

WTG Achievers

Vol. 8, No. 3

October 2007

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 57,000 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.

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@waicu.org. For more information or for back issues of WTG Achievers, visit our website: www.waicu.org

Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Mari McCarty, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Paul Nelson
Senior VP for Public Policy

Lakeland WTG recipient poised to help others



Kelly Hopfinger of Hustisford, a senior at Lakeland College

All Kelly Hopfinger wants to do is make a difference, and at Lakeland College she's found the career path that's going to make it all possible.

The Hustisford, Wisconsin native came to Lakeland to play soccer and study to become a teacher, but she quickly discovered Lakeland's nonprofit management program, which opened the door to all sorts of new ways that she could help people.

Now her younger sister, Jessica, is also attending Lakeland, and the financial aid package they receive from the college, which includes the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, is critical in keeping the cost of college affordable.

Lakeland is the only college

or university is Wisconsin where nonprofit management students can earn certification from American Humanics, a national alliance of colleges, universities, and nonprofits focused on educating, preparing, and certifying professionals to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations.

Kelly, a senior, was introduced to Lakeland's program her freshman year by her first advisor, who was also the nonprofit program's lead professor.

"At first I thought I wanted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

With the aid of the WTG, Viterbo undergrad begins her quest to become a surgeon



Brittany Mueller of Briggsville, a second-year student at Viterbo University

Viterbo University student Brittany Mueller has big dreams. The 18-year-old from Briggsville, Wisconsin plans to be a cardiothoracic surgeon.

"I've wanted to be a doctor since my grandpa died seven years ago," she said. "We were really close. I want to be able to help people, because life is precious."

Brittany, a second-year student, is majoring in biochemistry and pre-med. She chose to attend Viterbo because of its close-knit community, she said.

"I wanted to feel more like a person, and less like a number," she said. "My high school was small, so I was more comfortable attending a similar-sized university. And the people at Viterbo are

very friendly and sociable. There is a good atmosphere on campus."

Brittany is very happy with her choice to attend Viterbo, and her ambition to get an early start on her college career was quickly noticed by some of Viterbo's top professors.

"Brittany entered Viterbo in spring semester 2007 after graduating from high school a semester early," said Dr. Glenna Temple, a biology professor at Viterbo. "She chose to challenge herself immediately, both in the classroom and in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KELLY HOPFINGER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to teach, but I decided if I did this I could still help people, just in different ways,” said Kelly, who is also working on a degree in sociology to go with her nonprofit management degree. “I want to be in a job where I can help sick people or the unfortunate.

“There are internships required in this program and you can actually see if it’s for you. In many of the classes you’re doing things with the community and getting involved with real organizations.”

Clearly, Kelly has found the right fit. Her first internship was at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, where she helped research and set up guidelines for a youth council. She put together a fundraising plan for St. Jude in her fundraising class, and has started work this semester on a new Lakeland student organization that will have a relationship with

the American Cancer Society.

Those opportunities have not only given her a wealth of experience for her résumé, but have also offered her a chance to work with a number of people in the industry.

She’s been a leader at Lakeland in several areas, from the soccer field where she is a team captain and an important part of the team’s defense, to the American Humanics student organization, where she has held leadership positions.

After graduation, she envisions herself working for an established nonprofit organization, like the American Cancer Society. “To be successful in a nonprofit you have to be passionate about what you’re working for,” she said. With the help of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Kelly is now poised to help others.

FACT OF THE MONTH

The average annual 2005 earnings of workers 18 and older with a bachelor's degree were \$54,689, compared to \$29,448 for those with a high school diploma only and \$19,915 for those without a high school diploma.

U.S. Census Bureau, "Back to School: 2007-2008"

BRITTANY MUELLER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her involvement on campus. Brittany is enthusiastic, ambitious, and very active on campus and in the community. I am confident she will make great contributions to the health field in years to come.”

In addition to the campus’ size and community, the state-of-the-art science facilities in the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center also attracted Brittany to the university. As a student on campus, she came to appreciate the science faculty, who are there to challenge you and help students, she said.

“The science faculty at Viterbo are outstanding teachers who care about the success of each student,” Professor Temple said. “In addition, the faculty are active in research, community organizations, and professional societies. The Viterbo science program offers low student-faculty ratio, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, in-depth research projects with faculty mentors, and a variety of majors, minors, and pre-health preparatory programs.”

Brittany is very appreciative of the Wisconsin Tuition Grant she received. It

makes her education and dreams possible, she said.

“Between undergraduate and medical school, it’s going to cost a lot of money,” she said. “A Wisconsin Tuition Grant really helps me, and it really helps my family.”

After she graduates from Viterbo, Brittany will attend medical school. “Medical professionals once saved my sister’s life,” she said. “There are a lot of personal reasons behind what I’d like to do with my life.”

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*

