Maine State Society Of Washington, DC Foundation Announces 6 Maine Scholarship Winners

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Board of Directors of the Maine State Society of Washington, DC Foundation has selected six high achieving Maine students attending four-year colleges and universities in Maine for merit-based scholarships totaling $7,500.

The Foundation received applications from students at 11 different schools across the state, led by the University of Maine. All students have a GPA exceeding 3.2 and had completed at least one full year of study at the time of their application. The scholarship committee considered a variety of factors including course load, academic excellence and other scholarship, work ethic, essay and philanthropy when making its recommendation to the rest of the Board.

Here’s a look at the winners, with details on where they are from, attend school and their fields of study:

- Marge Pearson award ($2,500): Breanna Morrill, Saint Joseph’s College, Yarmouth, Medical Biology/Pre-Medicine
- Ryan LaGross ($1,000): University of Maine, Palmyra, Zoology
- Signe Lynch ($1,000): Bates, Farmingdale, Environmental Studies
- Joshua Passarelli ($1,000): University of Maine, Scarborough, Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Jessica M. Lindsay ($1,000): Maine Maritime Academy, Mariaville, Marine Biology
- Grace Smith ($1,000): University of Maine, Brewer, Molecular & Cellular Biology and Biochemistry

Breanna Morrill is the recipient of the seventh Marjorie Pearson scholarship award, bestowed annually upon an outstanding female applicant with a strong academic record who also demonstrates superior volunteer leadership, as well as a passion for the State of Maine.

Pearson, who haled from Millinocket, Maine, was one of the founding members of the Foundation. For 20 years, her vision, along with those of her Maine State Society colleagues, helped support the future of young Mainers attending college in the state. Pearson died in November 2011.

Breanna is the campus president of the Love Your Melon Club, a nonprofit dedicated to providing support to families with children battling cancer. Last summer she interned with Partners for World
Health -- a nonprofit based in Portland that is focused on reducing medical waste, improving the quality of health care in underserved countries and global health care education.

Breanna is currently interning at Maine Medical Center Research Institute, and has volunteered for Maine Medical Center since high school. She plans to attend medical school after graduation and return to Maine for her future professional pursuits.

The Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit, has been raising funds for its annual scholarship program since 1991, via events across the Washington, DC region, and outreach campaigns. The Foundation has awarded more than $232,000 in funds since the scholar program began. Scholarship application guidelines and a list of past winners can be found at http://mainestatesociety.org/foundation.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** For headshots, bios and additional information about our award winners and the Foundation, please contact the Foundation at mssfscholarship@gmail.com.

Contact:
Jessica Strelitz Stewart
Scholarship Chair, Maine State Society Foundation of Washington, DC
mssfscholarship@gmail.com