

# 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.*

*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](http://www.waicu.org)*

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## Lawrence WTG recipient 'loves learning'



*Heidi Jastram  
from Mequon,  
a junior  
at Lawrence University*

Ask Heidi Jastram what her favorite subject is and you get an enthusiastic and unqualified response: Learning! With another year of school still to go, Heidi is

too busy soaking up as much as she can to become overly preoccupied with where it will all lead.

"I thought when I went off to college, I'd figure everything out, but I discovered there are just too many things I want to do," says the 21-year-old junior. "I don't really know how my life is going to turn out, but I'm entirely confident that my Lawrence education will prepare me for whatever I decide I want to do."

At the moment, there's no shortage of options. Taking advantage of her French

major to teach in France or putting her minor in Japanese to use in Japan, where her grandparents once served as missionaries and several relatives still reside, or following her mother's footsteps by pursuing a nursing career are but a few of the career paths she's considering.

"I take my studies seriously, and I'm passionate about learning, but I don't feel the need to map out every step of the rest of my life right now," says Heidi. "But whatever I do, I'm sure my French and

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## Viterbo student, future history teacher finds herself inspired to 'give something back'



*Marissa Karis from Norwalk,  
a junior at Viterbo University*

Viterbo University's Marissa Karis says she wouldn't be in college today without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"My father died of a heart attack at the age of 48, so I come from a single

parent home," Marissa says. "My mom works several different jobs just to keep the household going, so there's no way for her to help me. I'm putting myself through school."

Marissa, 20, is a junior majoring in broad field social studies who is working while attending school. She plans to become a teacher, the only career for her, she says.

"I've always felt the need to be a teacher," she says. "I've had some great teachers who have influenced me, and I

want to give something back."

From a young age, Marissa knew history was for her. It was something she had in common with her father. "My father was into history," she says. "He was really interested in World War II and Vietnam."

"I've always done well in history," she says, listing her most absorbing subjects as the Holocaust and the French and Russian Revolutions. "History is important because there are things we can look back on

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**HEIDI JASTRAM** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Japanese language skills will be helpful.”

An exceptional student—a lone A- is all that is keeping her from boasting a perfect 4.0 grade point average—Heidi applies her love of learning to all endeavors. She has been a member of the Lawrence Women’s Choir for three years and serves as its current president. She devotes a minimum of eight hours a week to Lawrence’s Center for Teaching and Learning as both a French and writing tutor. And she is tackling the duties of dramaturge for this spring’s main stage theatre production. She also manages to stay involved with the swing dancing and rock climbing clubs on campus.

“Lawrence has really been a perfect place for me. There are so many excellent areas of study. It’s amazing the relationships I’ve developed here. My professors are all genuinely interested in helping me succeed, which inspires me to challenge myself further.”

As one of four children in her family—three of whom were in college at the same time at one point, including a younger brother who also is currently attending Lawrence—Heidi says financial aid was definitely an important factor when weighing her options for college.

“My parents didn’t want to limit our choices, but this is a financial sacrifice for them. Assistance like the WTG is certainly helping to make it possible for me to attend Lawrence.” At \$2,850, the Wisconsin Tuition Grant is an important part of Heidi’s financial aid package, which also includes a \$7,500 Lawrence Presidential Scholarship and a work-study job.

“Where I end up or what I wind up doing may be uncertain, but I don’t ever want to be in a stagnant situation,” Heidi says. “I want to be doing something that will allow me to continue learning and share the benefits of that knowledge with others.”

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

At the WAICU colleges and universities in the academic year 2004-2005:

The average tuition was \$18,811.  
The average financial aid package was \$13,376.  
Therefore, the average net tuition was \$5,435 – a figure highly competitive with tuition at public institutions.

Source: Institutional data reported to the federal government in IPEDS, Spring 2006

**MARISSA KARIS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and learn from. I also think it’s important for people to know how they got here and how they got the rights they have.”

Marissa plans to seek a teaching job upon graduation, preferably one in her hometown of Norwalk. “I’d love to go back to my home school and teach,” she says. “I’m a small town person.”

The Viterbo campus is a small town in itself, perfect for students like her. Students enjoy a close-knit campus

community and a faculty-to-student ratio of 15:1. Marissa and other students also benefit from state-of-the-art facilities and a faculty that genuinely cares about the success of each and every student.

Viterbo’s liberal arts education provides students with a wide variety of subject matter, including a required general education program taught so as to encourage and challenge students to be thoughtful, creative, competent, and independent thinkers.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is especially important at Viterbo, says Roland Nelson, Viterbo’s vice president for enrollment. “Sixty-seven percent of our students are first-generation college students.”

Viterbo University has definitely been the place for her, Marissa says. “The professors are very inviting. Their doors are always open. I love Viterbo. I’m constantly learning new things.”

**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*

