From the Hearth of Grace’s Cottage

Lake Forest grows colder with every passing day, but seniors Agnes Dadej and Cleo Hehn remain warm and cozy, nestled in Grace’s Cottage. They have potato soup and chocolate-chip cookies to keep them stocked for the winter, and they’ve been spreading the love, sharing baked goods with Foundation Director Daniela Resendiz, with the officers of Public Safety, with Veronica, Grace’s housekeeper, and with their friendly neighbors. For the residents of Grace’s Cottage, these treats are a small way of giving back to the members of their community, and they also mean a grateful “thank you” to the many people who helped them get to where they are today.

When Agnes and Cleo first came to Lake Forest College, they never saw themselves living in the loveliest little cottage on Washington Road. These two were lucky enough to have been awarded a residency scholarship from the Foundation—an honor only offered to two senior girls each year—for their achievements and for their commitment to service.

Grace’s Fellows Across the Globe

It is every Groner Recipient’s goal to become one of Grace’s Fellows. This title is earned at commencement after years of fulfilling Grace’s legacy of service. Grace’s Fellows can apply for unique opportunities developed and supported by the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation.

Grace’s Fall Cookout

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation kicks off the academic school year by having a fall cookout at Grace Groner’s home. Groner Recipients and Friends of Grace gather for an evening of socializing in memory of Grace Groner’s generosity.

As part of the scholarship, Agnes and Cleo continue to serve at the Gorton Community Center and at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, respectively, and they love every minute of it!

As they strive to follow in Grace’s generous footsteps, they also feel incredibly blessed and grateful to have been given so many amazing opportunities. Although both residents participated in impactful service opportunities last summer, living in Grace’s home has been a true gift.

Through living at the Cottage, they have had the opportunity to get to know the other Groner Recipients at the College, and they have been able to meet Grace’s many friends and neighbors. Agnes and Cleo have hosted and participated in events such as “Grace’s Fall Cookout,” using the space where Grace once lived to invite members of the community to the table of friendship. “I can only hope to follow Grace’s example,” says Cleo. “She made a positive difference in so many people’s lives simply by giving her all. What an amazing woman, and what an amazing opportunity she’s provided us!”

Greetings from Grace’s Cottage

Living at Grace’s Cottage is available to students as an honor for their contributions to the Lake Forest College community as well as community involvement and service opportunities. The Cottage is a tangible reminder of Grace’s wonderful generosity. The two residents host various events celebrating Grace Groner’s generosity.

Story Below

Cottage Residents Cleo Hehn and Agnes Dadej enjoy the company of Groner Recipients at Grace’s Fall Cookout.

Fall 2012
Grace’s Fellows at Montpelier

Center for the Constitution

Ally Bain, ’12, received her Bachelors of Arts in Communications and minored in Politics and Legal Studies. Ally is currently a Grace Elizabeth Groner Fellow for the Center for the Constitution at James Madison’s Montpelier. Her responsibilities for the Center include managing their social media and providing leadership for programs and trainings on-site. Ally has recently been asked to lead We the People, a civic education program available to students in the Virginia and D.C. areas.

“I know that I will continue to learn more than I thought was possible during my time at Montpelier. I continue to feel extremely fortunate for this opportunity” says Ally Bain.

Archeology Department

James Dunningan, ’12, received his Bachelors of Arts in History and minored in Sociology and Anthropology and Classical Studies. James is currently a Grace Elizabeth Groner Fellow for the Archeology Department at James Madison’s Montpelier. His responsibilities include excavating the slave quarters, instructing newcomers on the basics of archaeology, and working in the lab where objects are washed, identified, and restored to provide historical information.

“I like helping out on the weekends. I hope that there will be more opportunities to help at Madison’s Montpelier” says James Dunningan.

Grace’s Fellow at Grymes

Grymes Memorial School was started by Mrs. Emily Grymes in memory of her two children who had passed away. Mrs. Grymes envisioned a school that emphasized strong academics and the importance of individual attention to each student.

Mikayla Warner, ’12, received her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and minored in Education. At Grymes Memorial School, Mikayla is a teacher in the first, second, and fourth grade classrooms where she is responsible for teaching various lessons in subjects ranging from geography to mathematics. Mikayla also leads reading groups with children in smaller groups or on a one-to-one ratio where she identifies their reading levels, reads them a book, and has them complete follow-up activities to test their comprehension. As a nice change of pace, Mikayla helps with Physical Education for the junior kindergarten and kindergarten students.

