

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 financial 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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Lakeland junior excels in 'spikes and strings'



Andrew Lietz from Mequon, a junior at Lakeland College

If he had attended a larger school, Andrew Lietz is sure he would have had to choose one over the other—volleyball or violin. Spikes or strings. Music or athletics. But at Lakeland, he doesn't have to choose one over the other.

"I have an opportunity here to go to school, play volleyball, and be in the orchestra," says the junior fitness studies major. "There is an opportunity here for me to do more than just go to school." Andrew knows he might not do both activities forever, but there's satisfaction in knowing that if he needs to decide when to stop what, it will be on his terms.

He started playing violin when he was five in a Suzuki strings program with his younger brother and older sister. A year later he started playing piano and a year later

added the saxophone. By the time the family had moved from Milwaukee to suburban Mequon when he was in middle school, he had focused on the violin.

Andrew and his siblings attended Homestead High School, home to one of the best high school orchestras in Wisconsin. He quickly rose through the ranks of the violins, and was co-concertmaster as a senior, maintaining a family tradition. The Lietz siblings held the first chair violin spot for three straight years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Viterbo is perfect fit for this biology major who plans to become a physical therapist



Holly Schuster from Fall Creek, a junior at Viterbo University

Holly Schuster of Fall Creek knew just what she was looking for when she decided to attend Viterbo University. "I chose Viterbo because it was a small school, and

it was a Christian school," Holly says. "I came from a small high school, and I really wanted a similar atmosphere in which the professors really get to know you."

Holly, a recipient of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, is a biology major who plans to attend a physical therapy program upon graduation. She will take what she has learned and will use it to help people, something she enjoys a great deal, she says.

"I was always interested in math and science, but during

my senior year of high school, I had the opportunity to job shadow a physical therapist at Marshfield Clinic in Eau Claire," she says. "I just loved it. I had a passion for it."

Hip and other injuries while on the cross-country team in high school also spurred her interest in the field of physical therapy. "I knew what it was like," she says. "I'd love to be able to help people get better."

Her eventual goal is to earn a doctorate in physical therapy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ANDREW LIETZ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the same time, he was making his mark as an athlete. He played baseball, basketball, and soccer and ran track, but when he discovered volleyball his sophomore year, he found his passion. He earned second team all-conference honors as a junior at Homestead and first team as a senior in helping to lead his team to the state tournament semifinals.

He applied to a half-dozen schools and was working to get noticed so he could continue his volleyball career in college. His high school coach recommended Lakeland. "I had dreams of being a professional athlete," Andrew says with a smile. "When I found out that was not going to happen, I still wanted to play."

He auditioned for members of Lakeland's music faculty, and qualified for scholarship money based on his talents with the violin.

He's taking private lessons with Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Debbie Williamson, which earns him academic credit. He earned a spot in the SSO in the second violin section, the lone Lakeland instrumental musician to hold a regular spot with the SSO last season. That opportunity comes thanks to Lakeland's close relationship with the SSO.

There are plenty of parallels between Andrew's two passions, which makes it easier for him to keep a hectic schedule in order. "You have to practice hard," he said. "You can't go just one week and expect to excel."

But what has made all this possible is the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which has enabled him to play both volleyball and violin, and study hard in a supportive and varied environment. He is very grateful.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Most of American higher education operates locally or regionally. In 2003, more than 54 percent of students entering college came from a distance of 100 miles or less. About 34 percent came from a distance of 101 to 500 miles. Only 12 percent entered an institution of higher learning coming from a distance of more than 500 miles. Support of students close to home pays dividends close to home.

UCLA Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)

HOLLY SCHUSTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and work in sports medicine or traditional patient care. "When I do my clinical experience in physical therapy school, I'll get a better idea of exactly what I want to do."

In the meantime, Holly is making the most of her education at Viterbo. In addition to her studies, she is involved in the BioChem Club, TriBeta Biological Honor Society, and Student Dietetics Association.

"Holly is very hardworking and thorough in all of her coursework and lab activities in the sciences," says professor Glenna

Temple, chair of the Viterbo biology department. "She consistently shows she cares about mastering the material and is not driven only by the grade she receives for an assignment or lab activity. She serves as a role model for other students in the sciences by demonstrating her work ethic, her desire to learn, and her positive attitude."

Holly also stays very busy working her way through school. She is employed in the biology and chemistry departments on campus through the federal work-study program, preparing labs for classes. She also works as a biology tutor and in

Viterbo's admission office as a tour guide. Off campus, she works the occasional weekend and during breaks in an area department store.

She is very thankful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, which made her career at Viterbo possible.

"It was an incredible scholarship that I received," Holly says. "I love attending Viterbo University. It makes a person feel as if they have an individualized education, and the professors here genuinely care about their students and want them to succeed."

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*

