

# WTG *Achievers*

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## About WTG

*The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 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. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.*

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## Viterbo Student Dreams of Life on Stage



*Mark Conroy of Middleton, a sophomore at Viterbo University*

Mark Conroy's childhood dream was to be an actor, ever since his starring role on stage as Robin Hood during a fifth-grade school play.

As a student at Middleton High School, he participated in the drama club, Chamber Singers, show choir, and concert choir. One of his major achievements was initiation into the International Thespian Society for theatre in high school.

Today, the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and Viterbo University are helping make Mark's dream a reality. Mark is now a sophomore at Viterbo with a double major in music theatre and liberal studies, along with a double minor in music and dance. He is able to attend Viterbo University thanks to the Wisconsin Tuition Grant

and an extensive financial aid package.

Mark thinks the educational and professional opportunities available to him through Viterbo are exceptional. Not only is he able to work closely with his professors and receive personal training and assistance, but he also has the opportunity to work with regional and national actors and musicians through the university's visiting artists program. There are also a number of internship, career, and learning opportunities through Viterbo's Professional Theatre Affiliation Program

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## Future Nurse Thankful for Marian College



*Sara Mueller of Kiel, a senior at Marian College*

One reason students attend Wisconsin's private colleges is to get personalized attention from professors – the kind of educational quality that other institutions just can't match.

That was why Sara Mueller decided to attend Marian College. "Classes are small, and it is well known for nursing," says Sara, a senior from Kiel.

Sara was particularly attracted to the fact that in Marian's nursing program, "You get to do all the clinicals." Larger nursing programs don't offer students a variety of clinicals, which can complicate the career choices of students who won't be able to see the entire spectrum of medical specialties in a hospital. In Marian's program, students do nine clinicals, ranging from emergency room to obstetrics to nursing home care.

Marian's program also sends nursing students to different hospitals so they can experience the different styles of hospital management. Sara's clinicals took her to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah, Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh, and St. Agnes Hospital and St. Francis Nursing Home in Fond du Lac. She did her nursing externship at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan, and, she says, "When I started working there, I felt completely prepared. In senior-year clinicals, they tell you what to do, and you do it.

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**MARK CONROY** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

(Pro-Tap), which links professional theatres throughout the Midwest with Viterbo and its students. Those theatres include the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago and the Guthrie Theatre in St. Paul. Mark feels comfortable knowing that nearly all of the students in Viterbo's theatre programs find jobs in their field.

Aside from the professional and educational opportunities available through Viterbo, Mark also likes the beauty of the campus, the small class sizes, and the friendliness and helpfulness of the faculty. "I get more one-to-one attention from my professors," Mark said. "And since the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helped pay for my schooling, I was able to afford it."

At Viterbo, Mark is actively involved in both the arts and student life. He is a member of the Platinum Edition show choir and the Concert

Choir and can also be seen assisting "behind the scenes" in Fine Arts Center productions. For example, Mark recently served as a member of the costume crew for the Viterbo theatre and music departments' production of *Into the Woods*.

Mark also serves as a member of Viterbo's Student Activities Board, a resident assistant in one of the residence halls, manager of the Student Union, and a tour guide for the admissions office.

Mark's dreams won't end following his graduation from Viterbo. He plans to attend graduate school, either continuing his music theatre studies or pursuing an advanced degree in student development which would allow him to work on a college campus as a member of its residence life staff. Thanks to a fine education, Mark is destined to remain in the spotlight.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

**Despite top ACT college entrance scores during the past few years, Wisconsin is below the national average in the number of residents 25 or older who have college degrees. Wisconsin ranks 29th, compared with Minnesota, which ranks 5th, and Illinois, which is 18th.**

**SARA MUELLER** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

They make you feel like you're on the job. I was grateful that I had been so well schooled.

"I think all my teachers are really great. Especially in junior and senior year, the teachers I've had are really outstanding. They know we're getting closer to graduation, so if there's a problem they'll reach out and take any time they can to help you."

The variety of clinical experiences also helped Sara learn that the reality of nursing is not the same as its image. "Because of the [nursing] shortage,

they're making it more attractive. There are huge sign-on bonuses and the pay is increasing," she says.

Sara, a four-year member of Marian's women's soccer team, also credits her coach, Craig Peltonen, with her success in college. She says he was "really good about helping us with classes and financial aid." She was the fourth-leading scorer for the Sabres this season.

Sara's interest in nursing stems from her previous medical experience, as a patient. "When I was a little girl, I was kind of accident-prone. I spent a lot of time in

the emergency room, and I loved the nurses – they made you feel better."

Sara, the daughter of a farm family, has received the Wisconsin Tuition Grant for all four years of her college career and, she says, "It's what kept me here." She also received Marian's Presidential Scholarship as an incoming freshman.

Sara wants to go into emergency or trauma nursing, but she is also considering medical school or getting a master's degree in nursing in the future. With Sara on the job, Wisconsin's future health is assured.

**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*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*  
 Northland College *Ashland*  
 Ripon College *Ripon*  
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*  
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*  
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*  
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

**WISCONSIN'S  
 PRIVATE COLLEGES**

*From here, you can go anywhere.*