



THE ISLAND SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

The Island Scholars Newsletter
a program of the Island Institute

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Don't be Boring!

Get ahead with internships

Innovative Ideas

We Want Your Recipes!

In the next issue we'd like to include an easy recipe that you can make in a dorm.

Do you have a gourmet Ramen Noodle dish?

A microwaveable taste sensation?

Do you know how to slow cook a Hot Pocket?

Let us know, and we'll be sure to put it in the next issue for all to see.

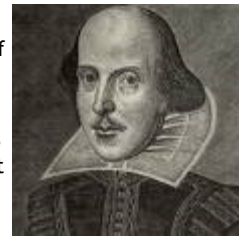
Welcome to the first edition of the Island Scholars Newsletter.

This newsletter is part of the brand new Island Scholar's Network, which provides different venues for all Maine Island Scholarship recipients and their families to talk to and support each other. We're hoping that this will be a useful tool to inform you of events, a reminder of scholarship deadlines, a few articles on how to make the most of your college experience, and how to cope with the tough times at college.

We've tried to give this newsletter a personal touch, so if you have any suggestions for articles that you might find useful, please don't hesitate to shoot an email to bodgren@islandinstitute.org. Or look up the Island Scholars Network on Facebook!

Being Bored is Boring

Get a hobby! Always wanted to get good at playing guitar? Memorizing Shakespeare? Creating dinosaur skeletons out of chicken bones? Wait no more! You have four years to get good at that thing you've always wanted to get good at. And if you're not sure about what you're interested in doing, look around campus for some of the more obscure clubs that you can join. Join the Lawn Chair Pirates improv club at UM Farmington. Or join the campus radio station at Husson University. There are tons of other odd clubs that only take a little searching to find. Look on one of the many bulletin boards posted around campus and you'll probably find signs for Karaoke clubs, Ukulele clubs, or Yoga clubs.



So look around campus, talk with your friends, and get involved!

Internships pave the way to a good job

A great way to get ahead is to enroll in an internship. Even if your classes or your program of study doesn't require it, think about finding one anyway. It shows initiative, dedication, and willingness to go the extra mile. It is a great way to meet people, make contacts, and it increases the likelihood of having a job when you get out of college. Internships also force you to back up your knowledge with real-world experience. You'll face challenges that you wouldn't have faced in the classroom. And when you conquer those challenges, don't hesitate to write them down in your resume.



There are tons of great websites out there that can be useful. If you're looking for ways to help improve the environment in Maine, go check out <http://www.environmentmaine.org>; they provide many ways to develop clean energy and clean air, stop global warming, and increase the preservation of the environment.

Check the newspaper listings, or Craigslist, to see if there are any newspapers or radio stations providing an internship. You should be able to find an internship out there somewhere, whether it be in the business, arts, or government field.

Innovative Ideas: A Spin on the Lobster Industry



Here is a great example of how getting a college degree can be beneficial to you, your island, and keeping your islands sustainable. In the 2008 *Island Journal*, an article focused on Brendan and John Ready: two brothers from Portland who used their creativity, imagination, and business savvy, to launch an innovative (and very successful) spin on the lobster industry.

And it all started with the internet.

Excerpts from Island Journal 2008 Volume 24

"Type 'lobsters' in your computer's search engine and you'll get over three million results. Start paging through them if you like, and in a short time a pattern becomes evident: Skip over the scientific papers, Wikipedia entries, literary references and other general information about crustaceans, and you'll find a lot of retail operations that will send you a lobster, live, overnight, just about anywhere. Thanks to the Internet, Federal Express and a few other modern developments, the lobster business has gone both digital and global.

Maine fishermen, once obliged to rely on middlemen to move their catch to distant markets, have joined this party in droves. Some operations are small and direct -- Isleford fisherman David Thomas packs his own boxes (each with a copy of the *Island Institute's* newspaper, *Working Waterfront*, folded on top) at the island co-op, puts them aboard the mailboat for Northeast Harbor and arranges for a FedEx pickup at the other end of the short trip.

In Portland, Brendan and John Ready do something similar, but on a larger scale. Their start-up business has devised an unusual model involving eight local fishermen, a website and a partnership arrangement with 400 individuals who would each lay claim to the 40 legal-size lobsters a Casco Bay trap can be expected to catch in a season, shipped anywhere, in return for an investment of \$2,995. Big number? Sure, but do the math: If giving your friends or clients free live lobsters is something you need to do, and if retail lobster prices and air freight no longer intimidate you, then this scheme may make sense. By the end of 2007 the Readys could claim over 100 partnerships sold.

Both the Ready Brothers and David Thomas are both using their businesses to tell a story. It's aimed at the consumer," says Thomas. "Not many people know a lot about

lobsters; nothing, sometimes about cold, wet feet and frozen hands. The website is for the consumer who wants a little more information..."

"We're selling experience..." says John Ready. "We can't keep pecking away at the same customers; we've got to find new ones." The Readys believe those customers are outside of Maine, many of them outside the country. And, like Thomas, they know that the Maine lobster story is a compelling one if it's told well, which is why they get a DVD with their catch if they so choose. They can watch the lobsterman haul up the lobsters that they received, watching the whole process from boat to box."

The knowledge that you receive while in college will be very valuable to you and could also be an asset to your home-island community. Using your degree, and arming yourself with an entrepreneurial attitude, you could help your community as well as be your own boss. What kind of schemes and ideas can you turn into loot?

Read the whole article at the Island Institute website at:

<http://www.islandinstitute.org/publications/2008-Island-Journal/12488/>

Scholarship Deadlines

There are several scholarship deadlines approaching -- be sure that you and your parents have the paperwork completed before the due date of the scholarship.

The James and Marilyn Rockefeller Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for residents under the age of 35 with a passion to learn at the post-secondary level. Applications are available at <http://www.mainecef.org>, and are due by December 1, 2008.

The Maine Island Scholarship application is due by April 1, 2009. Check the Island Institute website for the updated application.

The Charles B. and Carol Evarts McLane Fund for Maine Island Education is a scholarship available to all island residents interested in furthering their education. McLane Scholarships are available for many different part-time professional development opportunities, not just college tuition, such as: funds to go to professional conferences, fees for online classes, fees for courses towards a captains license, etc. Maybe you or someone you know on-island can benefit from this fund. Applications can be sent to us at any time, as they are accepted on a rolling basis. You can find more information and the application on the Island Institute website, <http://www.islandinstitute.org/IslandScholarships.php#McLane>.

How Can We Help?

If you are feeling it, seeing it, hearing it, or needing it while you are away at college, others are probably having the same experience. Let us know how things are going, and tell us if there are items we can share in the newsletter or things we can seek out. If you have any suggestions or articles that you might find useful, please don't hesitate to send an email to bodgren@islandinstitute.org

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