

# WTG *Achievers*

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## About WTG

*The twenty private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 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. 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 WTG has made a difference.*

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## Beloit Entrepreneur Poised for Success



*Ian Thomson of Milwaukee, a senior at Beloit College*

Ian Thomson never doubted that he wanted to attend Beloit College. As a senior in high school, he was so committed to attending Beloit he didn't

even apply to other institutions. Fortunately, a Wisconsin Tuition Grant made it possible for Ian to reach his goal.

Now a graduating senior with a double major in sociology and political science, Ian has complemented his academic work with many co-curricular activities. He has served as president of the campus' student governing organization (BelSAC), treasurer of the Model United Nations Club and the Museum Club, an officer in the Beloit chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, and is currently president of Students Active for a Better

Education (SABE). This year, he has also interned for the city of Beloit's Campaign to Promote Racial Justice.

"Beloit has been the perfect school for me," he says. "It's incredibly diverse, so I have gotten to know a lot of different people, yet it's small enough that one person can really make a difference."

"I love the small class sizes, because I've had a lot more personal interaction with my professors," he adds. "I've taken a broad cross-section of courses and have really been able to see the different kinds

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## Wisconsin Tuition Grant Enables Marian Student to Stay in School



*Tiffany Stingle of New London, a senior at Marian College*

For Tiffany Stingle, a Marian College senior from New London majoring in biology and chemistry, a Wisconsin

Tuition Grant made the difference between staying in school and dropping out.

Tiffany has been an achiever throughout her four years at Marian. Her impressive resume includes work as a biology lab assistant and a biology and chemistry tutor. She is a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority and received its Florence Stoermer Voekler Scholarship and its Slaymaker-Kinsey Academic Achievement Award. She was on Marian's dance team and a member of the Marian College Science & Math Association. She spent last summer doing

pharmaceutical research. And by the way, she's been on the dean's list every semester she's been in college, with a current grade-point average of 3.89.

Much of that would not have been possible, however, had she not received the WTG. Before she received her first WTG in her junior year, she was working at five jobs off campus while taking a full load of 18 credits. The WTG allowed her to cut back to two jobs her junior year.

Then, in the summer before

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**IAN THOMSON** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

of personalities and teaching styles that professors bring to class.”

Ian has appreciated his opportunities at Beloit, and also the assistance which made it possible for him to attend the college. He recalls that – prior to coming to Beloit – he was “scrambling” to find ways to finance his education.

“My parents couldn’t afford to pay for Beloit,” he says. “So I’m paying for my education with loans, grants, scholarships, and my own money. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant that I received helps a great deal. I feel very, very fortunate to be here.”

These days, Ian is planning for his future after Beloit. “My family has a long tradition of entrepreneurship,” he says. With that in mind, he has taken business classes and is now laying

the legal groundwork for establishing his own company and marketing a product that he co-developed.

“I like to work on my own terms, and on my own time,” he explains. “Ultimately, I want to do something that allows me to work with people. I’ve worked in retail, and I believe that having a satisfied customer is more important than just making the sale.”

Ian also believes that Wisconsin Tuition Grants help people in concrete ways.

“I want to encourage others who are interested in college, to let them know that there are people and organizations that will help them get funding for their studies,” he says. With the benefit of a fine education, and his own boundless energy, this young entrepreneur is ready to make our state proud.

**FACT OF THE MONTH**

**As the economy recovers, college grads fare best. Nationwide, employment among people with college degrees rose 2.4% between December 2001 and March 2002, while less educated workers saw decreases or little improvement.**

– *The Wall Street Journal*

**TIFFANY STINGLE** *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

her senior year, Tiffany’s mother required brain surgery to repair several aneurysms. That put her out of work for three months, which meant that her family was not able to contribute financially to Tiffany’s education. Tiffany originally wasn’t going to get the WTG her senior year, but Marian’s financial aid office managed to get the WTG renewed.

“There were times when I thought I might possibly have to leave. I would have had to work a full-time job off campus to make it,” she says. “It was debatable if I was going to be able to go to school this year.”

Besides the WTG and her two sorority scholarships, Tiffany has received Marian’s Presidential Scholarship, Marian’s Math and Natural Science Division Merit Scholarship, and the Faculty/Staff Scholarship. She also was one of 19 recipients statewide of the Rath Distinguished Scholarship.

Tiffany chose Marian because its size was comparable to the size of her high school. “And I really like the Fond du Lac area; I had a friend who lived here, and I came by many times to visit. Both my parents and I liked the small size and the one-to-one relationship between faculty and

students. If you need anything, they’re always there.”

Tiffany particularly appreciates the help of her advisor, Sheryl Ayala, a member of Marian’s math and natural sciences faculty who now is Marian’s vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty. Tiffany says Dean Ayala has “always been there any time I wanted to talk. She’s been a sincere friend.”

After graduating in May, Tiffany plans to get a doctorate in physical therapy. Staying in school – thanks to the WTG – made all the difference.

**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*



*From here, you can go anywhere.*