

# Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation

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.

Spring 2013

## Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation Bridge Program Service Awards

The goal of the Bridge Program is to help bridge the gap between college graduation and the next step, graduate school or a career. During the Bridge Program, which usually extends for nine to twelve months, Grace's Fellows become part of a professional team and receive the same responsibilities as other staff members. It is expected that through these working-life experiences, students will gain the necessary hands-on experiences needed to pursue a graduate degree or start a career in their chosen fields.

### Story Below

The Service Awards have been created by the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation to honor students who represent Grace Groner's legacy, which is sustained by the GEGF recipients; each recipient has a service component to their program which exemplifies the Foundation's purpose, "opportunities for service to others."



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## School After Lake Forest College

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation has seen Groner Recipients successfully complete their academics and service learning opportunities at Lake Forest College. However, many of Grace's Fellows have decided to continue their education.

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## Bridge Program Fellows 2012-2013

When Mikayla Warner ('12), Ally Bain ('12), and James Dunnigan ('12) applied to Lake Forest College, the name Grace Groner meant nothing to them. Grace had yet to reveal the creation of the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation, a foundation to provide support for service learning opportunities for Lake Forest College students. Now that these students have graduated and are applying to graduate programs, entering into a world beyond Lake Forest College, they cannot imagine their lives without the GEGF and the many opportunities it has provided each of them as they pursue their dreams.

Grace's Fellow Mikayla Warner, is a Teaching Fellow at the Grymes Memorial School in Virginia, "a strong, close-knit community that creates students who perform to their highest potentials." This opportunity provides her with invaluable teaching experience at a school where educating individuals is the focus. When asked how the GEGF influenced her decision to teach at Grymes, she simply replied, "it is hard to even begin to explain my gratitude towards the Grace

Elizabeth Groner Foundation, but I know I will always look back to the first day that I applied and consider it one of the best decisions I ever made."

This is the exact sentiment expressed by Ally Bain, who will attend law school with a focus on civil and disability rights "so as to help secure additional accommodations for more vulnerable segments of the population." Though she has always had a passion for justice, her internship at the United States Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division and Disability Rights Section, and her work at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier, have given her an advantage not only in applying to schools but in helping her realize her role in the justice system. Because the GEGF "believ[es] in [her] and [her] passion for helping others," Bain explains, she has been able to arrive at her current decision as the best way for her to achieve her dreams.

James Dunnigan became a part of the GEGF his senior year at Lake Forest College. The GEGF supported his participation in archaeology at Falmouth Jamaica and at James Madison's Montpelier and has led to his current decision to attend Western Michigan University with a focus in French colonial archaeology. Like the other Groner Fellows and Recipients, Dunnigan has

found that "the work [he has] done with the Foundation helped [him] to acquire advanced skill sets that you cannot always get just through classwork." It was during these opportunities that Dunnigan realized the importance of informing the public about archaeology, and he hopes to use his education to make the public more aware of history and its modern-day effects. The GEGF also gave him the advantage of experience in his field of choice.

Though each of these students chose to follow very different paths after Lake Forest College, they have two things in common: their commitment to service and their gratitude toward the GEGF for providing them with formative experiences, experiences that will lead to bright and successful futures. Bain put it best when she said that she is "very appreciative and very grateful for what Grace has left for us, for all the students she's helping." Without Grace Groner, none of these students would be where they are today; without the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation, none of these students would be able to pursue their dreams while remaining mindful of the importance of service.

-Article written by Cleo Hehn.

## 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 Hehn, Nikita Kotecha, Anica Lin, Hanna Morrison, Carliann 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 Agyeir, Abigail Brownell, Luis Beltran, Ryan Drake, Mbokasi 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 Hehn 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 Marlatt 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 Hehn.



# Grace Elizabeth Groner Senior Celebration

*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.*

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.

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>

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.



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



William Marlatt, Trustee, and life-long 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



The Senior Celebration also serves as a pinning ceremony. As a Groner Recipient becomes an alumnus of Lake Forest College, he or she



# 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.*



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Friends of Grace Groner