

WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 7, No. 12

September 2006

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

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WTG recipient finds happy family on campus



*Connie Ullman
from Denmark, Wisconsin,
a junior
at Silver Lake College*

Family has always been an important aspect of Silver Lake College student Connie Ullman's life. She grew up one of seven siblings in rural Denmark, Wisconsin. After

graduating from Denmark High School, she planned on attending college but knew she had to make a choice that would allow her to maintain her close family bond. Connie toured various locations in proximity to her hometown and settled on Silver Lake College. "This place is very welcoming. It is more like a family than an institution, and the people here really care about the students," she states.

A dual major in early childhood and middle childhood education, Connie was drawn to her field of study by a positive role model.

"I have always wanted to be a teacher, since I was a little girl. I had a teacher in high school who also inspired me. She was always willing to help her students in any way she could; she may have been our teacher, but she was also a friend," Connie says.

"I find the idea that one day I will be a role model for children to be inspiring. I love helping them learn and watching them grow," Connie says. "After graduation, I would like to teach young children between the grades kindergarten and third."

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WTG allows future elementary school teacher to be active in children's work while in college



*Katie Larson
from Milwaukee,
a junior at St. Norbert College*

It was an easy decision for Katie Larson when she decided St. Norbert College would be the place for her advanced education.

"The college has a reputation

for being a great education school, plus it was not far from my home in Milwaukee."

Katie is the daughter of John and Rosi Larson, and has a sister, Betsy, 16, who is attending Dominican High School. Larson is a graduate of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School. She described her alma mater as "a great school that prepared me well for St. Norbert College, especially through the honors courses that it offers."

At St. Norbert, Katie, a junior, is majoring in elementary

education with minors in language arts, English as a second language, and Spanish. She expects to be certified to teach grades one through nine.

A Wisconsin Tuition Grant Larson received for her college education. "This plays a key role in my education. The additional funds made it possible for me to attend St. Norbert College, especially since I am paying my own way through school. The grant money means smaller loans

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CONNIE ULLMAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Connie is the sixth of a family of seven children, all of whom have completed or are attending colleges of their choice. She works three part-time jobs to aid in covering her tuition. She not only waits tables at a local restaurant, but also works as a teacher's aide at Jackson Elementary in Manitowoc. This summer she is employed as a playground leader or "parkee" for the City of Green Bay, Tank Park on the west side, where she leads activities with children between the ages of six and eighteen, is one of 36 parks in Green Bay that offers supervised playground programs for children. "The parkees are there to get the kids involved and moving," says Connie. "We provide games, sports, arts and crafts, and even meals for them."

Connie is very grateful for the financial support offered to her by Silver Lake College and by the state, specifically the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "The grant money helps me to worry

less, especially since I need to finance my own college education," Connie says. "The aid I receive now will affect the rest of my life. I would prefer to minimize my debt as much as possible and avoid high monthly payments before I graduate."

Even with her workload, Connie is actively involved in many on-campus activities. She is a member of the Campus Ministry Council, attends various school activities, and even found time to present her work at the Annual Student Symposium in March of 2006.

Though she has found a "home-away-from-home" at the student residence and is involved in student activities, Connie still makes time to visit her family home. "I usually drive to Denmark for the weekend to spend time with my family, for they truly are the reason I've made it this far."

FACT OF THE MONTH

College participation rates rise dramatically with family income. In 2002, dependents, 18-24 years old, enrolled in college at a rate of 20 percent for families with an annual family income of less than \$30,000 and at a rate of 54 percent for families with an annual family income of more than \$75,000. Yet all of the projected growth in the traditional-age college population will occur among young people of color, who are more likely to be low income.

U.S. Census and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education report

KATIE LARSON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for me to take out each year," Katie says. "It's great that government leaders view education at the college level as important enough to set aside funds to help students like me to achieve their goals," she adds.

Katie also earns money through a job in campus catering, where she works as an intern.

It hasn't been all academics for Katie during her first two years at St. Norbert. She also has immersed herself in campus

activities, many of which will help her in her career as a teacher.

She is an active participant in Generations of Faith, a family-faith experience. She is a catechist for the third- through fifth-graders breakout session. Once a month the group holds a dinner and meets with different age groups. Katie is a member of the executive board for Up 'til Dawn, which is a letter-writing party to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. This

past year, the group raised \$34,000.

During the winter between semesters, Katie has worked with children in a children's hospital in Memphis and the inner city of Chicago.

Her plans for after graduation will center on teaching in the elementary grades, and she would even like to write children's books and novels for young adults. A master's degree in teaching is also part of her plans.

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*

