

# The Connection

Educational Talent Search is located at the  
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Spring 2006 Edition



**Despite the high price of gas, this edition is devoted to traveling, trips that ETS students took this school year.**

**The ETS staff wishes all students and families a safe summer and our recommendation to you is:**

Save a Barrel



RIDE A BICYCLE!

Educational Talent Search  
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STOUT  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

## ***Journey To Higher Education***

This insight into getting into college was volunteered by Jennifer Gouge, an ETS student from Hayward High School. Jennifer discusses her high goal of getting into a faraway college that has high admission standards. We applaud her on her effort, congratulate her on being accepted at Dartmouth, and wish her well as she continues on that journey. Her story follows.

To say that the beginning of my senior year gave me a bit of a shock would be an understatement. It seemed as though most students had already secured an education at their school of choice, and I hadn't even taken my SAT I yet. I had no idea how to narrow down the huge list of schools that I might be interested in, and I didn't even know what a FAFSA was. Needless to say, I felt the urge to panic.

I soon came to find out that most seniors felt the same way. As I began to take SATs and started to apply to college after college, I realized that the hardest part of the whole "ordeal" would be the part that I couldn't just follow application guidelines with. I had a big decision to make: "Which college will I actually attend?" I had no way to really experience my colleges before I enrolled, and since I focused on colleges far away from home, I had no way to visit them beforehand.

Of course, all of the colleges had websites with pictures, and ways to talk to experienced college students about life on campus. Some even had chat rooms and webcams to view the campus in action. All of the colleges I applied to offered great educations and (according to them) "the most enlightening experience a college can offer." They all had my one "must," a good study abroad program. Not much of this helped me to make any final decisions, but over time I came to narrow down my list of schools until it included Harvard, Dartmouth, Yale, and Tulane.

Harvard and Yale were out of the picture on April 1, when I found that I would not be able to attend. I guess without money to back me up, I didn't stand out enough on paper to qualify for such prestigious schools. This left me with Tulane University and Dartmouth College to choose from. I now had to weigh the pros and cons of each school, such as the warm climate of New Orleans that Tulane offered and the bitter winters of Dartmouth's location on the east coast. After Hurricane Katrina, I had doubts about Tulane, but I soon found out that this provided more of a volunteer opportunity than anything else. I was attracted to both the historic architecture of the east coast and the mysterious background of certain aspects of New Orleans. It eventually came down to the "boring" details such as financial aid and the programs offered by each school.

I ended up choosing Dartmouth when I learned of the outstanding financial aid package that they were willing to offer me in order to attend their school. I also knew that I would find more people that have a common background with me at Dartmouth, what with their ethnicity counselors and special housing arrangements offered. I only hope that I have made the right choice, but I know that no matter what the future brings my way I will not regret my college experience.

## ***Soar like an Eagle***

That title is what we wish for all students! But in the case of students wanting to attend UW-LaCrosse it is something they must strive for in order to be an Eagle (UW-LaX's nickname). In the past few years UW-LaCrosse has been bombarded with such a large number of applications from some very high quality students that their admissions standards are very demanding. Twenty-eight ETS students from Menomonie High School learned about this on a Campus Tour on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the things students learned besides the admission's standards are that UW-LaCrosse has some very good programs of study especially in the area of recreation careers. Those include physical education teachers, recreation management, and then the Masters Level health care fields of Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, and Occupational Therapist. We also learned that UW-LaX Accounting graduates have a very good success rate in passing their Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exams on their first attempt.

Many students were impressed by the beauty of the campus including a lot of "green space", that is many large lawns rather than having the buildings jammed next to one another. We had our bus driver drive the narrow and winding road up to the bluff which over looks the campus, the city, and down the mighty Mississippi! Cameras were clicking so good views were enjoyed by all.

In summary, UW-LaCrosse and its high academic standards is a great place. But students should not be discouraged by their high school academic record. We encourage every college bound student to take every course and grade seriously but don't give up on your dream if your GPA is less than stellar and you can't get immediately accepted to your dream college. In the case of UW-LaCrosse they accept transfers who have proven themselves for at least a year at another college. So spread those wings (and minds) and soar into the clouds of academic success!



## ETS – On Our Way to the University of Green Bay

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 we bravely set out with 108 sophomores from Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School to the University of Green-Bay. The goal was to tour a campus to learn more about the programs, majors and student life of college. I challenged the students to think outside the box and begin planning for education possibilities beyond high school.

The trip was a huge success. Students selected from four different tours (Science/Math/Health, Fine Arts, Humanities/

Law, and Business) to get a more direct peek at their areas of interest. We were fortunate to have Wittenberg graduates currently attending Green-Bay University be a



part of the tour and question/answer period about college life from a student's perspective. During lunch, Admissions Coordinator, Ron Morris, conducted a humorous and entertaining information period on expectations for getting into college and further details about the great Green-Bay University.

