

# WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 6, No. 8

March 2006

## 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.*

*WTG Achievers* is published monthly by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), 122 W. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703-2718; 608-256-7761; mail@waicu.org. For more information or for back issues of *WTG Achievers*, visit our website: [www.waicu.org](http://www.waicu.org)

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.

President & CEO

Mari McCarty, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President

Paul Nelson

Senior VP for Public Policy

Deborah Holbrook

VP for Communications, Editor

## MIAD student motivated to educate self, others



*Jamie Ohland from Wauwatosa, a sophomore at MIAD*

Jamie Ohland knew in high school that she wanted to become an arts educator. That sense of direction not only motivated her extracurricular activities and volunteerism at Wauwatosa High School, but it also informed her decision

to attend MIAD and her choice of a major.

"I knew in high school that I wanted go into education, and art was an area in which I could express what I was feeling and communicate with others," Jamie says. "By studying at an art college and striving eventually toward a master's level degree, I knew I would gain enough knowledge about myself and the artistic field to teach art properly and to give students bountiful knowledge from my own experience."

That's one of the reasons the

Wisconsin Tuition Grant is so important to Jamie.

The grant allowed her to choose MIAD over other art and design colleges as a place where "from the first point of contact, admissions personnel seemed interested in me as an individual and an artist and encouraged me to apply. MIAD was a place where I really felt wanted and knew I could excel."

Jamie has done just that. A Dean's List student, she has chosen the Integrated Studio Arts major, a self-directed,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Speedskating chemist finds many research opportunities, rewards at WLC, thanks to WTG



*Heidi Dahlmann from Milwaukee, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College*

Heidi Dahlmann is a dedicated, competitive cyclist and speed skater. The senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College takes that same dedication and applies it to her academic

pursuits in chemistry and biology.

Heidi aspires to attend graduate school to become a professor of either organic chemistry or biochemistry. One step toward that goal was to serve as the chemistry tutor on campus, where she polished her skills both in the subject and in sharing that knowledge with others.

An even bigger step toward Heidi's future career is her involvement with an undergraduate research project since the summer of

2005 conducted at WLC with Dr. Robert Balza, biology professor, and two other students. Together, they are manipulating chicken embryos to study the genetics that control coronary vasculature. Each member has a different role in the research. Heidi particularly works with the RT-PCR, which is used to indicate if a gene is expressed or not.

This research opportunity has already helped Heidi in many ways. She views

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**JAMIE OHLAND** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

highly customizable major for fine artists whose interests lie in more than one discipline.

The Integrated Studio Arts major is “a mediator between all other majors,” Jamie explains. “You must take the initiative to communicate with professors in different areas of study and to be equally involved in all your classes and with your peers. You need to be able to communicate how each discipline informs the other and then integrate them all in your program of study.”

Involvement and communication have long characterized Jamie. In high school, she was involved in the arts at all levels, serving as president of the drama troupe, providing backstage technical and artistic support, singing in the choir, and studying foreign languages.

Jamie communicated her love of art and arts education to students by volunteering

at her elementary and middle schools. She also volunteered at the Red Cross Women’s Overflow Shelter.

At MIAD, Jamie is involved in all aspects of the college community. She continues her love of teaching by serving as a peer tutor and her love of theater by participating in MIAD’s improvisation group. And she combines both loves by volunteering at public schools teaching art or helping out with scenery for theater programs. She also works at MIAD’s Student Union and in the financial aid office.

As she continues to develop artistically and personally, Jamie admits that she is torn between becoming an arts educator at the elementary or high school level. “But I’m grateful that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant has helped me to be able to weigh these choices in a supportive, strong arts community.”

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

A recent report by the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP) shows that Wisconsin significantly lags other Midwest states in the size and scope of its state financial aid programs. Wisconsin’s average state grant award is only half as much as other Midwest states provide their resident students.

Find full summary at <http://www.nassgap.org/viewrepository.aspx?categoryID=3>

**HEIDI DAHLMANN** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

her own classroom lab sessions as less intimidating, especially since her research team determines protocols as they work, instead of just following procedures out of a textbook. In addition, she observed Dr. Balza set up the research from scratch—something she might one day do herself as a professor.

“I’m being prepared for my future in a much more realistic way,” Heidi says. “It’s doing science with an application, real undergraduate research experience.”

Heidi also enjoys the opportunity to

conduct this research in WLC’s new state-of-the-art Science Hall. Since the research labs are so large, her team is able to leave an unfinished project in their own space with the confidence that it will be available to them when they return. Equipment is abundant—four gas chromatographers alone in her lab—and of the highest quality. She also appreciates the opportunity as an undergraduate to use it all.

“It’s amazing,” Heidi says. “There is a lot of equipment that I use regularly here that I wouldn’t be able to use if I were

at a bigger college simply because of the number of students. The atmosphere at Wisconsin Lutheran really helped me find my direction in selecting a major and in discovering career opportunities.”

For these reasons, Heidi, too, is appreciative of the aid provided by the Wisconsin Tuition Grant. Without the WTG and other grants, Heidi was unsure if she would have even been able to start college immediately following high school. Now, thanks to the WTG, she is ready to take yet another step on her path toward graduate school.

**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*

