

## About the WTG

The twenty-three private, or independent, nonprofit colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to the state, educating more than 60,000 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 qualified Wisconsin citizens to succeed. Fully one-third of the low-income 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 significant difference.

WTG Achievers is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2723; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org.

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.  
President & CEO

Wendy Wink  
Executive Vice President

Katy Kaiser, editor  
Director of Publications and Reports

## Budding Egyptologist learns to embrace the unexpected

Devon Armstrong's time at Beloit College has been nothing short of revolutionary—literally. He was just a few days into his semester abroad in Cairo, Egypt, when the protests and political uprising of the Arab Spring called for a change of plans.

He was evacuated and wound up studying in Turkey instead, an experience that taught him to embrace the unexpected.



Devon Armstrong, originally from Delavan, saw history in the making during his days-long stay in Cairo.

"My study abroad experience taught me that I need to be flexible," he says. "From my

experiences being evacuated, I was able to learn about a whole new culture and even a little bit of the language of a people that I might never have really studied."

The strength of Beloit's anthropology program is what drew Devon to the college, and the Logan Museum of Anthropology,

continued on page 2

## Mechanical engineering student follows his dreams

For mechanical engineering junior Dalton Hansen, a love of engines and equipment was inspired by his dad. "My dad fixed all his own things and usually had at least one project in the garage at all times," Dalton explained. "Today he owns his own small engine repair business. Constantly being around all of these engines led to a fascination with mechanical equipment, so I searched for an engineering degree that suited me. Mechanical engineering was the clear



Dalton Hansen, originally from Wild Rose, is pursuing his passion for engineering.

choice." Yet he didn't always want to pursue engineering. "In middle school I wanted to be an architect. After a while I realized I wasn't artistic enough, so I started

to investigate the field of engineering. I discovered mechanical engineering and decided it was the degree I wanted to pursue."

Growing up in Wild Rose meant that exposure to a variety of careers and industries

was limited. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant made it possible for Dalton to attend the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE).

continued on page 2

**Devon Armstrong** continued from page 1

the campus' historic effigy mounds, and the classics department—in particular its courses on Egyptology—reeled him in. Enrolling at Beloit was but the first step in realizing a longtime goal.

Devon's financial aid package, including the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, was key in making his educational plans a reality. "Financial aid really helped me, because without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and other aid, there would have been no way that I could have afforded college," he says. "It helped me to stay in school and not worry about finances."

Devon focused on a well-rounded slate of studying and extracurriculars such as participating in student government, the fencing club, museum club, anthropology club, and interfaith club, even spending time as the latter's president. His work and dedication paid off when he crossed

the graduation stage in May 2012, having earned a double major in anthropology and classical civilization and a museum studies minor. He also received departmental honors in classical civilization.

"I had already chosen my major when I was a freshman in high school," he says. "I had always loved shows on archaeology, Egyptology in particular, and realized that it was my passion. Coming to Beloit was the logical first step in achieving that goal."

This fall, the dream he forged as a freshman in high school and worked hard to achieve at Beloit will continue to flourish. He will begin a program to earn a museum studies certificate at Tufts University, and plans to earn a master's degree in Egyptology at the University College in London.



Most students attending Wisconsin's private, nonprofit colleges and universities come from Wisconsin and most of these students have financial need. Among the undergraduate student body in 2010-11, over 31,000 students called Wisconsin home and nearly 79 percent of these students received need-based financial aid.

Source: IPEDS Fall 2011 Enrollment Survey

**Dalton Hansen** continued from page 1

"Without this generous gift, I would not be able to afford the tuition at MSOE," said Dalton. "Both of my parents own their own businesses in a very small town and are not able to help me pay for college, so I have to rely on grants and scholarships as well as my own savings to pay for my education."

Dalton chose to study at MSOE for a variety of reasons, including being able to take engineering classes starting in the first term. "The majority of classes are very hands-on, and MSOE guarantees graduation in four years, as long as students start

and stay on track," he added.

He encourages high school students to think about what degree they want to pursue and where they want to go before committing to four years of college. "If you go to college just to get a degree you may not enjoy yourself. You should do what makes you happy and find a degree that matches your interests," he advised.

In his limited free time, Dalton enjoys cheering on the MSOE Raiders hockey team. "MSOE has a very good team that is really exciting to watch. I think the reason

that hockey games are so fun is because it is a way for all the students to forget about the stress of school for a little while and get together to do something enjoyable." He's also involved in the MSOE student chapter of Ducks Unlimited, which holds a variety of highly successful fundraisers throughout the year for wetland conservation.

Dalton hopes to pursue a career in engineering design. "It doesn't really matter what product I would design or for what company. I just like the concept of my ideas becoming reality."

**Wisconsin's Private Nonprofit Colleges and Universities**

- Alverno College *Milwaukee*
- Bellin College *Green Bay*
- Beloit College *Beloit*
- Cardinal Stritch University *Milwaukee*
- Carroll University *Waukesha*
- Carthage College *Kenosha*
- Columbia College of Nursing *Milwaukee*
- Concordia University Wisconsin *Mequon*

- Edgewood College *Madison*
- Lakeland College *Sheboygan*
- Lawrence University *Appleton*
- Marian University *Fond du Lac*
- Marquette University *Milwaukee*
- Medical College of Wisconsin *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 of the Holy Family *Manitowoc*
- Viterbo University *La Crosse*
- Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

