

## 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 61,000 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.

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## 2012 Presidential Campaign Fuels Passion for Politics

Representative Woodford? Senator Woodford? How about Governor Woodford??

Lawrence University senior Jake Woodford isn't making any predictions, but the government major from Appleton clearly had his appetite for politics whetted during the 2012 presidential campaign.

"I had a good year," Woodford says with a



Jake Woodford, of Appleton, found himself center stage during the presidential campaign last year.

smile, "but I wouldn't be here without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant" (WTG). The national presidential election

brought three high-profile figures to the Lawrence campus last year: Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in March, and First Lady Michelle Obama in September. As president of Lawrence's Community Council,

Woodford was able to meet all three.

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## Young cancer survivor uses art and humor to heal

A self-described art geek in high school, sophomore illustration major Darcy Guenterberg uses humor in her art at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) as a means of healing.

As a senior in high school, the Monona native filled her schedule with art courses. But just one year before that, she had stopped wanting to create. "I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer going into my junior year," she said. "I lost all motivation for everything,



Darcy Guenterberg, of Monona, has had her artwork featured in art exhibitions in Milwaukee.

but finding I could make art as therapy, really helped me."

Using art as therapy is an ongoing process for her, and she credits one of her best

pieces of work at MIAD as the product of it. But therapy isn't the only focus of her art; the Dean's Honor student enjoys incorporating humor into her work as well.

"I like to make people laugh. One time, I drew hot dogs in the spaces of rib cages," she laughed. "A lot of my work is pretty humorous. Anything that I feel would be humorous is what I try and

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“It was exciting personally, as well as for the Lawrence community,” Woodford said of the campaign visits. “It reminded me that Lawrence provides a welcoming environment for healthy discourse. We may not agree with all of someone’s views, but we are ready and eager to hear them.”

When Governor Romney spoke in late March, Woodford met Romney and Rep. Ryan backstage before introducing them in front of a packed auditorium.

In the campaign’s home stretch, Lawrence hosted Michelle Obama, who spoke in front of a crowd of more than 2,000 in the university’s gymnasium.

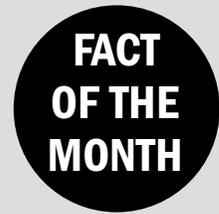
Love of service fuels Woodford’s interest in politics. As for his possible political aspirations,

Woodford says local government is “where things really happen,” but doesn’t rule out higher office. “It all depends on opportunities where I think I can contribute the most.”

A two-year Dean’s List member, Woodford works two jobs on campus and holds down a third job off-campus as a night watchman for a local church. He’s grateful for the help the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) provides as part of his financial aid package.

“The WTG makes a huge difference in my ability to attend Lawrence. I was considering attending out-of-state institutions, but the WTG helped keep me here.”

Where he goes from here is to be determined, but don’t be surprised to see him on the ballot someday.



The number of students applying to WAICU members, a Wisconsin Technical College, or a UW System college or university, who could afford to contribute \$0 towards their higher education increased from 36,425 in 2007–08 to 89,656 in 2011–12, an increase of 146 percent.

Source: Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

**Darcy Guenterberg** continued from page 1

find.”

Her humor is shared by her twin sister, DeAnn, who also attends MIAD because of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG). Guenterberg said, “DeAnn is a painter, and I’m an illustrator. She also does surreal things, and we like similar types of humor, but have different styles.”

Darcy’s artwork was recently featured at the Borg Ward Collective in Milwaukee. She is constantly looking toward the future and at the opportunities it affords, including upcoming exhibitions at

MIAD—even one that is two years away.

“I’m scared and so excited for my senior thesis and exhibition,” she said, and she is already considering her future after MIAD. “I don’t know where I want to go yet, but I know I would like to continue my education.”

Guenterberg recognizes that considering graduate school would not be an option without the WTG. “It made it possible for me go to the college that I wanted to go to. It allowed my family to be able to fund it. Being a twin, and with five kids in the

family, it’s hard enough to go to college. It gave my sister and me a really great opportunity to pursue our art.”



Join the PFA campaign at [www.poweroffinancialaid.org](http://www.poweroffinancialaid.org)

**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*

