

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 54,000 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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Viterbo University 'felt right' to science major



Jen Hebda of Rib Lake, a senior at Viterbo University

When Jen Hebda first set foot on the Viterbo University campus, it was only to compete for the prestigious Dr. Scholl Scholarship. She

had already made up her mind to attend college somewhere else if she didn't get the full-tuition scholarship for students studying the sciences. Although she didn't win, she did find something else that day—a university where she wanted to study.

"The atmosphere at Viterbo was so different from any other campus I'd been on. It had an underlying energy, and the people were so nice. It felt right here," Jen says.

Much of what felt right for her was the combination of learning inside and outside the classroom. "Usually when

you pick a college, you think about which college has the program that will get you the job you want, but the majority of your time is spent outside of the classroom. The people I've met at Viterbo have made my experience incredible," she says.

Of course, it helped that Viterbo University has a quality science program that offered Jen, now a senior, a course of study to prepare her for medical school—her eventual goal. "At Viterbo, the sciences are hard because they expect perfection out of you," says Jen, who is excited about

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MSOE architectural engineering major tackles an unusual sport while keeping up her studies



Annie Latzig of Merrill, a senior at Milwaukee School of Engineering

While many college students were hitting the books this fall, one Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) student

also hit the pro turf. MSOE architectural engineering senior Annie Latzig played for the Northern Ice, a team in the Women's Professional Football League (WPFL).

"I decided to try out for football to see if I could do it, and then when I made it I tried to make the best out of it," says Annie, an offensive fullback. "I like running and ball handling, and I had experience in a contact sport because I had played rugby earlier this year."

She also has been active in athletics at MSOE, which

currently is building the Kern Center, a 210,000-square-foot health, wellness, and fitness facility. Annie has played softball, basketball, and soccer for the university. She was even named to the Lake Michigan Conference all-rookie softball team her freshman year, and was all-conference her sophomore and junior years in softball.

The year 2003 marked the Northern Ice's inaugural season as a franchise of the WPFL, and what a season it was. The 47-member team went 11-0 in regular season

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JEN HEBDA *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

doing research and taking classes in Viterbo's new \$11-million Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology.

But Jen is also learning a lot about the medical community from her job as a phlebotomist with Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center. Not your typical "college job," it trains Jen to draw blood and run EKGs.

Jen is an effective care provider, which may stem from her experience as a child, when she experienced serious allergies. An allergist helped her change her diet, and her life improved markedly. "Seeing how much a little change can make and how much that physician helped me made me want to do the same for others," she explains.

Jen is also an active volunteer, including highway clean-up, serving as treasurer of the

Bio-Chem Club, and bringing elementary school kids to campus to interest them in the sciences. Jen has also been a resident assistant, a member of the St. Francis Choir, and a member of a peer education group that promotes healthy lifestyles.

What makes it possible for Jen, a first-generation scholar, to pursue her studies and career goals is a solid financial aid package that includes a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. In the end, getting a full-tuition scholarship wasn't the issue; it was a good financial aid offer and the right university atmosphere.

If she had to choose a university again, Jen would still choose Viterbo. "In a heartbeat," she says. "It's so individual. It's like you're part of the community, and you can come back again and know you're welcome. The professors know your name the first week of classes."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Based upon current patterns, the U.S. labor market of 2030 will need 200 million people, but will fall short by 35 million workers. Almost half of these positions (12 million to 15 million) will require a college degree.

— *Employment Forecast* newsletter
October 23, 2001

ANNIE LATZIG *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

play and defeated the Florida Stingrays 53-12 in the championship game.

Although Annie does get a little roughed up playing in the league (she broke her fibula in the third game), she plays for the love of the sport, as evidenced by the paycheck. "We are guaranteed \$1 for the entire 2003 season, though if the organization profits, we profit," Annie says. "As far as I know we will be making just over eight cents a game—and we are in the 'Superbowl' of our league; it's a little different than the NFL."

Since making a living as a female football

player is unlikely, it is safe to assume that Annie will be choosing hard hats and protective goggles over shoulder pads and cleats.

"I have two areas of interest that stem from my degree—control system analysis and fire protection engineering," Annie says. "System integration is something that will develop more and more along with the computer age. Analysis of system integration will cut down on utility and building costs. On the fire protection side, I think dealing with unusual cases like theme parks and pyrotechnics sounds very interesting."

Annie is quick to point out that her college years, both in academics and athletics, would not have been as successful without the WTG. The grant money helps ease her burden of being a full-time student and a pro football player (which took up 25 to 30 hours of her time each week during the season).

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant eases my financial burden by providing additional grant money that I would have otherwise had to borrow," Annie says. With the help of the WTG, this pigskin lover was able to tackle her homework and her football foes.

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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