

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 56,000 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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Young Carthage couple appreciates the WTG



Luke and Paige Zammit of Kenosha, juniors at Carthage

Carthage juniors Luke and Paige Zammit, high school sweethearts, make up a small number of traditional-age students at Carthage who are married at the same time that they are attending college.

The couple tied the knot in August of 2002 after graduating from high school. Paige decided to attend Carthage because of its ambiance and location on the shore of Lake Michigan. Luke jettisoned his plan to join the military, and instead decided to pursue his education at Carthage with his bride. He realized that “with the excellent professors, very nice facilities, and generally welcoming student body — this was the right place to be.”

Paige’s father is a computer programmer, and her mother is a technical engineer. She

has one sister. “My family is extremely supportive, and they’re the first people ready to help me if I ever have a problem.”

Luke is the second oldest of four siblings. His father is a salesman for a local paint store, and his mother is a secretary.

Married and in college, the students have experienced their share of challenges. “It hurt us financially because each of us no longer was covered under our parents’ health insurance,” Paige says.

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Experience at Alverno transforms life of this non-traditional student, who is also a mom



Lois Bohannon of Milwaukee, a December 2004 graduate of Alverno College

Returning to school was something Lois Bohannon had been considering for some time. In 1990, Lois received

her associate’s degree from Milwaukee Area Technical College, but she knew that, someday, she wanted to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

With a full-time job at the Milwaukee County Housing Authority and three young daughters at home, her time was split between work and the needs of her family.

When her daughters were older — 17, 20, and 31 — she resigned from her position with the housing authority. The timing was right for her to return to school.

When she initially began looking at colleges, it was a friend from her church who encouraged her to consider Alverno.

Lois enrolled there in 2000, and her college experience was one of transformation, she says.

“It’s been the greatest experience of my life,” says Lois, who received her undergraduate degree in professional communication. “As its mission says,

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PAIGE AND LUKE ZAMMIT *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

However, she acknowledges that marriage has provided some tax relief.

The Kenosha couple manages the cost of attending college through scholarships and grants, such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which provides financial assistance to undergraduate Wisconsin residents who attend a private college within the state. Awards are based on financial need and range from \$250 to \$2,500.

“It has definitely helped relieve some of the financial burden,” Paige says. “I am honored to receive it.”

“[It] allows us to focus much more on our primary job — school,” Luke says.

Both are insatiable learners. Luke is majoring in both journalism and political science with a minor in English, while Paige is majoring in

both business administration and accounting. In addition to their course work and dedication to each other, both are employed by the college. Paige works at the circulation desk in the Hedberg Library, while Luke divides his time among the library, the college’s writing center, where he is a writing fellow, and *The Current*, Carthage’s student-run newspaper.

The couple says a number of Carthage professors have been influential in their lives. Paige considers Frederick Smiley, associate professor of education, a genius in the classroom because of his unique, creative teaching methods, which she says are quite effective.

Luke says his most influential professor is Karen Kehoe, an instructor in Carthage’s Heritage program, who set him on the path to his self-developed journalism major.

FACT OF THE MONTH

“In the time spans over which economic progress is best measured — in generations — educating U.S. workers is the most appealing remedy for an economy that regularly pushes workers out of jobs they were trained to do. Without ... wider access to college and more training of mature workers, the gap between those with well-paying and poorly paid jobs is certain to grow.”

*“The Future of Jobs,”
The Wall Street Journal,
April 2, 2004*

LOIS BOHANNON *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Alverno strives to promote personal and professional growth, and it really did that for me.”

Thanks to an academic scholarship and support from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Bohannon says she has been able to defray college costs, allowing her to concentrate more on her studies and focus less on expenses.

“I worried a little bit about the financial situation, but Alverno’s financial aid

counselors have been extremely helpful. One of the reasons I delayed going back to college was because of the cost, but there are many options available to students who do need assistance,” Lois says.

Returning to college has changed Lois’s life in a number of ways. She has learned to better manage her time, practice new skills, and open her mind.

“My mind used to be pretty closed. Now

I’m not as judgmental about things. I’ve learned how to analyze situations, and I see things in a different light. You develop a different frame of mind getting a college education,” she says.

The environment at Alverno, she says, is one that truly allows students to flourish. “I love all the support that I’ve gotten at Alverno — the faculty support, the technical support, and the peer support. It’s all been very encouraging.”

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*

