

# 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.

Fall 2013

## Why Monteverde Institute?

*The MVI-Groner program was developed by Professor Lynn Westley to provide students with an opportunity for field experience, community outreach, and sustainability efforts. Ashley Gora, '14, has been to MVI twice, first as a student, and the second time she returned as a teaching assistant.*

*Ashley focused on the effects of eco-tourism, and community outreach programs. Ashley has been invited by the Monteverde Institute to return for a year-long fellowship where she will be responsible for adapting sustainability content for a curriculum that is appropriate for younger children of the community.*

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## Historic Restoration Internship



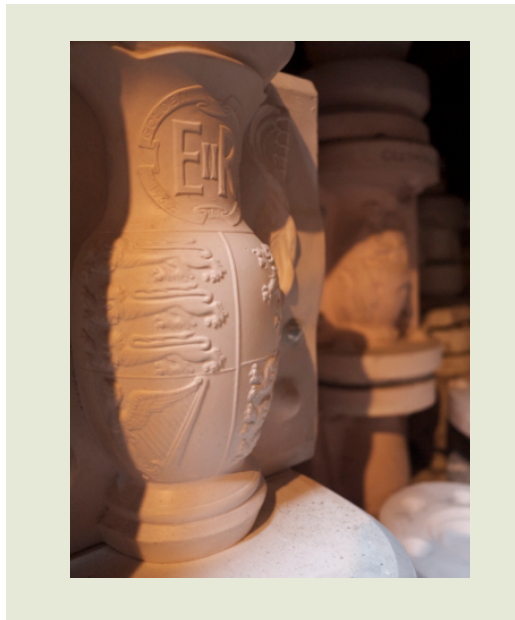
*The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation first heard about Camila Quinteros from an LFC Professor who highly recommended Camila for a web-design internship through the GEGF. As Camila started the application process for her first internship, she shared her career goal; she wanted to become an architect. After a sequence of architectural opportunities, in which she received outstanding reviews, Camila applied to the GEGF for an internship with the Prince's Regeneration Trust. Camila was accepted by the Prince's Regeneration Trust to become an Assistant Project Advisor for the Historic Restoration sector.*

See Story Below

## Historic Restoration

"Last year, I was very fortunate to get the opportunity to intern at The Prince's Regeneration Trust (PRT), in London, England. PRT is one of the 20 charities supported by HRH Prince Charles and its special focus is on restoration and regeneration of historic buildings as a catalyst for community improvement.

My role in the office was very flexible; at the beginning, my skills were tested to see what I could do and how I could help. I started by working on smaller tasks, such as revising volunteer policies for the Middleport Pottery project and helping at the very start of the Type Archive project. As time went by, I gained confidence and trust, eventually getting to lead one project. In addition to those tasks, I was also in charge of the second edition of "The Green Guide for Historic Buildings," and organizing the Regeneration Leaders Network events. I got to experience many roles within the organization, whether it was doing research, designing posters and



logos, working with community members, or surveying buildings.

My year in London was a complete experience. The city is full of culture. I was able to attend concerts, theatre productions,

ballets, and exhibitions. The Groner Foundation provided me with the opportunity to take classes in architecture which prepared me to be a qualified applicant to graduate school. I learned from internationally recognized architects, photographers, and model makers how to draw, photograph, and build miniature structures. I attended free open seminars at University College London, which has the most advanced energy conservation department in Europe, and at the London School of Economics where I learned about world politics and international analysis. I was also part of a women's indoor soccer league and volunteered for the United World Colleges International Office.

The PRT program is truly amazing because it provided me with a unique set of skills. Working with such intelligent and capable individuals during the day, and nurturing myself in the weekends and afternoons has really helped me grow both personally and academically."

-Article written by Camila Quinteros, '14

# Where are the 2012 Bridge Program Fellows Now?

## Buon Appetito

"I am currently pursuing my master's degree at the culinary arts program at Apicius International School of Hospitality in Florence, Italy. The program consists of a variety of core classes that are both lecture and hands-on based. These classes are aimed to help students gain a solid foundation of Italian cuisine by covering all aspects of the professional culinary arts with a large emphasis on Italian products, traditions and regionality. A large sector of the program is focused on teaching students the elements and principles of a restaurant and its management. The program requires students to participate in an internship at a local restaurant. This gives an opportunity to experience work in a restaurant environment. Meanwhile, students are also required to work in the school's restaurant, GANZO. This provides students with the opportunity to display leadership and management skills, as well as the responsibility for the designing and preparing a lunch or dinner menu.

