Grace’s Office is Now Open!

GRACE’S OFFICE

The Foundation’s first office is now open. For the convenience of the Lake Forest College students, the new office is located in Stuart Commons, right below Public Safety. Grace’s Office was an extensive two month project that required the coordination and work of many people. The Foundation would like to thank all of Grace’s friends who donated their time, services, labor and money to make the office possible.

Grace’s Office will be open on weekdays. The Foundation’s Director, Daniela Resendiz, encourages all students to stop by and learn more about the Foundation and the opportunities that Grace can provide for everyone. The Foundation’s Trustees will be regular visitors at Grace’s Office and will be happy to provide guidance on any innovative new ideas.

The Office will serve as a location for the Foundation to conduct meetings with various community organizations wishing to form a partnership with the Grace E. Groner Foundation. Additionally, personal interviews between applicants and the Foundation and Advisory Committee will also be conducted at Grace’s Office.

Thank you to all of you who made this possible!
DANIELA RESENDIZ- FOUNDATION’S FIRST DIRECTOR

From her new office in Stuart Commons, Resendiz will coordinate more than two dozen students studying abroad -- thanks to Groner’s $7 million donation to the students of the college -- and expand an internship program where students will have the opportunity to serve others. The office opens Aug. 19, in time for new-student orientation at the college.

A 2006 Vernon Hills High School graduate, Resendiz nannied her way through her junior and senior years at LFC. The children Resendiz cared for visited their grandfather at Balmoral Care Center daily. Consequently, she spent a lot of time waiting. “I would sit in the hallway literally next to Grace’s room, without realizing I would work for her foundation in the future.” Resendiz said.

Resendiz applied for and was accepted as one of the first recipients of a Grace Grant in the fall of 2010. After a semester interning at Family Service: Prevention, Education and Counseling in Highland Park, Resendiz graduated from Lake Forest College with a bachelor’s in business and was named a cum laude graduate last December. Six months later, in June, Resendiz was named the director of the Groner Foundation.

Since then, Resendiz has worked with anonymous friends of Grace’s who helped design and furnish the foundation office on the first floor of Stuart Commons. And she has met with Grace’s many friends and her senior advocate to learn as much as she can about how she lead her life and who she was. “I really feel like I know her,” Resendiz said.

As director, Resendiz’s greatest hope is to carry on Grace’s mission. “Grace Groner donated her time and was really about service to others in the community throughout her life,” she said.

Resendiz’s goal as director is to “get the foundation’s groundwork started and voice what Grace Groner was about,” she said. “It’s not just you get a grant to be able to do something. It’s you get a grant to be able to give something back to the community. That’s where the service component starts,” she said.

While first-semester freshmen are ineligible, Resendiz wants all students to put Grace Grants on their radar. “It’s important for them to know about the foundation so that they can plan ahead and plan accordingly,” Resendiz said. “We look at course load, a written essay, official transcripts, a judicial record check, recommendations, interviews and we ask recipients to sign a code of conduct,” she said, noting that the recipients carry a lot of responsibility on their shoulders. “They are representing the college,” she said. “And they are representing Grace.”

~Story by Linda Blaser, Pioneer Local

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GRACE’S GUESTS

Grace’s new guests have arrived! This unique living arrangement 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 applicants must be previous or current Groner Recipients at the time of application. The Cottage is a tangible reminder of Grace’s wonderful generosity. The two residents will promote the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation Grant Program by hosting and participating in various campus events celebrating Grace E. Groner and the student experiences she has made possible.

My name is Allison Hamel, and I am a senior. At Lake Forest College, I am involved in Delta Delta Delta sorority, Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society, WMXM, and Eukaryon. I work at the Writing Center and in a lab in the Biology Department. I also enjoy playing tennis, hiking, biking, and spending time with friends! I received a Groner Grant for my study abroad trip to Tanzania, which was a wonderful and inspiring journey.

This summer, I was one of two fortunate residents living in Grace’s Cottage. A short walk from LFC, Grace’s Cottage marks the founding of the Grace E. Groner Foundation and reminds the community of Grace’s selflessness, modesty, and generosity. The Cottage was renovated by William Marlatt, Foundation Trustee, and many of Grace’s friends. It is fully furnished and decorated with memories of Grace. Although Grace no longer inhabits the Cottage, her presence is marked there and her legacy lives on, a memory that I am reminded and appreciative of each day.

The more I learn about Grace, the more I am inspired by Grace’s Gift and the kindness that she has been able to share. It is truly heartwarming. Not only has living in Grace’s Cottage been a special treat, but I have become even closer and more enthused by the legacy of Grace E. Groner. I am so appreciative of this opportunity and am looking forward to spending the rest of the year as Grace’s Guest!

~Story by Allison Hamel

My name is Amber Green and I am senior psychology major from Little Rock, AR. Over the past few years, I have been highly involved on campus. In the fall of 2010, I received a grant from the Groner Foundation that helped me pursue an internship with the Nuestro Center Homework Club (Highland Park, IL). This experience confirmed my gift to work with and serve children.

555 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 | 1.847.735.6162 | resende@lakeforest.edu
Grace’s Gift

STUDENT ATTENDS FIELD SCHOOL IN FALMOUTH, JAMAICA

Annually, the Grace E. Groner Foundation and Falmouth Heritage Renewal select two students to travel to Falmouth, Jamaica, and work under the supervision of the Field School to renovate historic building and preserve the heritage of Jamaicans.

