



**THE
ISLAND
SCHOLARS
NEWSLETTER**

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Island Scholars Parent Newsletter.

This newsletter is part of the 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. Please send any feedback, ideas, or subjects you would like to see in the future to Ben Odgren at bodgren@islandinstitute.org.

Life After College



It can be a scary thing to graduate from college. The truth is that a lot of students still don't know what they want to do after they graduate. There are a few things that parents can encourage their students to do, though, to give them focus and get them prepared.

1. Encourage them to network. A big problem with students is that they don't start networking until they are finished with college and, if they do that, then they're already behind the students who started networking early. Networking can consist of interning, volunteering, contacting people in their fields of interest, etc....
2. Summer is a great time to learn about and pursue a future job without the pressure of grades and deadlines, to network (temping, interning) or to achieve a goal unrelated to academia. Summer is a great time to start something. Write a book or a play. Start a website. Become an expert at something.
3. Encourage them to write a lot and write well. Most jobs involve a certain amount of writing. They can ask for feedback from their professors and their peers, just remind them to return the feedback favor when the time comes.
4. Make sure that your students' on-line personas are clean. If your students Googled themselves what would they find? A link to their Facebook? A personal blog? And what would they find on those blogs? It is easier than ever before for a company to perform due diligence, and opinions that they post on the Internet can come back to bite them.
5. Independent Study. They can do their own independent study, whether it is during school or during the summer (which is probably the better of the two choices), by creating a course outline and setting goals for what they want to know.
6. Encourage them to pay Attention to what is out there...there are lots of organizations that can give them a great start after college, if they're willing to do the work.



This leads me to...

....SOME OPTIONS AFTER COLLEGE IS OVER

A great way to get some experience after college is over, get some experience, and get paid, is to join a volunteer organization. AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps are both excellent ways to make a difference around America and around the world. AmeriCorps provides excellent opportunities all over the United States with several different types of programs depending on one's age. All of them offer recently graduated students, as well as students looking to volunteer during the summer between semesters, the chance to travel across the United States. Depending on the program, a modest living stipend is provided.



The Peace Corps offers something along the same lines as AmeriCorps, but on a global scale. There is work in Education and Youth Outreach, as well as Business Development, Environment and Agriculture, AIDS Awareness, Information Technology, and more. They work all over, from Central America to Africa, to the Pacific Islands.



Teach for America is probably the most complicated of the three to get into, and also demands the most from. There is a rigorous application process, and if they are accepted, a multi-week training course. Once assigned a location (they are allowed to choose three), they serve for two years, with an option for a third.



If your student is still unsure what to do after college, encourage him or her to do one or two of these things. They may open up a few options that they hadn't previously considered.

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.

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 please send any feedback, ideas, or subjects you would like to see in the future to bodgren@islandinstitute.org. Thanks for reading!



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

He is working at the Island Institute through AmeriCorp: 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.