

WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 8, No.1

August 2007

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

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Mari McCarty, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Paul Nelson
Senior VP for Public Policy

Northland outdoorsman grateful for WTG



Seth Zesiger of Exeland, a sophomore at Northland College

Leaving home for the first time is never easy. Picking a college to attend is a monumental decision that requires hard work, a great

deal of responsibility, and a willingness to put some serious thought into what you're looking for in an education.

Seth Zesiger knew that he was looking for a small college that was close to home, but he wasn't as clear about how to choose it. After his guidance counselor in high school recommended Northland College, Seth came to visit the campus and, then and there, decided that it was the school for him.

Seth's home in Exeland, Wisconsin is less than a two-hour drive away from

Northland. The second out of four children, Seth says that he's glad Northland is close to his hometown so he can visit frequently. Seth shares a strong bond with his family; so strong, in fact, that he actually brought a member of his family to Northland with him.

Tyler Zesiger is not only Seth's cousin, but also his roommate. "It's fun; we get along, and I knew somebody right away," Seth says.

The Zesiger family is glad that Seth is at Northland,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WTG helps Cardinal Stritch student prepare to teach children with special needs



Katie Pagel of Ashwaubenon, a senior at Cardinal Stritch University

As a member of the Ashwaubenon High School theater group, Katie Pagel remembers crossing paths with an enrollment counselor from

Cardinal Stritch University. She had never considered Stritch as a possible college choice, but the positive interaction left an indelible impression on her.

"We talked about the theater program and how it was a small university and how there was a lot of financial aid," she said. "They were really very friendly."

Katie's decision to attend Stritch has allowed her to pursue her passion of working with students with special needs. And Katie's college choice was made a great deal

easier by her financial aid package, which included the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "The financial aid package I was awarded was fantastic," she said.

Katie, who will graduate in 2008, is studying broadfield social studies as well as special and regular education at Stritch. She has also begun work on an undergraduate leadership certificate.

"Certain majors and certain minors can really help you in the future," she said. "An education degree can take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SETH ZESIGER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

appreciating how an education will benefit him in the future. Seth left behind his parents, an older sister, and a younger brother and sister.

Seth is a sophomore majoring in Natural Resources with a concentration in Fish & Wildlife. He loves to hunt, fish, and play paintball, and his many outdoor interests and his future plans fit perfectly with his major. At home in Exeland, Seth always enjoys a rowdy round of paintball with friends in the surrounding woods and never misses a chance to spend time in the great outdoors.

Nonetheless, during his freshman year, Seth focused on his classes and spent most of his weekends studying and doing homework. Seth says that in the future, he would like to use his education to work in the conservation field with fish and wildlife—and he hopes he'll be able to do that in his native state of Wisconsin.

Seth is grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. "It's an important part of financial aid and makes tuition affordable," he says.

Seth's favorite part of Northland College is that the school is a small community, and the small classes are really an advantage. He says that he's met a lot of different people at Northland that he wouldn't have met otherwise. Although he states that he hasn't changed as a person since coming to college, he still appreciates the differences in opinion and the opportunity to hear them.

This summer, Seth is working on his parents' dairy farm in Exeland. He savors spending some quality time at home and doing a job he enjoys with his family. He looks forward to starting this fall as a sophomore and continuing his education, thanks to support from the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

FACT OF THE MONTH

If a state wants to increase its per capita personal income, increase mean household income, and increase its home ownership rate, then it should focus on increasing the share of its population with at least a bachelor's degree.

Postsecondary Education Opportunity, May 2007

KATIE PAGEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you many places. I think the leadership certificate will help me in my personal life or working in groups. Everywhere you are, you're supposed to be a leader."

Katie was highly involved in activities in high school, and embraced the many opportunities available at Stritch.

Throughout her college career, she has been involved in such organizations as Stritch's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, student activities committee, residence hall association, spirit team, and choir. Katie also took part in the Franciscan pilgrimage program to Assisi, Italy. In

addition, she has been involved in the National Catholic Student Coalition and the Association for the Rights of Citizens with Handicaps. Katie volunteers in two Milwaukee-area schools, where she not only works in a regular classroom, but also helps children with special needs.

Katie's experiences at Stritch, both inside the classroom and out, make her confident about her future. "I appreciate all of the opportunities and all of the hands-on experience you get here," she said. "At a large school, I might not have had the opportunity to lead Habitat for

Humanity. And I just love the teacher preparation program here. Within your first semester, you're already taking an education class. The area really looks to hire people with education degrees from Stritch."

After graduation, Katie is enthusiastic about embarking on a teaching career, and ultimately starting work on a master's degree and finally a doctorate. "I want to eventually run or start an organization for children and adults with special needs," she said. "Stritch has definitely helped prepare me to do that."

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*