Through the generosity of the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation, I was able to participate in the UVa Field School in Falmouth, Jamaica. Coming from a finance and economics background, I brought little to the table in Falmouth other than a desire to learn and contribute.

Partnering with Falmouth Heritage Renewal and the University of Virginia’s ecoMOD, I spent a month working and studying historic preservation, engineering, architectural design, building, and carpentry. FHR and the ecoMOD team were quick to fold me into the loop and were beyond helpful along the way; within a couple days I was creating historical drawings on my own and contributing in many other areas.

It was an incredible way to spend a month in Jamaica with a brilliant group of students, a great team in FHR and so many others who were eager to help.

Many thanks to the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation for the opportunity to participate in such an amazing program.

~Story by Jerrold Rosema
During my junior year at Lake Forest College, I was offered a summer internship at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and due to the generous gift of the Grace Groner Foundation, I had many great experiences for which my appreciation and gratitude are immeasurable. Through the Foundation's support of my summer internship, I have found what I want to do with my life: work for the United States Department of Justice to secure civil rights for people with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Since experiencing an incident that occurred when I was a teenager, I have believed that one voice can make a difference and that a group of people can affect positive change. When I was 14 years old, I was denied restroom access even though the store manager knew about my Crohn’s disease, a chronic, autoimmune disease that can affect the entire digestive tract. After working with a local state representative and testifying before an Illinois House committee, the Restroom Access Act, also known as Ally’s Law, unanimously passed in Illinois in 2005, stating that anyone with a medical emergency must be allowed access to an employee-only restroom. In 2010, I testified before four members of the United States Department of Justice to get restroom access legislation adopted into the Americans with Disabilities Act, which is how I first learned about the opportunity to intern at the Department.

Several months after my testimony, I found myself working alongside many of the same people who had heard me speak. Instead, I was now helping these attorneys, investigators, and law students listen to other Americans voice their concerns and wishes for equal access and opportunity. While in the Investigation Unit, I worked on several of my own cases, participated in large negotiation meetings with local government entities, and reviewed complaints to determine eligibility for further investigation. I was one of the few in the Section who was not yet in law school, so I also spent time asking the attorneys and law students for recommendations and suggestions as I prepared to go into my senior year of college. Along with everything else that the internship taught me, I learned that I definitely want to attend law school and pursue my dream of being a voice for others.

~Story by Ally Bain

Her constant exceptional performance as an intern paved the way for future Lake Forest College students to be candidates for this unique opportunity. Her high standard performance is an example for all future Groner Recipients.
New Opportunities

“TEDDY’S COTTAGE”

In 1905, First Lady Edith Roosevelt purchased a cottage in Virginia where she and President Theodore Roosevelt could have the opportunity to “rest and repair.” Pine Knot, as the cottage was formally named, stands unchanged in more than 90 acres of land. The retreat home has no electricity, heating, plumbing, insulation or interior finish. Today, The Edith and Theodore Roosevelt Pine Knot Foundation work to preserve the “small treasure of Presidential history.” Pine Knot plans to open their doors to visitors in summer 2012.

The Grace E. Groner Foundation has exploring the possibility of a partnership with The Edith and Theodore Roosevelt Pine Knot Foundation. The Pine Knot Foundation will like interns to help open the site as well as perform support work for the Pine Knot Foundation. Students interested in museum work and history are great candidates for this rare opportunity!

ABBOTT & THE GRACE E. GRONER FOUNDATION CONTINUE TO CROSS PATHS

Last winter, during what has been called “snowzilla” or “snowathon,” Foundation Trustee, William Marlatt and his wife, Kathryn Marlatt, met two doctors who traveled from Europe business meetings in Lake Forest. Unfortunately for the doctors, due to the storm, their counterparts had been unable to arrive for the meetings at the headquarters of Abbott Laboratories.

After sharing Grace’s legacy with the doctors, Dr. Samuel Agus offered the Foundation an internship under his supervision for a student interested in world healthcare. Dr. Samuel Agus is the Head of the Therapeutic Area of Gastroenterology and Women’s Health. The internship will take place in the department headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. Dr. Agus’ intern will be required to conduct in-depth research regarding past, present, and future literary publications relating to the scope of the therapeutic area as well as coordinating the printing, marketing, and distribution of such literary publications.

Milana Mensah, ’11, has been selected for this wonderful opportunity and will begin the year-long internship upon receiving the appropriate permits from the Swiss Federation.
A Legend Lives On

On July, 2011, Grace E. Groner was featured in the Forest & Bluff Magazine. The magazine celebrated their 10th anniversary and dedicated the July issue to reminiscing the highlights of the last decade. In the piece titled, “10 Legends,” Forest & Bluff Magazine paid tribute to people who, after passing, touched the lives of many and whose “spirits continue to live on in our communities.” Grace E. Groner was recognized as one of the ten “treasures.”

Grace’s Fellows Depart for 27 Different Countries

Last spring, Lake Forest College received over 70 applications from study-abroad students wishing to become part of the select group of Groner Recipients. As in the past, the competition was fierce. The College selected twenty-six outstanding applicants as the Groner Recipients for the 2011-2012 academic school year. The Foundation would like to congratulate all the selected Groner Recipients on this achievement as it is an honor to become one of Grace’s Fellows.

The Foundation is excited to have Grace represented in over 27 different countries and cannot wait to hear about the exciting journeys that each student will embark upon. Congratulations to all!
Grace lived to love, care, and share what she had to improve the lives of others. The grace of a life well lived will be her legacy.

Grace Elizabeth Groner

Opportunities for Service to Others.

MAIL TO:
Future Grace’s Fellow