

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

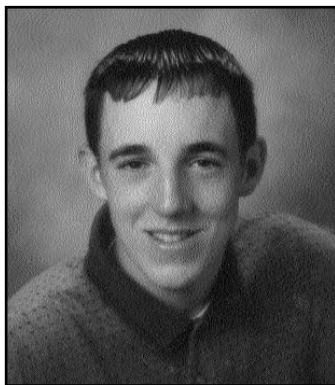
The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating over 50,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. There are only enough funds allocated to WTG to cover about half of the needy students who apply every year. Each month WTG Achievers brings you success stories of two Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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Carroll Double Major Maps His Future



Ben Fiebelkorn of Waukesha, a sophomore at Carroll College

It's not hard for Ben Fiebelkorn to talk up Carroll College. As a tour guide for the admission department, Ben

shares his knowledge of and his enthusiasm for the college with prospective students.

"Carroll is a great school. The teachers are caring and available for whatever kind of help or advice I need," Ben said. "I really appreciate the liberal arts education I am receiving."

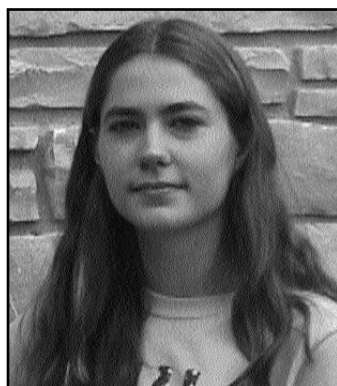
Ben, a sophomore with majors in computer science and geography, said the financial aid package Carroll put together for him was one of the reasons he chose the college. "Carroll offers a great aid package," he said. "It helped make the decision easier."

Ben's family situation made financial aid a crucial factor in his decision. His sister, Sarah, also is a sophomore at Carroll, majoring in English, and his brother, Adam, is a sophomore at Marquette University. The triplets wanted to attend private colleges, making financial aid a necessity. "There was a huge need for all of us to get financial aid," Ben said. "We filled out applications, wrote essays, and really worked hard to get as much aid as possible."

Ben's financial aid package included the Carroll College Presidential Scholarship, a Wisconsin Tuition Grant,

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WTG Paves the Road to Success for Marian Art Therapy Student



Jessica Saxton of Lomira, a junior at Marian College of Fond du Lac

During her senior year of high school, like many of her friends, Jessica Saxton

decided to attend a large public university. But when she enrolled, she was treated like a number. Although she was a good student, she felt she was not learning as much as she should. "Things were very overwhelming," Jessica said. "They didn't provide a lot of motivation to do well. People were more focused on doing other things, and academics became secondary to social life."

Jessica soon decided she must make a change. She began to look at Marian College of Fond du Lac. Originally from the neighboring city of Lomira, Wisconsin, Jessica

was familiar with Marian, but she didn't know if it would be affordable. Jessica's family was not able to offer financial support, and she had an older sister attending college elsewhere.

"All I had was the money I had saved over the summer," Jessica said. "I just didn't know if I would be able to do it."

Jessica's future changed after receiving her aid award letter from the financial aid office. She had not only received assistance from Marian College; she had received a Wisconsin Tuition Grant.

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BEN FIEBELKORN *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

campus employment and the Tradition Award, which is awarded to families with multiple members attending Carroll. All the components of the package are renewable, which was important to Ben.

The size and location of Carroll also was a contributing factor to his final decision. A Waukesha native, Ben looked at a lot of small schools in the area before choosing Carroll. The community atmosphere with a large city close by was appealing to him.

The Carroll geography department was also a key factor in his decision. Ben's goal is to work for the U.S. Geographical Society. "I'm learning so much more than geography and computers," he said. "By taking a variety of courses, it makes me well-rounded and better able to succeed in the work force."

Ben plans to pursue a master's degree in geography, which, coupled with his sound liberal arts education at Carroll, will give him a

good foundation for success. Carroll's New Cultural Experiences Program, which for Ben means a trip to Kenya, widens his perspective of the world.

"The low student-teacher ratio here makes it easy to get to know your professors," Ben said. "For one of my summer classes, I even got to visit a professor's home."

The same is true for campus activities. The small Carroll tennis program ensures him a spot on the team and an opportunity to play. Also, Ben regularly attends seminars hosted by the geography department. "It's so much easier to ask questions and learn when there are only 30 people in the seminar," he said. "It really enhances what you get out of it."

Ben's gratitude for the chance to study at Carroll extends to all those whose efforts made his financial aid package possible. Without it, his opportunity of a lifetime would have been lost.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Students at Wisconsin's private colleges and universities have a greater chance of graduating in four years, rather than five, six, or more.
"At any level of academic selectivity, graduation rates are higher in private institutions than they are in public colleges and universities."
--ACT Report, 1998

JESSICA SAXTON *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Now in her junior year at Marian, Jessica is glad she made the change. "I love it here. I am excited to venture further into my art therapy major and eventually join the work force," she said. "With a Marian education, I will be better prepared for the future. I personally know my advisor and professors, and they offer support when I need it. People here actually care about me."

Jessica has done some volunteer work in her field and is sure what she wants to do after graduation.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant is not just

helping a young Wisconsin resident attend college; it is also laying the groundwork for a brighter future for the children of Wisconsin. "I'd like to help kids express things through art," said Jessica. "Kids in traumatic experiences need a way to express themselves. I would like to help them do that."

Without the Wisconsin Tuition Grant, Jessica doesn't know where she would be. "Receiving the grant and the financial help from Marian was very encouraging to me," stated Jessica. "I felt that someone cared if I was going to succeed, and that in turn made me want to succeed.

Without the money I might have had to drop out completely, and once you are out it can be very difficult to come back," she said, adding, "I know someone who dropped out of college, and she is now in a job where she cannot advance from her current position because she has no degree. She is stuck and is finding it really hard to start over again. I'm thankful for my opportunities, and am looking forward to one day making a difference in the lives of children."

When that day comes, the Wisconsin Tuition Grant and Marian College will be able to say they, too, made a 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*

Mount Senario College *Ladysmith*
 Northland College *Ashland*
 Ripon College *Ripon*
 St. Norbert College *De Pere*
 Silver Lake College *Manitowoc*
 Viterbo University *La Crosse*
 Wisconsin Lutheran College *Milwaukee*

