

WTG *Achievers*

Vol. 5, No. 4

November 2004

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.

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@waicuweb.org. For more information, or for back issues of **WTG Achievers**, visit our Web site: www.waicuweb.org

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Work and pleasure mix for Ripon College senior



Craig Sauer of Columbus, a senior at Ripon College

Craig Sauer, a Ripon College senior from Columbus, Wisconsin, combines his passion for mass media with his academic life. Because working with video production, writing

for a newspaper, and taking photographs are all “things I would be doing anyway,” Sauer decided to self-design a major that would allow him to study all types of mass communication.

Also a history major, Sauer is the general manager of RCTV, the college’s student-run video organization, and an editor for College Days, the Ripon student newspaper.

He credits “all the personal relationships” he has had with Ripon College faculty for his leadership abilities. “Coming in I didn’t think of myself as a

leader, and now I’m the leader of two organizations,” he says. “I’ve gotten that from being here around faculty mentors.”

Professor of Leadership Studies Jack Christ works with Sauer in video production and describes him as “a valuable addition to the RCTV staff.” Sauer has initiated a new program series that showcases student opinions. “I have enjoyed working with Craig and can attest to his effective leadership,” says Christ.

For more experience in the field of journalism,

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For Edgewood College student, WTG opens up service opportunities in Mexico and study of law



Leah Meyer of Burlington, a senior at Edgewood College

“I’ve always set high goals for myself,” reveals Edgewood College senior Leah Meyer. “Going to law school has been something I’ve wanted to do

for a long time.”

So during her senior year at Catholic Central High School in Burlington, Wisconsin, she carefully set about researching her options. Although she liked Madison, she felt intimidated by the hugeness of the university there. That’s when Big Brother stepped in.

“My older brother suggested looking at Edgewood,” Leah recalls. “I actually didn’t think I would go to Edgewood after my first visit. I thought it was a little too small for me.” But after researching and

touring other schools, Leah revised her opinion. And when she became a WTG recipient, that tipped the balance.

“I didn’t really make up my mind until April of my senior year. I just felt Edgewood offered more of what I was looking for. There were smaller classes, and there was a more personal atmosphere. Overall, Edgewood just seemed like the best fit for me.”

Leah has been correct about fit. She has blossomed at

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CRAIG SAUER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Sauer spent a semester in Washington, D.C., interning at the Washington bureau of Chicago Tribune Broadcasting where he assisted in the production of news clips to be aired across the country. While there he also visited the White House, the Capitol, and the Pentagon. "I got to sit in on a news briefing and see journalism legends," he says.

Even after those experiences, Sauer still enjoys being in Ripon. "I like the fact that I can walk through the woods to class everyday," he says. "It's a laid-back place, and I really appreciate it and the opportunities that I've had to do so many different things."

Sauer understands the importance of financial aid in providing those opportunities. "I wouldn't be able to go to Ripon without financial aid," says this Wisconsin Tuition Grant recipient. Even though Sauer has student loans, the aid he received will make it possible

for him to pay off his loans almost immediately after college.

Success in his film interests could alleviate those loans sooner. Outside of class, Sauer has written, directed, and produced two movies. In 2003, he released his first film, "Broke," a comedy which follows a group of high school friends on a trip to Miami, Florida. Sauer's second film, "Radio Road," is set for release in 2005. The story centers on four unique characters who are thrown together when they seek shelter from a storm threatening a small Wisconsin town. Sauer produces his films through Digital Starlight Productions, which he formed with friends in 2001.

Sauer is unsure of his plans after college. Like many students, he wants "to have six different careers" in the future. Sauer is interested in writing for a newspaper, being an AmeriCorps member, and producing movies.

FACT OF THE MONTH

"I think increasingly colleges see parents as a respected constituency. That is a trend that began probably a decade ago and is now gaining in momentum. Private colleges have tended to be the leaders in this regard since they have a smaller community of families to work with."

Jim Boyle, president of College Parents of America, an advocacy group, quoted in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, September 30, 2004

LEAH MEYER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Edgewood College, taking part in the Honors Program, which offers very small classes with a more in-depth and hands-on approach to learning. Her double major — Spanish and English — has laid a solid groundwork for her future work as (she hopes) a district attorney and possibly a judge.

She is gaining a strong academic background, but her eyes are also being opened to a wider world. For instance, during her sophomore year, Leah traveled to Mexico as part of Edgewood College's Mexico Partnership Program.

"The year I went, we raised money to help with the completion of a school in a very poor village. We traveled to the village and stayed for five days working on the school and in other situations. Overall, it was just an incredible experience."

Such great experiences and preparation for a future career (and for life) would not have been possible without the assistance of a Wisconsin Tuition Grant. Leah is very grateful that, with the financial burden lifted by the WTG, she has been able to take advantage of all that

Edgewood has to offer.

"I think that Edgewood offers something unique," Leah declares. "It's a small school situated a mile or two away from a Big Ten university. It kind of gives you the best of both worlds. Madison is a great city, and I have been exposed to many cultural and intellectual pursuits."

The small college Leah ended up choosing has served Leah well the last four years. She's extremely happy she listened to Big Brother's advice.

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*