During my undergraduate experience, at LFC, I participated in an internship with Aramark. For the internship, I devoted six hours a week to working in the school's kitchen. My responsibility was to help with the daily lunch and dinner preparations. This introduced me to a working environment that is similar in many aspects to that of a restaurant. It allowed me to become more confident in taking responsibility in major kitchen preparations. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and loved everything about the experience.

The Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation granted me with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pursue my dream – attending culinary school in Italy to help further my education and begin my culinary career. Without its support, I do not know if this would have ever been possible. The Groner Foundation motivated me to pursue this dream and fully supported me in the beginning steps of my program. The GEGF still follows my progress even though I am thousands of miles away.

The foundation has also inspired me to be more supportive and encouraging to others in the pursuit of their future goals and dreams. My theory is: if you show no support towards others, you will have none in return. And without support, it is extremely difficult to become successful and reach your goals. Therefore, it is in everyone's best interest to be supportive of one another.

My advice to perspective students is to take the opportunities you are offered. Don't second guess yourself. Just do it. Be fearless, get involved with what's going on around you, help others, and you will surely achieve your goals.

Ciao e Buona Fortuna!"

-Article Written by Tatiana Galli, '12

## Living in History

"As I sat in a lecture hall at Northwestern Law, I felt a sense of pride when my Property professor changed his PowerPoint slide to an image of James Madison. The image reminded me of the year that I spent living and working at James Madison's Montpelier in Virginia.

While living at James Madison's Montpelier, I worked at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution as the Grace Elizabeth Groner Program Fellow. I worked on a variety of projects, including leading on-site civics programs for teachers from around the country. One of the largest programs I managed was We the People, which is a national civics program for elementary, middle, and high school students who participate in a simulated congressional hearing to answer questions relating to founding principles and the Constitution. These and other work experiences helped solidify my interest in law and politics. In the year after I graduated from LFC, I gained more skills and learned more information than I could have imagined.

I owe my gratitude and appreciation to the Grace E. Groner Foundation for its immeasurable support and encouragement throughout my bridge program at James Madison's Montpelier. In discovering the Foundation several years ago, I was fortunate to intern at the United States Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division and Disability Rights Section in Washington, D.C. As a Groner Recipient, I was honored to have the opportunity to take part in the Foundation's bridge program as a Fellow at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution. During the time that I have been involved with the Foundation, I have really grown in my understanding of my passions and career interests. I can, without a doubt, say the experiences that the Foundation provided to me helped me, among other things, get into Northwestern University School of Law. Due to the Foundation, I am more confident than ever in who I want to be and what I want to do with my life in helping to secure civil rights for people with disabilities.

The GEGF is unlike any other organization at any other institution. The students at LFC are fortunate to have the chance to work with the GEGF to explore their academic and career goals. Students are able to better understand these interests while having the complete support of the Foundation who cheers the students on throughout the entire process. It is important to take advantage of opportunities, as they inevitably lead to more. However, these opportunities do not often arise without the students' leadership in helping to create or discover them. It takes initiative and resourcefulness. With the help of the Foundation, opportunities are endless.

We all have Grace Groner to thank for her selfless nature, charitable ways, strong worth ethic, and belief in the students at LFC. In thanking her for these opportunities, we can and should do our absolute best to succeed, learn, explore, and, most importantly, give back to the community."

-Article Written by Ally Bain, '12

## From Student to Teacher

"Graduating from LFC in the spring of 2012 was both an exciting prospect and a terrifying ordeal. Armed with my degree, I was going to become an archaeologist. Or so I hoped. Every school rejected my application. I was wished "good luck," and swept aside in the sea of other mediocre applicants.

Not that I was mediocre, just inexperienced. When schools and jobs asked me if I had ever participated in a field school, I was confused. No one had ever mentioned that I should take a "field school," and I had no idea where to look. Nor did I have the time or funds to do so. I foresaw myself returning to jobs I held every summer.

My senior year, I became involved with the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation (GEGF). In February, I applied to a field school in Jamaica. I was accepted and fully funded by the GEGF.

Looking back, the last year and half has possibly been the most formative of my life. The skills that I learned in the wide array of places I have worked has pulled me from the sea of mediocre applications and opened up many new doors.

