

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 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. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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Teaching Career for Concordia Student



Elaine Gumz of Rudolph, a senior at Concordia University

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” When Elaine Gumz was a little girl, she already knew the answer to that question. While some

children were unsure about their future plans or changed their minds often among many possibilities, Elaine never wavered. “I’ve wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember,” she says. It didn’t hurt that she had a strong role model for her decision. “My grandma was a teacher,” Elaine explains.

Elaine grew up on a farm in Rudolph, near Wisconsin Rapids and Stevens Point. The third of five children, she pitched in with chores on the farm and also worked hard in school, graduating from Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids in 1995.

When Elaine first went to college, she didn’t look beyond the nearby public university. But after a while, she realized it just wasn’t the right fit for her. Instead, she found herself dreaming of attending Concordia University Wisconsin. “I was drawn to Concordia because of its education program and the professors I met,” she notes.

Soon thereafter she decided to transfer to Concordia, and she has never looked back. Now a senior majoring in elementary education with a minor in mathematics, she likes the fact

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MIAD Senior Has Designs on an Exciting Future on the World Wide Web



Aria Wells of Kaukauna, a senior at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

Students attend the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) because of its intense focus on art and design.

Kaukauna High School graduate Aria Wells knew when she enrolled that she had a deep interest in the arts. After MIAD’s first-year foundations program, Aria knew she had found her niche in Communication Design because, she says, “It was the perfect medium to explore a variety of different applications of art.”

As a Communication Design major, Aria has studied art and photo direction, typography, advertising, package design, and design for electronic and interactive media. Even with her busy class schedule, she

has found time to devote to projects such as designing exhibitions in the MIAD galleries, creating print material for the Eisner Museum of Advertising & Design, and collaborating with the team that worked on the reconstruction of the Milwaukee Public Schools’ Web site. She was also part of a select group of Communication Design students who lend their talents to design print materials for nonprofit organizations in the community.

When asked what she likes

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ELAINE GUMZ *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

that she is still relatively close to her family, and she praises the education she's receiving. "I feel comfortable and at home in the small-sized classes and appreciate the individual attention from the professors here," she says.

With four siblings, Elaine knew that her family would not be able to cover the full cost of her education. She sought out scholarships to relieve her financial burden, and was assisted by the financial aid office at Concordia, which told her she was eligible for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "I have received the Wisconsin Tuition Grant for the last two years, and it has helped me a great deal," she says.

To supplement the grants and scholarships she has received, Elaine helps pay for her education with a job at a hotel near Concordia. But she still finds time for volunteer work. "I volunteer at Immanuel Lutheran School, teach

third-grade Sunday School, and help with basketball in grades four through eight and high school track meets." In her spare time, she enjoys sports and other outdoor activities.

As her college career draws to a close, Elaine is very appreciative of her Concordia University education – and all those who made it possible. "I am so grateful for the help of financial aid, the teachers I've had, and the friends that I've made," she says.

Elaine is looking forward to a full-time teaching position when she graduates in May of 2002. "I really enjoy being around children," she says, "and that's why I chose to be an elementary school teacher." Thanks to financial aid like the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Elaine has been able to prepare for a lifelong career – one that will surely be a boon to future generations of Wisconsin schoolchildren.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Each one-percent gain in the proportion of a state's population age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree raises state per capita personal income by 2.67 percent. An increase in college degrees will lead to more economic prosperity for Wisconsin.

ARIA WELLS *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

most about MIAD, she immediately answers, "The sense of community that it provides." Aria contributes to MIAD's community through her design projects and as a resident assistant at the residence hall. It is with the help of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant and a Merit Scholarship that Aria has been able attend MIAD and focus on her studies.

Currently, Aria is working on her senior thesis that is a collaborative effort with another student. She explains, "Together we plan to document the ideas and opinions of the graduating student body, creating a sort of time capsule. Our goal

is to indirectly show the conversations that evolve between a group of practicing artists spoken through the interaction and diversity of their work."

Aria's work will be part of the Senior Thesis Show, a campus-wide exhibition of all the graduating seniors' work that is open to the community at large. The opening night is Spring Gallery Night, April 19, 2002. It is the single most important night of a student's MIAD experience and a night of incredible energy. Work from all nine majors will be on display. Last year, nearly 4,000 people were drawn to the MIAD campus

to enjoy Senior Thesis Night.

After graduation, Aria plans to pursue a career in Graphic and Web Design. She is thankful for the opportunities that she has had to work on real-life projects while in school. She is confident that she has created a professional portfolio that will give her an entree to a stimulating, rewarding career.

Aria's success is due not only to her talent and hard work, but also to financial aid such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant that helped her achieve her maximum potential.

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*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*



From here, you can go anywhere.