

# 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 over 50,000 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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## Beloit Grad Makes the Most of Opportunities



*Jake Heberlein of Middleton, a new graduate of Beloit College*

Jake Heberlein likes a challenge. So it isn't surprising that he enrolled in a private liberal arts college, instead of following the family

tradition of attending a state school. "The UW just didn't seem right for me," he explains. "I wanted to be somewhere more friendly and personal. I did some research and decided that Beloit College was the place for me."

Jake's desire to attend a private college was complicated by his financial situation. His parents would only pay the equivalent of state tuition; it was up to Jake to make up the difference. Beloit offered him a financial aid package made up of scholarships, loans, grants, work-study opportunity, and a Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

Jake made the most of his years at Beloit. Following the Beloit tradition which encourages students to invent their own course of study, he graduated with a double major in mathematical biology and Spanish.

He enjoyed the small classes, and professors who were – and remain – approachable.

"It was great knowing that, if I needed to talk to faculty members, I could get hold of them," he says.

As a co-captain and letter-winner on the soccer team,

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

## Carthage Student Finds Her Niche



*Caroline Towns of Edgerton, a sophomore at Carthage College*

With two of her three brothers in college, and her mother attending college in the evening, Caroline Towns needed help to attend her college of choice.

After visiting Carthage College several times, Caroline was certain that the 1,600-student college on the Lake Michigan shore was the right school for her. It offered a supportive, friendly environment where she could pursue a passion for history.

During one of those visits, a financial aid counselor noted that Caroline qualified for a Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

"Without the \$2,300 Wisconsin Tuition Grant, I might never have been able to come here," says Caroline. "Financial aid has enabled me to attend Carthage, and things have worked out very well."

Caroline credits the small-college environment with her success. She maintains a perfect 4.0 G.P.A., while participating in several campus honor societies, volunteering her time to help at-risk youngsters in the Kenosha area, and clerking in the Carthage office of financial aid.

"The one-to-one attention I receive at Carthage from my professors just wouldn't be possible at a larger school," says Caroline. "Coming from a smaller high school, I needed that kind of personal support from admissions, financial aid, and faculty."

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**JAKE HEBERLEIN** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

and a member of the Mortar Board, Phi Sigma Iota, and a senior class officer, Jake balanced his academic and co-curricular responsibilities with campus jobs, working at various times for security, admissions, the biology department, and as a residence assistant.

While at Beloit, Jake also discovered a passion for travel after studying for four months and conducting field research on sea turtles as an exchange student at La Universidad de Costa Rica. "That was wonderful," he says. "The project advisor was a professor from the University of Costa Rica, and I felt that I could really relate to her and the other team members." In summer months he explored the United States by taking jobs in Maine and Wyoming.

Juggling so many interests and responsibilities wasn't easy, and Jake acknowledges that he

might have saved money by attending a state school. However, he is sure that he made the right choice in attending a private institution.

"Studying at Beloit motivated me to look for more options," he says. "I learned to take advantage of what is out there, and that makes me more comfortable and independent."

That self-confidence will serve Jake well in "the real world." He has decided to work for a year before entering graduate school. "I'd like to study something related to biology," he says. "I hope my year off will give me the experience I need to make that decision."

No matter what he ends up doing, Jake is grateful for his undergraduate preparation at Beloit. "I loved the diversity and the feeling that I was a valued individual," he adds. "It's given me a foundation for the rest of my life."

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

**Government investment in financial aid pays off in increased economic development. The G.I. Bill, for example, returned an estimated \$6 to the U.S. Treasury from enhanced lifetime earnings for every dollar spent on it.**

**CAROLINE TOWN** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

A native of Edgerton, Caroline developed her work ethic on her family's dairy farm, helping milk 500 cows, driving a tractor, bottle-feeding calves, and cleaning their pens. It was in high school that she fell in love with history. During her freshman year at Carthage, Caroline discovered an interest in geography that rivals her love of history, and she learned that the relationship between the two disciplines may offer promising career possibilities.

"Professor Julio Rivera explained to me how geography and history are connected," says Caroline. "An example is the use of geographical information

systems to better understand history." One way Caroline may explore this linkage is to pursue graduate study, then write history texts and illustrate them with precise maps.

Another nexus of history and geography is in controlling the incursion of alien plant species within indigenous plant populations. A record of native plants is an important part of history, and mapping the proliferation of different species is the province of botanists and geographers. As part of a geography club service project, Caroline helped remove one of these alien species, buckthorn, from a

Waukesha County park.

"It's amazing how well history and geography fit together. There are practical applications of these subjects throughout our lives," says Caroline. "I'm going to find a career path that draws on an understanding of both of them."

While Caroline's career plans continue to take shape, her ability to continue her academic excellence and community service at Carthage remains secure. With gratitude, she notes she will receive another Wisconsin Tuition Grant for the 2001-2002 school year.

**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*

