

# 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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## MIAD student gets creative with aid of WTG



*Marcin Kraszewski of Cudahy, a freshman at MIAD*

Not everyone follows a traditional educational path. The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) makes it possible

for non-traditional students as well as their traditional counterparts to widen their horizons and enhance their career opportunities.

Marcin Kraszewski had not drawn or sketched since middle school, nor would he “have ever associated himself with artists,” he says. “I always thought artists had inborn talent and didn’t really feel connected with them.”

That was before Marcin, now a MIAD freshman, was befriended by some MIAD alumni. They

helped him reflect on his life choices and he soon realized that he too could do what his friends were doing with their lives.

Marcin, 26, already had an associate’s degree in computers. But the more he found out about MIAD, and especially its foundations (first-year) program, the more he realized that he could “make up for the 10 years since he was in middle-school art class.”

“I was able to visualize other professions,” Marcin

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## Tuition Grant helps future nurse at MSOE prepare to help others



*Lisa Zoulek of Butler, a junior at MSOE*

MSOE junior Lisa Zoulek is the type of person whom friends don’t hesitate to

come to with their problems.

“I like being someone who listens and can help.” That caring spirit also drives her desire to become a nurse.

Lisa, who plans to be either a pediatric or oncology nurse, was surprised when she received information about the nursing program at MSOE, where her father, uncle, and aunt had all studied. She knew about the superior engineering programs, but didn’t know anything about the newer

and highly respected nursing program.

“I am so glad I came here! I feel my education here is better than I could have gotten anywhere else,” Lisa says.

The ability to start clinicals (such as surgery, post-partum, outpatient surgery, labor and delivery, in-patient and chronic health issues) as early as her sophomore year was a major benefit. Lisa also enjoys being in an atmosphere where the

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**MARCIN KRASZEWSKI** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

says. “And I wanted a career that would allow me to shape my future and complete my skill set. I already know that I want to major in Industrial Design because I believe it fosters creativity and the opportunity to be an innovator as well as an entrepreneur.”

Marcin is a first-generation college student who came to the United States with his family from Poland when he was just five years old. On one family visit to Poland, an architect friend showed the then 14-year-old his workstation and CAD software program, “which really made me feel like a designer,” said Marcin.

“My dad had an old-fashioned drafting board at home, and until about age 14, I was always designing bunkers, buildings, and structures on huge sheets of paper.”

His studies at Wisconsin’s only independent art and design college have rekindled his creativity in many areas, said Marcin.

He’s done improv shows at MIAD’s Student Union and participates in a local comedy club’s Rec League. He’s also an assistant to the college’s webmaster.

“Being at MIAD makes sense to me,” says Marcin. “I worked after high school, and my life experiences mean I don’t take things for granted. Every kind of aid helps, and I wouldn’t be going to MIAD without my Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

“My MIAD education – and the value I get from it – is going to shape my life, and will allow me to do the things I really want to do.”

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

A U.S. Labor Department report says that over the next decade, more than 87 percent of new high-wage jobs will require more than a high-school diploma.

*Chronicle of Higher Education,  
February 14, 2007*

**LISA ZOULEK** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

classes are small, she knows most of her classmates, and they work well together. “I believe it is a jewel in the state, and I am very proud to be a part of it,” she states.

Lisa says that while the coursework is demanding, the nursing faculty are excellent, and she sees why they became nurses.

“I’m grateful that they have chosen to teach, because I know that they were really good nurses, and they could be

practicing instead. But it’s good to be educated by people who are so caring. They go above and beyond.”

In addition to her academic scholarships, Lisa receives the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which allows her to lessen the number of loans she takes out to pay for college.

“It makes a huge difference in my life. I work three jobs right now, and the tuition grant keeps me from taking on yet another job. MSOE is a challeng-

ing school, and I really want to focus on my education.”

When not studying or working (at the family heating and cooling business, among other jobs), Lisa gets her exercise as a cheerleader for the men’s and women’s basketball and hockey teams.

Lisa, who grew up in Butler, Wis., has four siblings, three of whom are in college. “I’m proud to be paying for my own education, with the help of financial aid,” she states.

**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*

