

## **How did GSA's signature ISIP program get started?**

According to former GSA teacher and administrator John Greene, a program at Colby College in Waterville inspired the creation of the Independent Study Program by Greene, John Bader, P.J. Curtis, Colby Merchant, Holly Shaw, and Spencer Winsor, the school's guidance counselor at the time.

Winsor's daughter, Libbey Gulliver '71, said that many students in rural Maine at that time had never visited a college campus, seen a factory, or even been to Bangor, and exposing students to new experiences was an important aim of ISP.

Other goals were to allow students to explore their interests and to "see if students could make their own decisions and be responsible for their own learning," according to an April 17, 1970 Bangor Daily News article by Jim Verrill.

The four-week programs, Greene said, were mostly academic, but the article gives a better sense of the scope of the program that first full year:

"Some of the subjects studied," the article says, "were lung cancer, auto mechanics, free verse, pottery, electronics, secretarial work, newspapering, and carpentry. Some studied in school, some in local business establishments and others paid their own way to do their work elsewhere."

Thank you, Della Martin '70, for sharing the article with us.