

# 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 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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## WTG recipient makes great use of time at SNC



*Karen Ansay of Fredonia, a senior at St. Norbert College*

**Found:** A small college with a community atmosphere.

When Karen Ansay started planning for her college education, she had a definite goal in mind.

"I wanted a small school with a community atmosphere." St. Norbert College filled the bill.

Karen majors in business with a double minor in music and economics. She is a four-year recipient of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. Without the help of the state scholarship program and other scholarships Karen earned, she would not have been able to attend the college of her choice.

She comes from a family that has three other children attending postsecondary education institutions, plus one

who has completed his higher education. She is the daughter of Ron and Chris Ansay. Her father is a dairy farmer, milking a herd of about 120 cows, and her mother is a nurse.

While attending Ozaukee High School, Karen was an active member of the Peer Resource Education Program, a group of students representing the five high schools in Ozaukee County. "Our group pledged to abstain from drugs and alcohol," Karen says. "Our primary objective was to carry that message to younger

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

## Mount Mary WTG student inspired by small-college atmosphere; plans to become dentist



*Lydie Naopao of Milwaukee, a junior at Mount Mary College*

Lydie Naopao is a Mount Mary College junior majoring in biology. Her journey to Mount Mary was longer than that of most students, but she

is happy to be here.

Lydie's father took his family out of Laos at a time when only the first hints of war were detectable. They were refugees in Thailand for a year before settling in France, where Lydie was born. The family came to the United States in 1990 and to Milwaukee in 1994.

After beginning college at a public institution, Lydie met friends who were transferring to Mount Mary. She had never been to a women's school but had heard of them and was

curious. When she visited, she liked the size and traditional look of the campus.

"I did not make friends easily in a large university. I was shy and intimidated," she says. "When I came to Mount Mary I was able to make friends more easily and also able to be a better friend."

The low student/faculty ratio attracted her to Mount Mary as well. "I am planning to enter dental school," she

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

**KAREN ANSAY** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

students in area elementary schools.” About 200 high school students participated in the program, meeting with younger children about five or six times a semester.

She also played the piano, competed in solo and ensemble programs, and had a leading role in the school musical *Snow White*. In her spare time, she served as an organist for Holy Rosary parish and helped at two other churches.

Karen was elected by her peers to represent her high school at Badger Girls State. She graduated with academic honors from high school in 2001.

Karen also has been active with student groups at St. Norbert College. She is a member and treasurer of Theta Phi sorority, the oldest sorority on campus; a member of Sigma Beta Delta, the national business honor society; and Students in Free Enterprise, a

student organization that promotes the free enterprise system among area high schools and elementary schools.

While maintaining a 3.84 grade point average at the college, Karen also is a part-time employee of an area bank in Green Bay, working as a teller.

Karen has thoroughly enjoyed her time at St. Norbert College. “I have met so many wonderful people and enjoyed so many new experiences throughout college. I know I made the right decision when I chose St. Norbert,” she says.

Karen also is looking beyond graduation in 2005.

“My ultimate goal is to work in hospital administration. That means graduate school,” she says.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

Wisconsin’s 2003 share of bachelor’s degree holders relative to the population was 24.1 percent, lower than the preceding two years and below all neighboring states, save Michigan.

Focus  
 March 22, 2005  
 No. 6, page 2  
 Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

**LYDIE NAOPAO** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

explains. “So I have to keep my GPA high. Since I am not a self-starter, it’s good for me to have people keeping track of me. I do much better academically in the small-school atmosphere.”

When she transferred, Lydie lost no time in getting involved on campus. She currently holds three campus jobs: she assists a chemistry professor, works in the Mount Mary Women’s Leadership Institute, and answers questions at the college information desk. She has also been a volunteer at Grace Hmong

Alliance Church when her academic load permits, serving as a mentor to high school students and helping with fundraising for organizations such as World Vision, a Christian relief organization dedicated to helping children; the food pantry at Hope House, a nonprofit agency in Milwaukee that provides primarily transitional living (up to 2 years) and some emergency housing to those who are homeless; and the Hunger Task Force.

Lydie would not be able to attend Mount

Mary if it weren’t for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant money she receives. “I’m the first one in my family to go to college,” she says. “I serve as a role model for others, who tell themselves, ‘If Lydie can do it, I can.’”

“Financial aid such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant helps break the cycle of poverty. During these years, I am financially strapped, but it won’t always be that way. The help I am given now will enable me to help others in the future—and I will.”

**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*

