The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation’s mission is to preserve Grace Groner’s legacy by encouraging Lake Forest College students to prepare for their careers and lives of service to their community and alma mater.
Note from the Trustees

We have completed a busy and successful year at the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation. So many Lake Forest College students, faculty, and staff have worked together with the GEGF Trustees and the Director, Daniela Resendiz, as she coordinated students with unique service internship opportunities through the 2012-2013 academic year.

First, we would like to congratulate the graduating seniors whom we have supported this year. They are Agnieszka Dadej, Kimberly Diah, Emily Hampden-Smith, Cleo Hahn, Nikita Kotecha, Anica Lin, Hanna Morrison, Carlann Pentz, Aidan Price, Jimena Resendiz, Alexis Urbanik, Jordyn Varga and Carly White. It was our pleasure to host them and their families at our third annual Senior Celebration event. Many of the parents expressed their gratitude to Daniela Resendiz and the Trustees for providing their students with opportunities for community, national, and international service while developing and enhancing their talents and skills. We are proud of their service and accomplishments and the ties they made with the Lake Forest community, and across the U.S. and the world. Many of these students are representing LFC and the GEGF by continuing to serve during the summer and a few will continue to serve throughout the following year. We have every confidence in them as they follow their career paths. Congratulations to the new class of Grace Elizabeth Groner Fellows!

Now, to the undergraduates who have been Grace Elizabeth Groner Recipients this year; we expect that you will step forward and accept opportunities for service and academic experiences that the GEGF will provide. Rising seniors are Victoria Egedus, Ashley Gora, Candice Kosanke, Danielle Leonardo, Anhar Mohamed, Lana Panitch, Camila Quinteros, Stefanie Turza, Zachary Wenner, and Barbara Wye. Rising juniors are Akua Agyei, Abigail Brownell, Luis Beltran, Ryan Drake, Mhlasi Golopand, Leticia Lazcano, Samuel Mercier, Ariana Rincon Dacal, Gabriel Trujillo, and Ariane Uwamba. Rising sophomores are Heather Heitkotter, Ryan Porter, and Maria Ruiz. We encourage you to forge new paths in your journey towards graduation and beyond.

Last of all, we want everyone to remember that these opportunities were generously provided by Grace Elizabeth Groner, graduate of Lake Forest College in the class of 1931, and resident of Lake Forest until her death at almost 101 years old.

L. Robert Pasquesi
William C. Marlatt
Trustees

Service Awards

The following awards were presented to the recipients at the Lake Forest College Honors Convocation the Friday before Commencement. The awards and their descriptions are as follow:

The Community Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering at a community organization. This year’s Community Service Award is presented by Reverend Kent Kinney to Cleo Hahn for her work to support the choir and multiple programs at the First Presbyterian Church.

The National Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering on behalf of citizens across the nation. This year’s National Service Award is presented by Kay Marlett to Jimena Resendiz for her on-site and remote work for James Madison’s Montpelier Archaeology Department.

The International Service Award is given to a student who earned distinction while volunteering to serve people around the world. This year’s International Service Award is presented by William Marlatt to Anica Lin for the development of Likusasa, which installed solar panels at a rural clinic and school in Swaziland.

School after LFC

Allie Urbanik, 2013, has always wanted to be a veterinarian and has had a great deal of experience working with cats, dogs, horses, and exotic animals. It was not until she interned at Colonial Williamsburg, however, that she was able to gain experience working with livestock. As Urbanik applied to the veterinary program at the University of Illinois, she found that of the ten specialty questions on the application, seven were concerned with livestock and animal husbandry. “If I hadn’t had that experience, that page would have looked pretty bad,” Urbanik says. Her experiences working with rare breeds and doing daily animal husbandry and medical work “set her apart from applicants from similar backgrounds.” Urbanik has set herself apart so much so that she even received a special merit scholarship from the University of Illinois. She could not have achieved any of this had it not been for a great work ethic and the opportunities provided by the GEGF.

In applying to pharmacy school, Roberta Dume, 2013, has found a similar experience as a result of her connection to Grace Groner. Dume was selected as the student that the GEGF will fund through pharmacy school, a scholarship in honor of the fact that Grace earned her fortune through Abbott Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company. Because of the GEGF, Dume has also become acquainted with Dr. Gloria Meredith, the Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Rosalind Franklin University. “The Foundation has also shown me how important networking truly is, and the excellent opportunities that can come from it,” Dume remarks. This connection and her service work through the GEGF were crucial in her decision to attend Rosalind Franklin next year, a school that will be perfectly suited to her goal of becoming a pharmacist.

-Article written by Cleo Hahn.
The Grace Elizabeth Groner Senior Celebration is held the Thursday before Commencement. GEGF Trustee, William C. Marlatt, his wife, Kay and the GEGF Director, Daniela Resendiz greeted the senior Groner Recipients and their families.

The purpose of the gathering is to honor the graduating Groner Recipients who are about to become one of Grace’s Fellows. The Groner Recipients share with other Recipients and their families the unique opportunities which were provided to them due to Grace’s generosity. They reflect on the learning experience and satisfaction of carrying on Grace’s legacy of service to others.

The Foundation Trustees and Director enjoy sharing Grace’s life story with the Groner Recipients and their families.

William Marlatt, Trustee, and lifelong friend of Grace Groner, reminisced about Grace’s hopes and wishes for the students of Lake Forest College. As the Foundation has grown to support over 55 students in the past two years, Bill took the opportunity to reflect on how each Groner Recipient has ensured that Grace Groner’s wishes are being fulfilled. It was with this introduction that Director, Daniela Resendiz, revealed a small surprise she had prepared for the Foundation Trustees and the Groner Recipients—a video with images of each graduation senior. The video can be found at, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJrWJ6isCIg&feature=youtu.be

The Senior Celebration also serves as a pinning ceremony. As a Groner Recipient becomes an alumnus of Lake Forest College, he or she becomes one of Grace’s Fellows. The new Grace’s Fellows are presented with a gold “G” pin that is worn on their gowns at Commencement. As each Groner Recipient was presented with their pin, they had an opportunity to share the opportunities that were made possible to them by Grace Groner. To culminate the pinning ceremony, parents took turns expressing their gratitude towards Grace Groner for every opportunity that she made possible. The entire evening was a joyful occasion with many hugs and smiles.
Summer 2013

This summer, the Foundation is sponsoring 28 students to pursue service projects in three continents. The projects include an archaeology field school at Montpelier, research at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, a study of colonial architecture, archaeology, and cultural history in Falmouth, Jamaica, environmental research in Costa Rica, research and service work for Bright Hope and Andean Aid, a systems projects internship at the Prince’s Regeneration Trust in London, a marine biology internship in Canada, and a student attending the Apicius International School of Hospitality. Please look for our newsletter in September for an update on the summer programs.