



THE ISLAND SCHOLARS NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the fifth 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.

Welcome to all the new parents who will be receiving this newsletter. This is just a small part of the Island Scholars Network. The network will be set up to give those who want to stay in touch with what is going on at the Institute. New programs. New scholarship possibilities. News about what is happening in the area with recently graduated students.



The newest feature to the newsletters and to the website will be contributions made by students, giving insights into their college experiences. This content will be developed regularly. The website will be updated often — at least once a week — and will be accessible to parents, college students, and high school students.

A BIG THANKS —

— to all the parents and guests of students who attended the island scholars' luncheon. It was the biggest turnout we've ever had—twice as many attendees as last year!. Thank you for your support and for your participation.

We had two fantastic student speakers . Danielle Rich (pictured above) took to the stage and



thanked S. Parkman Shaw for his support of the Shaw Fund and for her gratitude that, after college, most of her debts would be paid off.



Wesley Norton (pictured above right) was the keynote speaker. He spoke about the notion that island students are somehow sheltered from the real world and that they are missing out on being a part of it. He refuted these ideas, giving first-hand experience of his island home being like an extended family, and recounting how the residents of his island come from diverse backgrounds.





(a group photo of students, old and new, who attended the 2009 luncheon)

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.