

WTG *Achievers*

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About the WTG

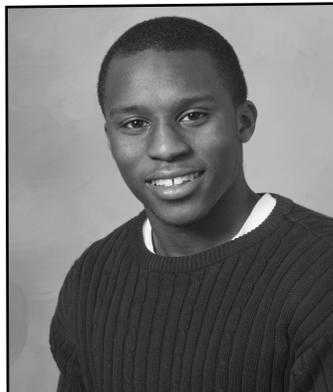
The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 57,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need financial help to attend the college of their choice.

*The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965 to help qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income 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 significant 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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Marquette junior is a strong leader and mentor



Jermaine Buckner of Milwaukee, a junior at Marquette University

"It's a big place with a small feel to it," says Jermaine Buckner about his college experience at Marquette

University. The Milwaukee resident and college junior considered other universities in the state but likes the personal nature of Marquette. "They really cater to each student," says Buckner, who is majoring in finance and real estate in the College of Business Administration.

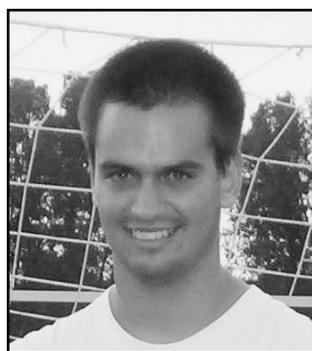
Jermaine is able to attend Marquette due to the help of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "I was very fortunate and very blessed to receive this grant," he says. He is also a part of the McNair Scholars Program, a scholarship program to prepare high-achieving minority or first-genera-

tion students for graduate school.

Jermaine develops his organizational skills and learns to take initiative through his participation in the Multi-Cultural Business Organization, a group he formerly served as president. He is also a member of The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, a national organization with a chapter at Marquette, of which Jermaine was elected president and eventually to a state-level position. "I am proud to be a part of a fraternity that has such prestigious alumni as Martin

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Concordia University student prepares to be a teacher and coach, with help from WTG



Wayne Makela of Green Bay, a junior at Concordia University

Wayne Makela has big goals, and he's working hard to achieve them. Currently a

junior at Concordia University Wisconsin, Wayne is in a course of study that will prepare him to teach in high school, not only in the classroom but on the athletic field as well.

"I want to be a teacher, coach, and youth director," says the Green Bay native. To that end, Wayne is enrolled in Concordia's secondary education program with a mathematics major that will enable him to graduate with a teaching certificate approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

His interest in coaching stems from his love of sports and his enthusiasm for athletic endeavors both on and off the field. That means not only giving loyal support to the university's teams, but also helping to promote them to a wider audience.

For some time now, Wayne has been lending his considerable communication skills to Concordia University's athletic teams, dubbed the Falcons. "On campus I am the PA announcer for the Falcon athletic teams

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JERMAINE BUCKNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, and Paul Robeson,” he says. This year, he wants to expand his involvement and start a real estate club on campus.

Jermaine is also busy getting valuable career experience through internships at prominent companies such as Wachovia Securities and Johnson Controls. Upon graduation, he wants to use his finance major as an entrepreneurial consultant and eventually go back to school to receive his Ph.D. He may even pursue a run for the U.S. Congress or travel as a motivational speaker.

He believes that balance is the key to accomplishing these dreams. “It’s good to enjoy life,” he says, “but we’ve all got to take care of business.” When Jermaine is not cooking, reading philosophy, or writing poetry, he tries to empower the people in his life, encourag-

ing them to strive higher than the minimum expectations.

One of those people is a student from Milwaukee Lutheran High School whom Jermaine mentors. “I never imagined myself as a mentor, but when I met Deshawn, I just decided I would do whatever I could to help him,” he says. Jermaine plans to guide Deshawn through high school, offering him advice on college, careers, and life. “He asks me questions and I answer them to the best of my ability,” says Jermaine. “I am open to whatever he wants to talk about.”

Jermaine is not only a leader, he’s an author. He is currently writing a book on success in life and how to accomplish one’s goals. “Sometimes people feel too old or they listen to the wrong influences,” he says. “I want to tell them not to settle.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

In 2005-2006, the 20 private colleges and universities of Wisconsin granted 284 associate's degrees, 8,030 bachelor's degrees, 3,074 master's degrees, 174 Ph.D.'s, and 312 dentistry and law degrees to their 11,874 graduates.

Source: Data reported to the U.S. Department of Education

WAYNE MAKELA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and I also announce baseball games on the radio,” he says.

Wayne’s involvement on campus is not limited to his classroom studies and his sports announcing. In addition, he is an active participant on the Campus Ministry Leadership Team dealing with youth ministry and a member of math club, students for life, and a volunteer organization called VOICE.

Wayne says that while he always wanted to become a teacher and coach, he wasn't sure if he could manage to pay for the

preparation it would entail, given limited resources. He says would never have been able to afford a college education without the help of a financial aid package from Concordia that included a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. “I am glad to be able to go to such a fine institution as Concordia University Wisconsin, and I am grateful to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant for making that a reality in my life,” he says.

When Wayne graduates with his teaching certificate, he will not lack for opportunities. Math teachers are among

those most sought after in Wisconsin school districts, according to the State Department of Public Instruction. With his interest in coaching as well, he will assuredly be a valued addition to any high school staff.

As Wayne looks forward to graduation and his future career, he is thinking not only of himself, but of future students as well. “I hope others will be able to receive the Wisconsin Tuition Grant to help them in their postsecondary education so that they will have the same opportunities that I had.”

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*

