

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 54,000 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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Ripon senior balances studies with volunteerism



Sara Matzdorf of Sheboygan, a senior at Ripon College

Sara Matzdorf, a Ripon College senior from Sheboygan, balances an active academic career with volunteer work and leadership. "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant

has given me the opportunity to obtain an outstanding education at Ripon College. This will be to my advantage as I work through my future job search and in the business world," Sara says. "College is important to me because it has given me experiences that have made me an all-around student and have also given me a great shot at success."

Sara, who is majoring in business administration and exercise science with a concentration in sports management, is the co-coordinator for the college's shadow program, an overnight visit arrangement for high

school seniors. The shadow program is organized by the college's admission office where Sara will begin a marketing internship in the spring. Also a member of the Ripon College Orientation Committee for two years, she helped organize events to welcome new students to campus.

Sara's enthusiasm and service for the college is shown through her involvement in numerous activities. In her work as a student ambassador, she is constantly in contact with prospective students and visitors. "I really enjoy

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Stritch graphic design major uses creativity in student government, philosophy, theatre



Phillip Burghgraef of Delavan, a sophomore at Cardinal Stritch

Having completed only three semesters at Cardinal Stritch University, sophomore graphic design major Phillip Burghgraef already is proving

to be a leader. Serving as secretary on the executive board of Stritch's Student Government Association (SGA) and as co-founder and vice president of the newly created Philosophy Club, Phillip is making his presence count at the university.

His involvement in SGA stems from his desire to get involved and help effect change on campus.

"I don't think students realize how much SGA impacts student life and benefits the student body," Phillip says. "As the secretary, I'm working

to keep communication open so students have a better understanding of the work SGA does on their behalf."

Phillip first started working with SGA as a representative of the Philosophy Club. Pursuing a philosophy minor, he saw a need for a student organization dedicated to intellectual discussions. Rather than sitting back and wishing a group like that existed, he and a friend went ahead and formed their own group, which now has 15 to 20 members. The group meets to discuss current topics, recent

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SARA MATZDORF *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

meeting the families and sharing facts and stories about the college,” she says. She realized how many good stories there were and how many were not being shared with the campus community. To facilitate better communication of the positive doings at Ripon, Sara and a group of fellow students founded a campus organization called PRIDE – Promote Ripon Identity Development and Environment – in 2002. The idea for the organization stemmed from a class assignment. “We were given the issue of morale on campus and what we would do to fix it if it was low,” Sara explains. “We thought it would be fun to develop a group that recognizes everything that students and faculty do.”

PRIDE, of which she is co-president, recognizes student and faculty achievements and helps promote campus-wide events. “We feel that it is important to recognize anyone on

the Ripon College campus who goes above and beyond,” she says. “We brag for them.” Sara herself has been recognized by the college for her commitment to serving and helping others. In 2002, she was the recipient of the Admission Office Student Volunteer Achievement Award, and in 2003, Sara received a Student Leadership Award, presented to students who demonstrate dedication, dependability, and service to the campus.

After graduating, Sara plans to pursue a career in administration. “I hope to find a job in marketing and public relations,” she says. “The specific businesses I will look into are college admissions, fitness clubs, and athletics.”

“She is going places,” says Ripon Admission Director Brooke Konopacki. “Sara is an individual who makes new paths instead of following the paths of students before her.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

If the gap in the college-going rates of the highest- and lowest-income Americans was narrowed significantly, we would add nearly \$250 billion to the gross domestic product and \$80 billion in taxes.

— Lumina Foundation Focus, Summer 2003, quoting Access Denied 2001

PHILLIP BURGHGRAEF *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

news, and various movies.

In addition to a job at the campus library and community service activities, Phillip also enjoys working behind the scenes for theater productions. Just as he had at Delavan-Darien High School, he puts his artistic talents and technical know-how to work handling backstage tasks such as sound management for university productions like “Oklahoma!” and “A Streetcar Named Desire.”

And it’s that same combination of technical and artistic skills that has led Phillip to choose his graphic design

major. He enjoys various artistic endeavors, including oil painting, sculpting, woodworking, and drawing, but Phillip says he is most drawn to the opportunity to create computer-based art.

“I like doing art and working with computers, and graphic design blends those two very well,” Phillip says.

Knowing he wanted to pursue a graphic design degree, Phillip chose Stritch for its excellent reputation for arts programs, but he also was drawn to the small class sizes, the Catholic background, the focus on community service, and the sense of

belonging he feels on campus.

“I don’t feel lost here or out of place,” he says. “There’s a real sense of community at Stritch.”

For Phillip, a deciding factor in choosing Stritch was the generous financial aid package he received, which includes scholarships, work-study funds, a loan, and the Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

“My financial aid is very important,” he said. “I never could have considered coming here without the generosity of Stritch and the state of Wisconsin.”

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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