

WTG *Achievers*

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About WTG

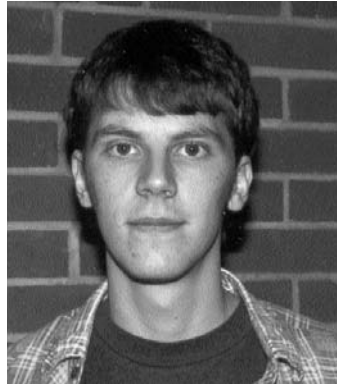
The 21 private, or independent, colleges and universities of Wisconsin operate without taxpayer support, but provide an invaluable public service to Wisconsin, educating more than 52,000 students a year. Many of Wisconsin's best and brightest need help to attend the college of their choice.

The State of Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Tuition Grant (WTG) in 1965. Its goal is to help financially needy Wisconsin citizens to succeed. 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 Wisconsinites for whom WTG has made a difference.

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Northland Student Finds Peace of Mind



Craig Maier of Portage, a junior at Northland College

Northland College junior Craig Maier is taking full advantage of his liberal arts education. He has combined his geoscience major with a

variety of writing courses in order to enhance his communication abilities along with his scientific studies.

The Wisconsin Tuition Grant enabled Craig to attend this small environmental liberal arts college, where students' interests, like Craig's, can be accommodated across disciplines. Craig credits the Wisconsin Tuition Grant with decreasing the amount of his student loans and giving him some "peace of mind" about the debts he will have to begin repaying after graduation.

Craig found the quiet location of Ashland, Wisconsin

appealing compared to his hometown of Portage in the more populated southern part of the state. He might have attended a school in a larger city, but that would have meant missing out on the cross-country skiing, running, and snowshoeing that has been important to him as part of his north woods college experience.

Northland College has provided Craig with a well-rounded experience, not only in his academic work, but also in his many extracurricular activities. In addition to his coursework, Craig is a student

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St. Norbert Sophomore Pursues Her Goals



Alissa Bohmann of Milwaukee and New Berlin, a sophomore at St. Norbert College

Alissa Bohmann plans a career in communications. She decided the best way to achieve her goal is with an education from a small, private liberal arts college.

That is why she chose St. Norbert College.

"I knew I wanted to attend a small school, and St. Norbert was recommended to me by a relative who had visited the campus with her two daughters a year ago. I also wanted a school with a good academic program and an excellent reputation," Alissa said.

She had looked at one other school, a public university, but elected to attend St. Norbert. "All during high school, I knew I wanted to go on for a quality college education," Alissa said. She was home-schooled for one year

following an automobile accident, and said that furthered her desire to continue her education in a small, private school.

Her parents are David and Cindy Bohmann of Milwaukee. She lived with her grandmother, Geraldine Burkee, in New Berlin while attending her senior year at Eisenhower High School. Because her family relocated several times, Alissa attended three high schools. She said there were no family resources available to help with her college education. "My parents weren't able to give me any financial help," Alissa

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CRAIG MAIER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

representative to the Academic Council, which reviews policy and curriculum changes. He is also the resident geology expert for the Friendly Recreational Outdoor Guides, a campus group operated by the college's recreational services that leads students on extracurricular field trips. Craig is currently working as a writing tutor for the academic support center and recently won a *Backpacker* magazine environmental writing scholarship. As a freshman, Craig was the editor of *Drifts*, the student newspaper.

Craig visited Northland College as a senior in high school and was impressed by the accessibility of the faculty. Even as a prospective student, he was able to meet one-to-one with a biology professor to discuss the college and its academic programs. Craig has found his first impressions to be true – Northland's faculty members are very open and

available to their students. Professor of geoscience Tom Fitz has been particularly helpful. Initially, Craig had thought about focusing on biology, but Professor Fitz's enthusiasm for geoscience lured Craig to follow his lead.

For his senior capstone course, Craig looks forward to accompanying Professor Fitz on a geology field course. The class will travel to Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, studying the geology of the American West.

These opportunities for exploration and experimentation, combined with a rigorous academic program, are just what Craig was looking for. Northland has offered him a variety of opportunities, both in and out of the classroom. He says he's "grateful for the Wisconsin Tuition Grant that has made this quality of education possible for me."

FACT OF THE MONTH

Financial aid keeps "net tuition" low at Wisconsin's private colleges and universities. In 1999-2000, the average "sticker price" for tuition and fees was \$14,272, but the average financial aid package was \$11,260, leaving out-of-pocket tuition costs of just \$3,012.

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said, "so I knew I'd need to receive scholarships in order to afford it."

Alissa has four brothers and sisters, and intends to be the first of the group to graduate from college. "I've always enjoyed school. Getting good grades is important to me," she said.

An honor student in high school, Alissa was inducted into the National Honor Society and was involved in a number of community activities. Last year at St. Norbert she volunteered with several campus groups, along with a work-study job. She worked two jobs this past

summer, and currently holds a work-study food-service job in the campus center.

With her strong grade-point average and financial need, Alissa was the recipient of five scholarship grants in her freshman year. Among them was a \$2,300 Wisconsin Tuition Grant. Due to her good grades, the WTG has been extended for another year. Jeffrey Zahn, director of financial aid, noted that because Alissa is a first-generation member of her family attending college, financial help such as the Wisconsin Tuition Grant "provides the opportunity for a student to get a quality education at a cost they can afford."

After only a short time at St. Norbert College, Alissa said her expectations are being met – and surpassed. "The teachers have been really helpful and I'm learning a lot," she said. Interpersonal Communications was among her classes her first year, and she found the interaction with her instructor to be challenging yet positive as she works to develop her communication skills. The class is one of the requirements in her major.

"I'm really thankful for my opportunity at St. Norbert," said Alissa, "and for the financial help that made it a reality."

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*

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