

# 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 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.*

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## St. Norbert student looks ahead to med school



*Peter Bernardy  
of Green Bay, a junior  
at St. Norbert College*

A love of sports has had a major role in the career plans of Peter Bernardy as he looks forward to attending medical school following graduation from St. Norbert College.

Peter is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. He is beginning his third year as a recipient of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

He is the son of Barb and Jack Bernardy, Green Bay. His sister, Jessica, is a senior at St. Norbert College.

As a student at Green Bay East High School, Peter was a three-sport participant, playing soccer, basketball and track all four years.

A heavy sports schedule, however, did not get in the way of participating in a number of other high school

activities including the Math Team, serving as president of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Student Council and a member of the Intra-City Student Council. This group included representatives of the four Green Bay high schools who met regularly with the school district administration.

When planning for college, St. Norbert won out when his scholarship help and other financial aid brought the cost of a private school about equal to that of a public school.

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## WTG makes possible a career with children and social work for this first-generation student



*Teonjia K. Jennings  
of Grafton, a sophomore  
at Concordia University  
Wisconsin*

“Many of my family members are looking to me to graduate from college,” says Teonjia Jennings. “There are not many people in my family that attended college.” Teonjia

notes that many in her family have expressed regrets that they did not continue their education after high school. “They feel that if they had attended, they could have made something better of themselves. Among my parents, aunts, uncles, and many cousins, I will be the first to attend and actually finish college. And it is with the assistance of the WTG that my enrollment in such a great university has become possible.”

It is comments like these that show the broad effect that receiving a Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) can have for a

student. Teonjia carries with her not only the hopes and dreams of her own future, but also the care and love of her family.

The WTG has contributed tremendously to financing Teonjia's education, and she is very appreciative of the money that is made available to students. “Some people do not have a sufficient amount of funds to pay for school, and so a lot of people depend on grants, scholarships, and loans,” Teonjia says. “I know that I, for one, have a real hard time every so often,

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**PETER BERNARDY** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Commenting on the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Peter says it played a key role in his final decision favoring St. Norbert College.

“... [WTG] made it financially possible for me to attend the school,” Peter says.

“I also liked the fact that St. Norbert had such a good teacher-student ratio. It’s a school where you really get to know people,” he says.

Plus, he says, he wanted to continue playing soccer at a higher level and knew he had an opportunity with the St. Norbert soccer team. He now serves as its captain.

“I really thought that in a smaller school I would be in a better position to further my educational career,” he adds.

His early interest in biology led to his being

named a Research Fellow at the college during his freshman year, working with Dr. James Hodgson, professor of biology, who has been collecting data on lakes in Upper Michigan for the past 20 years. Their work centered on fish habitat.

Peter’s participation in sports whetted his appetite for the medical field, especially in the area of sports medicine. He already has observed some surgical work of Dr. Pat McKenzie, physician for the Green Bay Packers, and heart surgery at a Green Bay hospital.

As a St. Norbert College student, Peter has been a member of the Chemistry Club, active in sports, worked on classroom research and coached a 12-year-old level soccer club team in De Pere. This year, he will serve as a teaching assistant in a biology class.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

*U.S. News & World Report* lists only private, not public, institutions in Wisconsin under “Great Schools, Great Prices.” The formula used to determine which schools offer the best value relates a school’s academic quality ... to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of financial aid.”

*U.S. News & World Report, Page 76-77, Sept. 6, 2004*

**TEONJIA K. JENNINGS** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

coming up with the money that I need to pay for school. I am very grateful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant exists for the purpose of allowing me to get the education that I need to reach my goals and dreams.”

Teonjia began her college career in the nursing program, but recently had a change of heart. She has switched her major to social work, with social science as a minor. She is attracted to the many possible areas of studies she can choose from within social work, but what she wants most is to work with children. “Ever since I was a little girl, I have always wanted to work with children

when I got older,” Teonjia says. “The Wisconsin Tuition Grant has helped to give me that chance of fulfilling this calling of helping those innocent children that cannot help themselves.”

Concordia University Wisconsin has been “part of my dreams for as long as I can remember,” she says. “The professors at Concordia University are very kind and are flexible as to the students’ schedule.”

Teonjia is not involved in too many extracurricular activities, largely because she is too busy doing schoolwork or babysitting. However, this past year, she served on the school’s judiciary

committee, which was fun and a very good experience.

Teonjia has always been highly committed to everything that she studies. She specifically mentions a math class in which she was enrolled last year. “I took Statistics 1, and I really liked that class. It made me think more and do the work completely. That class was a little challenging for me, but it was well worth it.”

All of her professors have made an impact on her in different ways. “They all have inspired me to become the very best that I can be,” Teonjia says.

**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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