

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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WTG vital to social worker from Mount Mary



*Andrea Bauman
of Milwaukee, a senior
at Mount Mary College*

Andrea Bauman originally chose a hotel management career but she had mounting concerns about the employees she supervised. "Many of them suffered to hold onto their jobs as they transitioned

from AFDC to the W-2 program. I spent more of my time managing the personal concerns of my employees than I did managing the actual hotel. Change, for me, was definitely in order!"

As she looked into social work programs throughout the Milwaukee area, she saw that Mount Mary would best suit her needs because of the college's low faculty-to-student ratio and supportive environment.

Andrea embraced academic life and has become involved in student activities. She took part in a study abroad program

in Peru, chaired a committee of speakers at a symposium on women's ways of leading, and has been elected president of student government for 2004-05. She says, "As a student, I am striving to challenge myself, open my mind, and allow my daughter (Simone, age seven) to see that education is important for her in the future."

Earlier this year, Andrea was one of the Mount Mary team that took part in the 2004 Midwest Model UN Conference in St. Louis. She was lead delegate for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Pediatric medicine is career choice of Alverno student, who was inspired by daughter's illness



*Veronica Barrales
of Milwaukee, a sophomore
at Alverno College*

For some students, it takes time and soul searching to decide upon what major to pursue in college. For Veronica Barrales, Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient and Alverno College student, all it

took was for her to look at her young daughter for inspiration.

Barrales' middle child, Daisy, was diagnosed with cancer when she was just 4 years old. She had to have a Wilms tumor removed and many treatments later, she is in remission. Barrales says her daughter, now 7, is a "miracle child." She is thankful every day that Daisy is cancer-free.

Through this experience, Barrales, a single mother of three, learned she wanted to help children. She became active in volunteering at Children's Hospital working in the cancer unit with parents

and their children, which she finds very worthwhile.

"I love being there, and there are tons of little kids who love having me there. It's very rewarding," she says. "I can talk with the parents and I understand what they are going through."

She put her education on hold for a while but now has returned to college to earn a degree in pre-med. She plans to become a pediatrician so she can help other children and their families.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ANDREA BAUMAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mount Mary's team. Her committee, ECOSOC (Economic and Social Committee), studied gender discrimination, democratic governance, and changing consumption and production patterns. At the end of the conference, which was attended by more than 40 colleges and universities, Andrea was one of three ECOSOC members named outstanding delegates.

Now a senior social work major, she plans to pursue master's degrees in social work and public administration. Her goal is "to create change in the policies that are no longer serving the needs of the people they were initially designed for."

Andrea has strong feelings about the value of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program. "If Wisconsin Tuition Grants were to be cut back or eliminated," she says, "I would have to incur such a large debt that it would not be

practical for me because I do not expect a large income in the nonprofit sector, where I will be working. I would also be unable to attend school full time but would have to work full time, thus separating me from my daughter more than would be good for her. The grant is a vital part of my financial aid package.

"Cutting or eliminating financial aid would unnecessarily burden lower-income students who have the potential to make significant contributions to our state. Consider the effect this cut would have on the already problematic brain drain our state is experiencing. Brain drain most often occurs due to low salaries. Cutting or eliminating financial aid would increase student debt at graduation, leading to even higher numbers of our state's graduates seeking employment elsewhere in order to pay off their increased financial burden. Is this what we want to happen?"

FACT OF THE MONTH

According to a report by the Education Commission of the States, nearly half of the more than 17 million students at American colleges are age 25 or older. Among Wisconsin's private colleges and universities, 42 percent of students are 25 or older.

VERONICA BARRALES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant among other grants and scholarships, a college education has become a reality for her. She can focus more on her studies and worry less about working extra hours to pay for her schooling.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is a great thing to have, especially for single parents. For those of us who are trying to balance school and a family, this minimizes the amount we need to earn to pay for school. We can focus more on our education and worry less about the money," she says.

After moving to Wisconsin from

California in 1997, Barrales completed coursework at MATC and received her high school equivalency degree. She also earned her CNA through a private nursing organization. It was an instructor at the technical college who encouraged her to look into opportunities at Alverno.

"I definitely love the smaller class sizes. It gives me more of a one-on-one relationship with the teacher. I appreciate the feedback, and it helps you understand your strengths and weaknesses," she says.

In addition to balancing her family, her studies, and her volunteer involvements, Barrales is a member of the on-campus

student organization Hispanic Women of Alverno. This group assists the community to experience the customs and rich history of the Hispanic culture. To supplement her income, she works part-time as a student worker in the college's bookstore.

Barrales knows she has a long road ahead of her until her education is complete, but the best part is having the support of her family and knowing that her goals are their goals, too.

"It gets really tough sometimes, but it's my family that motivates me. It's a great feeling."

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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