

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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Marquette student wants 'to better the world'



Alberto Uscanga from Milwaukee, a freshman at Marquette University

For freshman Alberto Uscanga, coming to Marquette University seemed like a natural progression. While attending Marquette University High School, Alberto participated in Upward Bound,

a pre-college program to assist low-income or first-generation high school students in their goal of becoming a college graduate in a math, science, or technology field. So, while taking accelerated classes in mathematics, science, technology and writing, Alberto familiarized himself with Marquette and its campus.

He liked what he saw. When it came time to look at colleges, Alberto, a Milwaukee native, considered universities around the country, but kept returning to Marquette, its academic reputation, and his

experiences. "I visited a lot of schools, always staying on campus a few days," he acknowledges. "But Marquette was more personal."

With the help of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Alberto plans to be the first in his family to graduate from college. He dreams of using his biological sciences major to attend medical school or maybe someday teach science. Alberto hopes to remain in the area, possibly practicing medicine in a local community clinic. "I'd like to offer hope to others in my situation," he

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Involvement characterizes Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient's experience at Marian College



Matt Brummund from Tomah, a junior at Marian College

Matt Brummund is a member of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant dynasty, so to speak, at Marian College of Fond du Lac.

Brummund, a junior

majoring in communication and minoring in values-based leadership, is president of Marian's Student Senate. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient from Tomah succeeded two-year president Heidi Bremer, herself a WTG recipient, after serving as Bremer's vice president in 2004-2005.

Matt, who has been on Marian's Student Senate since his freshman year, decided early "to get involved—my teachers in high school said to

get involved as much as possible. And then Heidi asked me to get involved, and I couldn't turn her down."

He hasn't turned down many opportunities for involvement at Marian. He is president of Marian's Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, is a member of Marian's Spirit Club (he once filled in as the college's Sammy the Sabre mascot at a college event) and sports columnist for

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ALBERTO USCANGA *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

says. “I’d like them to see that if I made it, so can they.”

In his first semester, Alberto has embraced the Marquette experience. He sings in the Gospel Choir and enthusiastically works to recruit new members for the growing organization. Alberto has worked on campus in Student Health Services and currently holds a job working in the kitchen of Marquette’s Jesuit Residence. He participates in the university’s Equal Opportunity Program, an academic program for first-generation and low-income students, and hopes to eventually travel to Latin America or Africa where he would like to incorporate service into a study-abroad experience. Alberto also plans to volunteer in Milwaukee, ideally finding a place with which he can develop a long-term relationship. And he might, he adds, consider joining a fraternity.

In his free time, Alberto likes to hang out with

his friends—there’s always something to do in O’Donnell Hall—or go for the occasional run to the lakefront, that is, as long as the weather is warm enough.

Alberto likes the different viewpoints and ideas represented at Marquette and meeting people from all over the world and “different sides of life.” His favorite classes are biology and Theology 001, where his professor “wants you to think for yourself and show who you are.” Alberto is a self-described optimist, who, he adds with a grin, has been told he smiles a lot.

As for going to school in downtown Milwaukee, Alberto acknowledges that in an urban setting “you have to face reality that you’re not the only one in the world.” He still sees himself as part of a larger community. The city, Alberto says, reminds you that “you’re not going to school to better yourself, but to better the world.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

“If economists are right, it [investing in education] is not just part of the cost of maintaining a functioning democracy, but a source of wealth creation for all. That means that investing in the education of every American is in everyone’s self interest.”

*“What’s the Return On Education?”
by Anna Bernasek
The New York Times
December 15, 2005*

MATT BRUMMUND *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

The Sabre student newspaper. He also was a resident assistant in Marian’s student housing and worked for Marian’s Office of Admission. Matt worked on Marian’s American Heart Walk and Sabre Run/Walk, along with the School of Education’s Multicultural Initiative.

One of Matt’s goals for this term has been to improve communication between the Student Senate and students, and between the Student Senate and college administration. The Student Senate produces a newsletter

that is included in the college’s weekly web publication, “The Week at Marian.”

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant made it possible for Matt to choose Marian over two public colleges he was considering. He initially made the trip to Marian only because a friend of his was visiting the campus, and he decided to tag along.

“I really liked the people when I took my tour,” Matt says. “My first impression was the best impression of all three colleges I looked at. First impressions are important for me and

Marian was very impressive.” Matt, who is in Marian’s Public and Professional Communication sequence, wants to do public relations for a sports team or special events for an organization after graduation.

“The importance of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant speaks for itself with the type of students it helps to bring to different colleges,” Matt says. “Without it, I wouldn’t be in college. It’s enabled me to get an education, which I will always be grateful for.”

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*

