

WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 4, No. 8

March 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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WTG affects long-term goals of Marian student



Melissa Beard of Wisconsin Dells, a junior at Marian College of Fond du Lac

Melissa Beard's grandmother initially recommended Marian College to her. "My grandmother was taking some courses here, and she really

liked it," says Melissa, who majors in business management.

Besides the quality academic instruction she receives at Marian, Melissa says the campus student activities were a big selling point for her. She is involved with Marian's student activities board and is a residence hall assistant. She is also a member of the Fond du Lac student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Marian band, and the newly formed Red Cross Club.

Academically, Melissa made a shift in her long-range goals in

part due to a summer internship program that helped change her mind.

"I originally wanted to become a child psychologist, and Marian is the best place for that," Melissa says. "But I eventually changed over to business management.

"My plan is to go into non-profit management. I did an internship with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Wisconsin last summer and really enjoyed that. I had a chance to work closely with the director and learned a lot about the business.

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First-generation Carthage freshman feels blessed by WTG's 'huge pat on the back'



Darryl Norton of Racine, a freshman at Carthage College

Carthage freshman Darryl Norton thinks he's living the American dream: he's pursuing a college education. Growing up in the inner city of Racine,

he helped his single mother make ends meet while taking care of his autistic brother. As he fulfilled his obligations at home, he excelled in his academic work at J. I. Case High School, where he graduated in the top five percent of his graduating class. But attending college seemed out of reach.

A college education became a realistic goal after Thomas Augustine, Carthage director of admissions and financial aid, visited Darryl's high school. "Tom Augustine made me aware of available scholarships and grants,

including the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. He showed me that I qualified for the grant based on my academic background and financial situation. I really appreciate his direction."

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant program provides financial assistance to undergraduate Wisconsin residents who attend a private college within the state. Awards are based on financial need and range from \$250 to \$2,500.

"The funds that I receive to help further my education

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MELISSA BEARD *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Hopefully, I'll go on to graduate school from here."

Melissa says none of her current experiences at Marian or her future hopes of graduate school would be possible without the help she's receiving from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"My advisor in high school said something about the grant, and that's where I learned about it," Melissa says.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is especially important because you don't have to pay it back, whereas loans could prevent you from ever thinking about going on to graduate school — or prevent you from picking the college you really want to go to — because you'd have to pay back the loan. Financially, that can be very difficult and keep you from achieving what you really want to achieve."

Melissa says she wouldn't be at Marian, or any private school for that matter, without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"I wrote one of our state legislators about what the Wisconsin Tuition Grant means to me — academically and otherwise. He wrote back that he has three children that rely on the grant as well. That was kind of a surprise to me.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is an advantage to help you, as a student, stay in Wisconsin and gain the type of education you're looking for," Melissa says.

"You often hear that there isn't financial aid available to private schools, but when I heard about the Wisconsin Tuition Grant I learned otherwise. It helped me choose the college I wanted to go to now, and it will allow me to continue my education at graduate school."

FACT OF THE MONTH

In fall 2003, 55,617 students were enrolled in Wisconsin's independent colleges and universities — up from 54,162 in the previous year.

-- National Center for Education Statistics, 2004

DARRYL NORTON *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

are very important because I didn't have the financial means to do it myself. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped make attending Carthage possible. It's like a huge pat on the back, showing me that hard work does pay off."

Darryl was intrigued with Carthage because of its reputation. "Carthage is a prestigious school. I was impressed that they had such an interest in me. The interest that they showed me increased my interest in them."

He chose Carthage over other schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and New

York. "Now, I want to put into school what the school has put into me. I want to do the best I can."

Darryl is the first in his family to attend college. "College is one of the paths I want to take. I want to learn something that's valuable, so I can create a better life. I think I'm a better person for all the things that I've experienced. I'm just blessed to be in college. My family is very proud of me."

An accounting and business finance major, Darryl has an interest in mathematics and finance, and is looking

forward to a career in finance, perhaps working for the Federal Reserve Bank. "After I graduate, I want to have the type of career where I am an important asset to a company. I want to do a good job and reap the benefits of my hard work."

Just weeks into his college career, Darryl already had a favorite instructor. "I really like my Heritage class with Professor William Dezoma. It's a long class, but he finds a way to make me laugh and think. I respect teachers that have a love for what they do and are able to present information so that it's easier to understand."

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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