

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 55,000 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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Musician, activist thrives at Beloit with WTG



Michael Ramsdail of Beloit, a sophomore at Beloit College

Michael Ramsdail '06 is a man of words and action.

A full-time student at Beloit College majoring in theatre arts and communications,

he also serves as a licensed minister with the local Church of God, chair of the College's Christian Fellowship program, a musician and vocalist, a poet, a public speaker, a community activist, and well, the list goes on.

"As a minister, I do a lot of counseling, as well as weddings and visitations," he says, adding that he has become more involved with Beloit College theatre. "There are new and interesting programs being started this fall, and I am excited about opportunities that will result for students on campus."

Like other undergraduates, Michael is making the most of college by trying many things. He cites classes with John Rosenwald, professor of English, as among his best first-year experiences.

"Prof. Rosenwald really challenges your approach to literature and your use of the English language," Michael explains. "I love poetry, and the classes I have taken with John have been fantastic. Gaining a mastery of poetry and poetic methods makes reading scripture and writing my own poetry very exciting."

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WTG helps St. Norbert senior fully explore his desire both to help others and excel at studies



Brian Schroeder of West Bend, a senior at St. Norbert College

According to Brian Schroeder, there's nothing like a small college for getting involved in school activities.

That's one of the reasons the

West Bend native selected St. Norbert College. The other was the help he received from a Wisconsin Tuition Grant each of the past four years.

"Without the financial help, it is unlikely I would have been able to afford a private college," Brian said.

"My goal was to be able to attend a quality school with smaller classes, where a student gets more attention from the professors," Brian said.

Attending a smaller school also gives students more opportunities to become

involved in school projects. There are more possibilities that lead to helping other people, he says.

Brian is majoring in business with a minor in economics. He has been a member of the Dean's List all four years with a 3.48 overall GPA.

At St. Norbert College, Brian became deeply involved with a number of programs, which included an emphasis on activities that provide service to others.

With the start of his freshman

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MICHAEL RAMSDAIL *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

With the encouragement of another faculty member, Michael applied for and received a Beloit College-sponsored Sophomore Year Initiative Venture Grant, which enabled him to spend two weeks in Ghana, living with a host family and researching the role of the Church of God and Christianity and other religions in the region.

As a native of the city of Beloit, Michael didn't have to look far to find the college of his choice. "Beloit College has a great reputation," he says. "I thought it could only benefit me if I could attend a place with such prestige while continuing activities in the Beloit area to help my future pastoral career."

He believes that Beloit's size and international emphasis are advantageous. "You find many viewpoints at Beloit," he explains. "Students openly discuss issues, and smaller class

sizes make that possible. It allows for closer relationships to be formed student-to-student, as well as student-to-teacher. [Attending] Beloit will definitely make a difference in my life.

"I can't imagine having to absorb the cost that the Wisconsin Tuition Grant takes care of for me," he adds. "Without it, I wouldn't be able to afford the education I am receiving." Michael's mother works for the college, but the WTG makes a huge difference. Michael is grateful for the assistance and for the opportunities it allows him to embrace.

"The Wisconsin Tuition Grant makes it possible for me to attend Beloit," he says. "I would like to extend my warmest and most sincere gratitude to those who make the Wisconsin Tuition Grant program available. It is deeply appreciated and not taken for granted."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Seventy-two percent of alumni of independent colleges and universities said their professors often challenged them academically and personally helped them meet those challenges, compared with 52 percent of public university alumni.

Hardwick-Day Alumni Survey, www.cic.edu/

BRIAN SCHROEDER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

year, Brian participated in the campus ministry retreat program and the inter- varsity Christian fellowship program. He was a quarterback on the varsity football team and held a part-time job in a campus restaurant.

In his sophomore year, he became an assistant director in a residence hall, was named facilitator for the college's ropes course, was a leader on a spring-break trip to the Grand Canyon and participated in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program and the H.I.S. Men's Leadership program.

In his junior year, Brian continued with several of the programs that he had begun in his sophomore year, plus he became a mentor to freshman students, took a major role with the campus ministry program, and became a leader in a Habitat for Humanity project in Georgia.

The Georgia trip included organizing and planning the event, recruiting other students to participate, fund-raising, and training students for the construction project. "I like it when I can learn a lot and still have a good time," Brian says.

He is a member of the ALIVE (active

leaders in vocation exploration) team. His role with this group is serving as president of the Habitat for Humanity chapter on campus. He also has joined the Campus Crusade for Christ group.

Brian's maintained his strong grade point average and his participation in extracurricular activities in his senior year. He served again as a mentor for freshmen and joined an urban ministries project in Chicago. It is clear that Brian, with the help of his WTG, has taken full advantage of his educational opportunities and will continue to give his time generously in support of others.

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*