After graduation, I flew to Jamaica to engage in an architectural preservation and heritage field school in the port city of Falmouth. There I was, the history major, measuring buildings, making fences, and working on archaeological surveys. My meager understanding of the discipline began to expand. After a month of hands-on experience, I saw a change from the kid who only a month ago was gripping his degree with anxiety and uncertainty at the world.

After Jamaica, the GEGF funded me to go to James Madison's Montpelier for a field school fully focused on historic archaeology. The field school ended in August, and I was selected by the director to stay on through March. My time at Montpelier was formative for two reasons. First I was expanding my skill-set exponentially. Second, not only was I working in the field with professionals, but I was teaching archaeological methods and theories to group after group of volunteers. I was eventually accepted to five graduate programs.

The experiences the GEGF provided to me through the "Bridge Program" have helped me not only become who I am, but have also shaped my professional experience. I work as a Teaching Assistant for Western Michigan University as one of the seven funded students admitted for the 2013-2014 academic year.

My advice reflects my experiences over the last fifteen months: write well, read often, refine your skills, and never pass up an opportunity. The GEGF offers amazing opportunities. Crossing that stage is a big step, and it is a big world out there, but always remember that things happen for a reason and as long as you work hard, you can succeed."

-Article Written by James Dunnigan, '12



### Why Monteverde Institute?

"I've gotten those looks before from friends and family alike, those raised eyebrows and nodding expressions that don't quite believe that you'd be crazy enough to do what you're doing, that don't quite believe that you could be so blessed to have this opportunity repeat itself over and over again. Truthfully, I sometimes have a hard time myself believing that this isn't a dream, and frankly, I'd have to be crazy to *not* do what I'm doing. First of all, how could I have possibly said "no" the first time to return to Costa Rica after merely visiting a few times in the past, and this time to contribute to the local community of Monteverde? Second of all, how could I have possibly said "no" the second time to run a case study and aid the local community fund in their administrative efforts, as well as the third time to living there post-graduation for the duration of a fellowship with the Grace Elizabeth Groner Foundation (GEGF)?

How could I not fall in love with Monteverde? After pouring out my heart and serving in four different ways my first summer in this beautiful town (translating Traveler's Philanthropy documents, analyzing

endeavors to protect the environment and support the local community? I have come to value this institute as an educational facility. Every time I return, I've entered the culture and community with the mindset that I

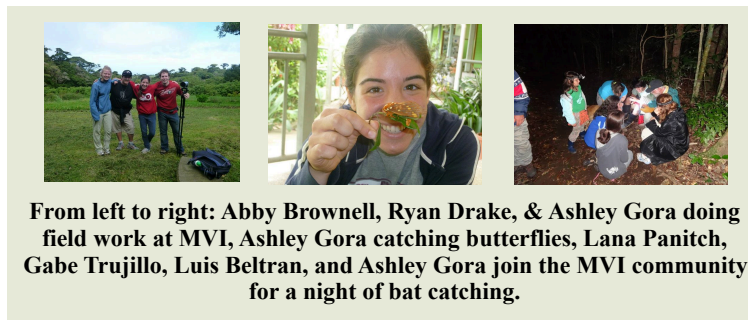
Questions from within that add to the questions of friends and family of how it could be possible, why I would want to go, why I would want to return, what I'm doing with my life. I'm doing the greatest thing anyone could be doing, ever: I'm returning to the fascinating Monteverde to help with environmental education, youth, and study abroad programs, and anything else MVI needs of me, giving every effort I can muster to the life of this thriving little diamond of a destination.

So, why MVI? That's easy.

Why me and not someone else? That's the hard one.

Because truth is, I don't truly deserve all of this. It's only by grace and thanks to Grace that I could have ever come to be in this current situation under these amazing circumstances."

-Article Written by Ashley Gora, '14



**From left to right: Abby Brownell, Ryan Drake, & Ashley Gora doing field work at MVI, Ashley Gora catching butterflies, Lana Panitch, Gabe Trujillo, Luis Beltran, and Ashley Gora join the MVI community for a night of bat catching.**

water supply/consumption data, helping lead a youth camp, and co-facilitating a women's leadership workshop), how could a part of me not be left in the hands of this community when I returned to the United States? How could I not want to return the next summer to aid the Monteverde Institute (MVI) in its

am there to *give* of myself, and yet I leave having received much more than I ever could have dreamed of. I am floored over and over by the GEGF's generosity, by Grace's own generosity, by the generosity of the people at MVI and within Monteverde itself, and I consistently question my deservingness of it all.



