

# WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 8, No. 5

December 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](http://www.waicu.org)

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

## Mount Mary student seeks a more just society



*Jennifer Bowman of Glendale, a senior at Mount Mary College*

You'd be hard-pressed to find Jennifer Bowman, a senior at Mount Mary College, doing anything that isn't somehow related to her education.

When you talk to the 22-year-old, she exudes an easygoing charm. Yet underneath her calm disposition is a confident and energetic young woman with a mission: to help create a more just society.

Jennifer is always challenging herself, whether it's shooting hoops with the basketball team, volunteering, or simply spending time alone writing poetry. That's when she isn't studying for her bachelor's degree in the field of justice, of course.

After Jennifer graduated from high school in 2004, her

guidance counselor, a Mount Mary alumna, suggested she consider attending Mount Mary because of its small class sizes and the individual attention she knew that Jennifer would receive.

"It was the best decision because I wouldn't have survived at a larger school," Jennifer said. "I have learned a lot since coming to Mount Mary, like the importance of voicing your opinion. I'm shy but I have opened up more, I speak my mind and I'm more engaged here than when I was a freshman."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Lawrence senior has a "boundless passion" to help overcome hunger and poverty



*Samantha Gibb of La Crosse, a senior at Lawrence University*

Samantha Gibb understands the difference even one person can make in addressing global problems. The Lawrence University senior from La

Crosse channels her boundless passion for issues of hunger and poverty into helping others in need and serving as a role model for other students.

"Lawrence has given me the opportunity to figure out what's really important to me, and the support to pursue it as well," said Samantha, a psychology major with a concentration in international studies. "Service learning is strongly encouraged at Lawrence."

In 2005, Samantha co-founded SWAHP — Students' War Against Hunger and Poverty. During her two

years as president of the organization, Samantha organized food drives on campus and staged "donation competitions" on behalf of the Feinstein Challenge, a national food drive that assists local organizations. She also conducted outreach education programs on issues of hunger and poverty with two Appleton elementary schools.

While on a five-month study abroad program in India in 2006, Samantha conducted a research project on urban poverty, examining the role of the government and non-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**JENNIFER BOWMAN** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a Caroline Scholar, Jennifer is committed to performing 350 hours of community service, and to help fulfill that requirement, she chose to work at Milwaukee Innerscity Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), an interfaith organization addressing justice issues.

This spring, Jennifer is interning as a family advocate at St. Rose Family & Youth Center, Inc. in Milwaukee, a nonprofit organization that helps troubled young women, families, and children of incarcerated parents.

On campus, Jennifer remains just as active. She has served in Student Government as vice president and she plays on the Blue Angels basketball team, earning accolades from those who know and work with her.

“Jennifer is a quiet leader, dedicated to her academics and an exemplary student-athlete

and role model,” said Deanna D’Abbraccio, director of the athletics department. “She is a hard worker, goal oriented, and well liked by her peers, coaches, and Mount Mary staff.”

While she can now see the light at the end of the tunnel, she knows she would not have been able to accomplish all that she has without financial assistance.

“The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is important to me because it helps fund my college education,” she said. “I don’t have family who can contribute to my education; it’s solely me.”

Yet Jennifer has persevered, giving credit to the faculty, staff, and students she interacts with each day. “I’m surrounded by dedicated, smart professors and classmates,” she said. “The environment at Mount Mary has enabled me to stay focused and achieve my goals.”

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

In 2006-2007, the 20 private colleges of Wisconsin granted 317 associate's degrees, 8,335 bachelor's degrees, 2,979 master's degrees, 213 Ph.D.s, and 280 dentistry and law degrees to their 12,124 graduates.

*Data reported to the U.S. Department of Education*

**SAMANTHA GIBB** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

governmental organizations on the people living in the slums of Pune.

“The personal interaction was amazing,” said Samantha, who has been elected to Lawrence chapters of Lambda Sigma and Mortar Board, two honor societies with strong service components. “The opportunity in India honed my passion for poverty issues — and made me want to inspire other students to get involved in issues they’re passionate about.”

In December, Samantha organized Lawrence’s first Alternative Giving Fair,

a one-day holiday bazaar staffed by students selling gifts designed to support social, economic, and environmental progress in developing regions of the world. The event drew more than 300 shoppers and generated more than \$10,000 for service organizations in more than 30 countries worldwide.

Samantha’s commitment to community engagement includes volunteering at the Appleton Emergency Shelter, helping Lawrence’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity build its first co-sponsored home in Appleton in the fall of 2007,

and working with the campus chapter of Circle K, the international service and leadership development organization.

With a younger sister also attending college in Wisconsin, Samantha is well aware of the support the Wisconsin Tuition Grant provides in helping to make her Lawrence education possible.

“In my campus job at Lawrence, I learned just how many students benefit from financial aid,” said Samantha. “Programs like the WTG enable students like me to pursue their dreams.”

**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*

