff's passions. He enjoys the game because it allows him to test the bounds of his physical strength. Other activities that fill his time are participating in the Beloit College chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and acting as a floor representative to the residential life committee.

"The res-life committee gives me a forum where I can share my opinions and work for the

good of others," he says. "The Fellowship of Christian Athletes allows like-minded people to connect on a deeper level and discuss issues."

Jeff is grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant he received, because it allows him to spend more time studying and following his interests, rather than worrying about money for tuition.

"That money allows me to pursue my college goals," Jeff says. "Without it, I would have to seek a second job during the summer, as well as a job in Beloit during the school year. With my current situation, I can endure a normal work week, find time to prepare for football during the summer, and study more during the school year."

With plans to eventually earn a master's degree in political science, Schultz is looking ahead to the future while appreciating what he has now at Beloit College.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Most of American higher education operates locally or regionally. In 2003, 54 percent of new entering students came from within a radius of 100 miles from home. Only 12 percent traveled further than 500 miles. The wisest investment in higher education is in the colleges and universities in the region.

Source: Future Shock: The College Affordability Context, a paper presented by Jon McGee at the 2004 NASAA Annual Conference

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but instead she lives on campus. Now a junior, double majoring in psychology and writing, Laura said her choice to live on campus has helped her grow. "I wanted to be involved and make really good friends," says Laura. "It worked out because I do so much. I couldn't find the time to drive back and forth."

Laura is a resident assistant for Lakeland's new North Hall, coordinator of Homecoming and the Spring Fling for the Campus Activities Board, and a

member of the Pi Kappa Gamma sorority, and the cheerleading squad.

"The people make me stay," Laura says. "I couldn't picture leaving everyone behind. This is my home."

She has a special relationship with her two academic advisors: Dr. Stroot and Karl Elder, her professor of creative writing. Laura recalls Dr. Stroot's spending over four hours helping her put together an academic plan so she could

graduate in four years. Elder has also influenced Laura, who says, "He has helped me a lot. He has the best advice."

After graduating, Laura hopes to enter graduate school for a doctorate in psychology. Laura says that Lakeland has helped shape her desire to help people with psychological problems who are unable to function in normal society. "I just really want to do that," Laura says. "I may never make them completely well, but I want to help them."

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*