“I really feel part of the school. Grymes is such a unique school. I feel very lucky to be here” says Mikayla Warner.

Grace’s Fellow in Florence

Tatiana Galli, ’12, received her Bachelors of Arts in Business and Environmental Studies. Tatiana’s dream has always been to take over her mother’s Italian shop. Through her time at Lake Forest College, Tatiana volunteered her time at ARAMARK Food Services. Tatiana is currently enrolled at the Apicius International School of Hospitality where she will be receiving her culinary degree. Aside from the classroom experience where Tatiana learns the basics of Italian cuisine, Tatiana volunteers her time at the School’s restaurant where she is responsible for maintaining the tables, cooking, and serving.

“Overall, though exhausting, everything has been really interesting and I am enjoying it a lot!” says Tatiana Galli.

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation sent one student, on leave of absence from Lake Forest College, to the office of the Prince’s Regeneration Trust in London.

Camila Quinteros spent her summer learning about building and restoration of structures while learning to make detailed architectural drawings and compiling a book of historical structures of Falmouth, Jamaica. These opportunities prepared Camila for the next opportunity as a projects adviser for The Prince’s Regeneration Trust.

Camila will work with the Projects Team to learn how to deliver heritage-led regeneration projects. She will focus on two specific projects throughout the duration of her internship.

The first project is the Cleveland Pools in Bath, which were built in 1815 and is the only Georgian lido still in existence.

The second project will be The Milton Rooms in Malton, Yorkshire which were built in 1814 and currently work to bring emerging and established artists for performances.

Among her many tasks, Camila will be responsible for visiting each site on a monthly basis to follow the progress of each and assist with any work that must be done to get the projects ready for delivering the final product.

Additionally, Camila will be visiting other sites and observing the different stages that take place during the projects. She will be responsible for updating the Green Guide to Historic Building, and will learn to create a business plan and host a Community Consultation Event.

“This new experience is one of the most unique internships the Grace Groner Foundation can offer and I am lucky to be the first one to participate in it” says Camila Quinteros.
The purpose of the gathering is for Groner Recipients and friends of Grace to meet and learn about the opportunities that Groner Recipients pursued over the summer as well as the upcoming fall opportunities. Students reflect on the satisfaction of carrying on Grace’s legacy of service to others.

The “Montpelier Crew” shared about their archaeology experience and how it applied to a wide variety of academic interests.

Students shared information about summer research in Chicago’s top medical schools where all of them discovered a topic for senior theses.

The Monteverde Institute internship was summarized by coordinating professor, Dr. Lynn Westley and the two freshman students who collected data in the wreath of the rainforest.

Students shared their experiences through the Davis Peace Project in which they traveled to Swaziland to install solar panels on a clinic and educated the nearby school about renewable energy.

Emily Hampden-Smith shared her research in Madagascar in which she tracked and recorded the behavior of lemurs, whose environment would be destroyed.

Danielle Leonardo shared about her responsibilities at CROYA where she embraced their mission statement to reach out to youth to give them options that would lead them away from drugs and alcohol as well as depression.

Two students shared about their unique opportunities at Colonial Williamsburg with the Rare Breeds Program and the Historical Architecture Department.

Grace’s pastor and long-time friend, the Reverend Kent Kinney, asks the blessing.

New students found mentors among the Groner Recipients and shared their enthusiasm for their starting internships.
1st Annual Bocce Ball Tournament

The early Romans were among the first to play a game resembling what we know as bocce today. In early times, they used coconuts brought back from Africa and later used hard olive wood to carve bocce balls. In modern times, the first bocce clubs were organized in Italy. Notably the first Italian League was formed in 1947 by fifteen teams in and around the town of Rivoli (Torino). 1947 also marks the beginning of the yearly Bocce World Championships. Thanks to many Italian immigrants at the turn of the century, bocce has come to flourish in the United States. During its beginnings in the U.S., there were as many versions of the game as there were towns the immigrants had left. Bringing some order to the game is the Collegium Cosmicum ad Buxias, the preeminent bocce organization headquartered in Rome, Italy.

The tournament started with Bob Pasquesi, Trustee, offering insights and inviting the Groner Recipients to practice playing Bocce. Four teams were formed and two games were played. Groner Recipients enjoyed the competition of playing against each other and faculty and staff members of Lake Forest College. The tournament was followed by a traditional Italian home-cooked feast.

The winning team included Mary Pasquesi, Ryan Drake ’15 (Monteverde Institute) and Lauren Levinson ’13 (Gorton Community Center).