

WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 4, No. 11

June 2004

About the WTG

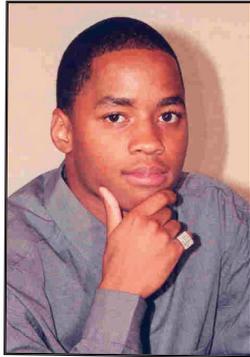
The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 55,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

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.

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@waicuweb.org. For more information, or for back issues of **WTG Achievers**, visit our Web site: www.waicuweb.org

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Marquette student serves as mentor and tutor



Peavy Holmes of Milwaukee, a junior at Marquette

Like most students, Peavy Holmes enjoys summer, but not because of the warm weather and end of classes.

For Peavy, the summer months

mean once again serving as an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) mentor and tutor for incoming college freshmen.

"It's my favorite thing to do during the summer, and I look forward to it the entire school year," Peavy says.

Peavy, an accounting and business finance major, works with high school graduates who have been accepted into the university's EOP program, which provides financial assistance to low-income, first-generation college students.

"These kids already have the

brains and the work ethic to make it in college," Peavy explains. "They just can't afford to attend Marquette without financial assistance."

During the summer, all incoming EOP freshman come to Marquette for five weeks to see what campus is like and to take tests that will help them prepare for the demands of collegiate life. In addition to helping the students with academics, Peavy also serves as a resident assistant in the student dorms, as most participants stay on campus throughout the five weeks of the program.

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Summer program, WTG make huge difference to MSOE student's choice of major, comfort zone



Justin Snowden of Milwaukee, a sophomore at MSOE

When talking to MSOE student Justin Snowden, it's hard to remember that he's only 19 years old. Self-assured and to the point, he seems

to anticipate his answer to your question before you even thought of asking it. It's a notable asset for someone who is planning a career in law — patent law, to be exact — so Justin is seeking an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from MSOE as a base.

Always interested in "how things work," he decided to check out engineering careers the summer before his junior year of high school and attended MSOE's two-week Discover the Possibilities program, where students live on campus and work with

faculty and students in the labs. It led to working in MSOE's Rapid Prototyping Center on a part-time basis that summer, and then to an internship in MSOE's Center for BioMolecular Modeling the following summer. There, he was part of a team that created the world's first 3-D models of anthrax proteins.

"The first time I was at MSOE, I was 16, and it was intimidating being on a college campus and working with students who have a huge knowledge base," Justin says. "As I progressed, I developed

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PEAVY HOLMES *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

“All of us peer counselors help break the ice with these students and make them feel comfortable,” he says. “When they start school in the fall, it’s nice for them to already have made a friend or two.”

As a Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient, Peavy relates well to the EOP students. “I’m the youngest of four and the first to go to college,” he says. “My mom really pushed hard for me to get into school and to get my degree.”

In addition to his involvement with Marquette’s EOP program, Peavy is a volunteer with Urban Day School, helping students with their reading and math skills. “Wherever I go in life, I want to be involved in the community and do volunteer work. That much I know,” he says.

“During my freshman year in college, I had a

hard time adjusting to the heavy academic load. Thinking about these kids got me through each day and helped me to stay focused.”

Peavy plans to graduate in the spring of 2006 and wants work as an accountant. While he is unsure as to where he will be in the long run, he knows that his college education will be worth every penny.

“I’m getting a great experience from a very credible university. I know that my education will be worth infinitely more than the cost of tuition.”

Peavy knows the value of the WTG he receives, and he hasn’t waited until graduation to begin giving back. Peavy Holmes is putting his first-class education to work for all of us.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Independent college alumni were more likely than public university graduates to say they felt better prepared for life after college — 42 percent versus 32 percent.

Hardwick-Day Alumni Survey, www.cic.edu/

JUSTIN SNOWDEN *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

relationships and got more comfortable.”

Taking part in MSOE’s summer programs made a huge impact on Justin’s choice of major. “I was planning on going into electrical engineering. I thought mechanical engineering was all about cars, which at the time I had no interest in,” he remembers. “When I got to MSOE I realized that mechanical engineering had a lot of applications that I never knew about but seemed really interesting.”

In his first week as an MSOE student, Justin found himself helping direct other students around the science and

engineering buildings. And he returned to familiar territory in the Rapid Prototyping Center and Center for BioMolecular Modeling, designing and finishing 3-D models. Even his residence hall roommate — one of the big unknowns of college — was plotted out long before move-in day: he shared a room with his Discover the Possibilities roommate.

Now halfway through his sophomore year, Justin is a busy guy. He participates in the National Society of Black Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers. He’s even volunteering at the Milwaukee Public Museum’s “Bugs Alive!” exhibit.

Justin takes part in MSOE’s TRIO programs, which help students overcome class, social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education.

“The WTG allows me to focus on academics rather than tuition payments,” he says. “The grant removes the stress of being able to pay to go to an institution the caliber of MSOE. I know receiving a bachelor’s degree from a school with a reputation as prominent as MSOE’s is a huge stepping stone in getting accepted to law school and ultimately earning a patent law degree.”

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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