Many thanks go to the coordinating efforts of the wonderful chaperones, the excellent staff from UW-Green-Bay, the faculty at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School for their support and most of all to the sophomore students of WBHS for

their superior attitude and enthusiasm to gain a better view of what the future could bring.



## Students Travel the World without a Passport

Delicious aromas of jambalaya, locoumedes (Greek honey puffs), borshch (Ukrainian vegetable soup), oliebollen (Dutch fried donut holes), baklava, fry bread, egg rolls, and more greeted the Menomonie seventh graders as they entered St. Paul's River Centre. The students came to attend this year's 74th Festival of Nations. Authentic ethnic cafes on the lower level featured over 300 food items making many a mouth water. Decisions on a selection were not hastily made. Unique cultural delicacies were explained by the café workers who were dressed in authentic ethnic attire. Many trips were made to this area to try "just one more thing" and maybe bring some home.

"Ethnic Markets" was the 2006 theme for the cultural exhibits this year. Over 97 different ethnic groups from around the world willingly shared their rich history and traditions with students. As students traveled through cultural exhibits and attended demonstrations by skilled artisans they were able to learn and better understand a culture or a tradition. This field trip helped to build understanding and friendship of multiethnic groups while celebrating the richness of diverse cultures.

From its conception, the Festival of Nations is an event of people, created as a celebration of ethnic diversity and for preserving culture and family values. It brings Americans of all backgrounds together to share experiences and differences. Differences become less significant when barriers to understanding are removed. Students enjoyed music, folk dancing, foods, arts and crafts, and international bazaar booths which reinforces diversity within our American culture. Whether you describe America as a melting pot or a rainbow, each distinct cultural group adds its own color and flavor to our lives. The Menomonie students were able to view the many ethnic cultures in preparation for hosting their own international bazaar later this month.



## Stout Rocks by Corey Rice

There was a mixture of 30 juniors and seniors along with five chaperons that came to Stout from Wittenberg- Birnamwood High School to tour the campus. Jill Lewis, Megan Wahl, and I gave a great tour of the campus. It was a beautiful day and a fun time. We toured dorm rooms, saw different departments, had lunch at Corner III, and then went rock climbing at Stout Adventures.

The different departments we toured had great speakers that did an amazing job. I would have to say that the speakers were an ideal part of the tour because they could go more in depth about the specialization of their department. The lunch at Corner III was the best part for me. They did an awesome job with the food, and the show that the professor put on was great. At the end of the day it was sad the tour was all done, but it is something I will remember for a long time.

*\*\*Side note Corey Rice is a Wittenberg-Birnamwood 2005 graduate currently attending UW-Stout in the Industrial Design Program.*



## FALL ACT DATES

Students who plan to take the first ACT exam in the fall must register by Friday, September 22nd for the Saturday, October 28th test date. See your guidance counselor or ETS advisor about this in the first week of school. Eligible ETS students can use a fee waiver one time when they register for the test. Please see your ETS advisor about this.

The October date is generally for seniors who are taking the exam for the first time or those not satisfied with a previous result. If you are in the latter boat it would be good to do some practice over the summer and in September to prepare for the October exam.

## FALL EDUCATION FAIRS

The initial contact many students have with colleges is via an assembly of college representatives at the four Wisconsin Education Fair (WEF). This fair moves around the state for four weeks in September and October. Students can talk to representatives from four-year universities, the two-year UW Systems colleges, technical colleges, specialty trade schools, and military representatives as well. It is a valuable way to get materials and ask specific questions that the students or parents may have. You can then use the knowledge gained to narrow down the schools that you would like to personally visit, something that is critical to making an informed choice!

It is highly recommended that all juniors and seniors, who did not attend this event in the fall of 2005, mark this event on their calendar and to check with their guidance counselor about a possible junior

class field trip to the 2006 Wisconsin Education Fair in their area. Parents are encouraged to take students for the evening sessions, although I'm sure you are also welcome during the mornings.

The dates of the 2006 WEF schedule include:

<b>UW-Barron</b> <i>(no evening session)</i>	<b>Monday, Sept. 18, 9-11</b>
<b>UW-Marathon</b> <i>(evening session the night before 6:30-8:30)</i>	<b>Thursday, Sept. 21, 9-11</b>
<b>UW-Eau Claire</b> <i>(evening session the night before 6:30-8:30)</i>	<b>Wednesday, October 4, 9-11</b>

To see additional sites across the state go to:  
[www.wefs.org](http://www.wefs.org).

Our Mission:  
Educational Talent Search empowers students to make informed decisions on education by  
connecting school success with career choices.

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