# Hello From Groner Fellows

*The GEGF forms a lifetime relationship with Groner Recipients and follows their academic and professional careers after graduation. Below is an update on what Groner Fellows are pursuing now.*

- Julia French, '12 - Julia is currently living in Los Angeles, California and is a Registrar's Assistant at The American Film Institute. In March, Julia will be moving to Houston where she and her business partner will launch a personal concierge business. Julia will be in charge of travel planning and estate management.
- Amy Gabrielle, '12 - Amy is the program manager for Escalera in Houston, this program helps high school seniors prepare for college by finding internships. Amy spends a lot of time volunteering in underserved communities and coaches elementary school soccer. Amy plans to pursue her masters in Public Policy.
- Kosova Kreka, '12 - Kosova is currently pursuing her masters in Material Science Exploring Large Scale Facilities. Kosova currently works at FRM II developing low enriched uranium fuels for nuclear reactors.
- Sarah Lendy, '12 - Sarah is currently enrolled at Midwest Univeristy for Occupational Therapy and plans to work with children with disabilities. Sarah is simultaneously pursuing her music career and sings for a band called Acoustic Truth.
- Jerrold Rosema, '12 - Jerrold (JD) is a consultant at Meridian in Lake Forest. He currently lives downtown, and has joined the Ravinia Associates Board. This group's main focus is to fundraise and build awareness of classical music for children.
- Hanna Morrison, '13 - Hanna is pursuing a Bridge Program through the GEGF in Virginia. Hanna is an instructor at the Virginia Institute of Autism and works in the Occupational and Physical Therapy Department at Martha Jefferson Hospital. Hanna will be attending graduate school in the Fall 2014 for Occupation Therapy. In her spare time, Hanna plays her cello for the patients of Martha Jefferson Hospital.
- Aidan Price, '13 - After graduation, Aidan enlisted in the Marines. Aidan is currently in California at basic training.
- Jimena Resendiz, '13 - Jimena spent the summer at James Madison's Montpelier as a teaching assistant in the Archaeology Department. She is currently pursuing a fellowship at Martha Jefferson Hospital in the pharmacy department. Jimena volunteers her time with Martha Jefferson's Human Resources and helps with event planning.
- Alexis Urbanik, '13 - This summer, Allie was invited back to work with Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Breeds Program. Allie currently attends University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Jordyn Varga, '13 - As an undergrad, Jordyn pursued many internships focused on behavioral therapy, one of them was at Misericordia: Heart of Mercy (Mis). Mis is a residential campus for people with disabilities. Jordyn is currently pursuing a Bridge Program at Mis, where she works in PEP, the behavioral therapy program. Jordyn volunteers her time at Mis in various departments including Occupational Therapy.

## Roberta Dume Receives Her White Coat



Roberta Dume, '13, Chemistry Major, matriculated at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science College of Pharmacy for the Fall 2013 semester. Roberta is paving the way for Groner Fellows interested in pursuing a career in pharmacology.

As a first year at RFUSM College of Pharmacy, Dume has started pharmacy rotations during which she serves community pharmacies. In addition to her rotations, Roberta coordinates service projects within the RFUMS community.

Dume has, since her undergraduate career, always served as an inspiration for her peers. Groner Fellow, Jimena Resendiz, who graduated with Dume, says she always turned to Dume for help and encouragement during their chemistry courses. While enrolled at Lake Forest College, Roberta volunteered her time at Nuestro Center's Escuelita program in which she served as mentor for children of diverse backgrounds. Roberta enjoyed assisting

these students with help on their homework, as well as encouraging them to do well in school and instilling the value of a higher education.

Roberta is the first Groner Fellow pursuing a degree in pharmacology. As many know, Grace Groner worked at Abbott Laboratories for decades. It was her wish to see young graduates become pharmacists.

## Hello From the GEGF Office

**William C. Marlatt — Trustee**  
**L. Robert Pasquesi — Trustee**  
**Daniela Resendiz — Director**

A sincere "Thank You" to all students, professors, and service-learning supervisors who made the Fall 2013 another successful semester. To all students pursuing new service-learning opportunities, good luck!

## Contact us

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