



## THE ISLAND SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

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## Welcome to the first edition of the Island Scholars Parent Newsletter.

This newsletter is part of the brand new Island Scholars Network, which provides different ways for all Maine Island Scholarship recipients and their families to talk and support each other. This is the parents' edition of the newsletter; a separate letter has been sent to your college student's email. The parents' edition will focus on upcoming deadlines, and ways to make your student's time in college easier, and (hopefully) yours, too. Any feedback, ideas, or subjects you would like to see in the future can be sent to [bodgren@islandinstitute.org](mailto:bodgren@islandinstitute.org).

### Care Package 101

Now is a good time to let your college-bound sons or daughters know that you will be there to support them. Make sure that you have their contact information and that they have yours. And be sure to get their mailing address so that you are able to send the all-important Care Package.



"Care Package" may be the most favorite combination of words in a college student's vocabulary. Maybe "Free Food", as well. But since care packages usually contain food, it's like bonus points for you.

What is in a good care package?

Food! Snack items! A box of Cheez-Its. A bag of homemade cookies. And if you're going to send cookies, make sure they're well protected. Stack them in a plastic bag and slide them into a cardboard oatmeal tube. Or stack them toward the top of the box. (Helpful hint: You can keep that "fresh baked" feel of the cookies longer if you send the package via ground mail. The cookies get stale real quick when they're flying through the air.)

Toss in some powdered drinks, both hot and cold: flavored water, hot chocolate, their favorite tea.

Did they forget anything back home? A favorite shirt, hat, or book? Put it towards the bottom, and when they are done pulling out their treasure trove of goodies, they'll get a little personal touch that might brighten their day even more.

### A few other ideas of items to include:

- Energy bars
- Gift cards
- Contact-lens solution
- Mechanical pencils
- A nice pen
- A picture from home
- A new DVD
- A phone card
- Soap
- Laundry detergent
- A deck of cards
- A Frisbee
- \$20
- A new Nalgene bottle
- Poptarts (not too many...there is such a thing as too many Poptarts)

Anything you send is sure to be appreciated by them!



# Scholarship Deadlines

There are several scholarship deadlines approaching – be sure you and your student 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. These scholarships are available for expenses beyond full-time tuition, such as funds for professional conferences, fees for online classes, fees for courses towards a captain's license, etc. Many part-time professional development opportunities meet the requirements for a McLane Scholarship. Maybe you or someone you know on-island can benefit from this fund. Applications can be sent to us at the Island Institute at any time, as they are accepted on a rolling basis. You can find more information and the application form on the Island Institute website at <http://www.islandinstitute.org/IslandScholarships.php#McLane>

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## Would you like to support the Maine Island Scholarship Program?

As a year-round island resident, it only costs you \$25 to become an Island Institute member—half of the normal cost of a membership. Half of your membership fee goes toward the Maine Island Scholarship Program, which provides your college-bound children the scholarships they applied for.

Becoming a member also means that you will be sent a copy of our yearly Island Journal, filled with beautiful photographs and insightful articles about the past, present, and future of the Maine islands.

To become a member, type this web address into your internet browser:  
<https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=26583>

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## How can we help?

Sending a child off to college, for the first time or not, is not a simple thing these days. This newsletter is a good place to compare notes, share ideas, and offer support. We'd like this to be as helpful and informative a newsletter as possible — so any feedback, ideas, or subjects you would like to see in the future can be sent to [bodgren@islandinstitute.org](mailto:bodgren@islandinstitute.org). Thanks for reading!



Benjamin Odgren is the Island Scholar's Network Coordinator at the Island Institute.

He is originally from Massachusetts and lived in Pittsburgh, PA for six years before moving to Rockland. For the last three years he managed a small student center on the Pittsburgh campus.

He is working at the Island Institute through Ameri-Corp: a government-funded national community service organization. He will be creating newsletters, hosting college-awareness programs on the islands, and creating a social network between college-bound islanders.

If you see him on the island, and he looks lost, please help him.