

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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Beloit meets WTG recipient's range of interests



Steve Krippner of Hilbert, a senior at Beloit College

A love of computers and a fortuitous meeting with an alumnus brought Steve Krippner from Hilbert, Wisconsin, to Beloit College. When he was about 13 years old, Steve purchased his first computer in a store

owned by Daniel Klos, who graduated from Beloit in 1979. Krippner and Klos struck up a friendship, and soon Krippner was working part-time in the computer store. Time spent there served a dual purpose, as Klos became a trusted advisor during his employee's search for a good college.

"Daniel suggested I look into Beloit," Steve recalls. "He urged me to consider a liberal arts education, because I would get a significantly better education." Steve took his friend's advice and investigated a number of private colleges. However, a visit to the Beloit College

campus sealed the deal. "I came on a regular class day, when groups of students happened to be sitting in Pearsons Hall watching the [2000] presidential debates. I sat around and talked with some of them and realized, 'this is it!'"

Steve arrived in the fall of 2001 and immediately made himself at home. He was hired by the college's Information Services and Resources division, where he works today. There, he helps maintain and update software, assists with computer repairs,

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Lawrence artist creates with an eye on social issues, a heart for her daughter, thanks to WTG



Cora Shroeder of Appleton, a junior at Lawrence University

No one needs to remind Cora Shroeder what a precious commodity free time is. As a single mother of a three-year-old daughter, Cora somehow

manages to squeeze parenting duties, full-time student responsibilities, and three part-time jobs into her weekly schedule.

"I function the best when I have a full plate," says Cora, 22, a studio art major. "I have goals and the only way to reach them is to juggle all these things. I see a full schedule as a challenge, not something to dread. I love giving back to the community through a positive attitude, the projects I'm involved with, and my artwork.

"I really do appreciate all the financial aid I've received because it has enabled me

to pursue my education at an excellent school like Lawrence," Cora adds. "The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is an important part of that financial assistance that is helping me realize some of my goals. Without that help, I'd have to look for other resources that may not be there, which makes me all the more grateful for the WTG."

Cora uses her talents these days for what she describes as "social art" to raise awareness about war. Inspired by her brother's military service in Iraq and the correspondence he

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STEVE KRIPPNER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

works with the main servers, and lends a hand against system breakdowns.

“I am so grateful for this kind of experience at such a fine school,” he says. “I am able to work closely with ISR staff or to work on servers. Here, I am able to work on par with a regular job — 10 hours a week during the school year and eight hours a day during the summer.”

Much as he loves his job, Steve also enjoys being a student. Having declared a major in computer science and a minor in physics, he devotes a lot of time to those subjects. He also makes a point of trying new things.

“I took a class in the theatre department and worked on the technical crew for a few productions,” he relates. “I also took creative writing, psychology, and sociology courses, a Russian film class, and two Japanese language

classes (which were as demanding as they were fun). I am looking forward to studying Italian Renaissance history next semester.”

When he’s not working or studying, Steve likes to hang out with friends in the Beloit Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. “I help when they host parties and dances.”

A change in his family’s financial situation caused Steve to reevaluate whether he could afford to complete his education at Beloit. “I knew I would have to take out lots of loans,” he explains. Funding from a Wisconsin Tuition Grant provided an incentive. “The out-of-pocket costs were about the same as going to a state university or technical school,” he says. “After factoring in the WTG grant with the loans, I realized that for about the same money, I would get a better education at Beloit. That made it much easier to stay.”

FACT OF THE MONTH

For the last couple of decades, the forces of economic change have favored workers with education and skills ... (T)he jobless rate among workers with a four-year college degree remains only 3 percent, well below 5.5 percent for high school graduates and 8.5 percent for high school dropouts.

*"The Future of Jobs"
The Wall Street Journal
April 2, 2004*

CORA SHRODER *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

shared with her while stationed there, she has created a body of work — fifteen paintings and five prints of layered images with a war theme. Among the collection is a six-part series of paintings that begins with a young boy playing with a tank and evolves to an adult soldier who becomes a war casualty.

“I look at war as a social disease,” Cora says. “Wars are a result of poverty, lack of education, lack of resources, not completely the fault of political decisions. I don’t think it is futile to think about a war-free world. Maybe I’m very optimistic and naive, but someone has to aspire to that possibility.”

In addition to her social art, Cora has put her artistic bent to good use on other projects, creating original artwork for the cover of the latest CD by the Lawrence Wind Ensemble. Last summer, as an intern at a local art center, she helped design a brochure that promotes the Adopt-a-Classroom project, a collaborative effort between two Appleton organizations to bring art and music into third and fourth-grade classrooms.

Cora’s busy schedule includes working six hours a week at Lawrence’s Wriston Art Center galleries, framing artwork at a local store on weekends, and serving as a gallery assistant several times a month

at the Appleton Art Center. She is also active in U LEAD, a student organization that promotes leadership, is on the board of an organization that promotes art on campus, and is leading efforts with two area Kiwanis groups to establish a Circle K service organization on campus.

“I’m motivated by my daughter. I want to be able to give her everything I can,” says Cora, who hopes to pursue a master’s of fine arts degree after Lawrence. “Funding my education isn’t just helping me, it’s helping my daughter. The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is not only an investment in my future, it’s really an investment in my daughter’s future as well.”

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*



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