

# 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.

Fall 2014

## Montessori School of Lake Forest

This summer, Cottage Resident and Elementary Education and English Writing major Elizabeth Bulley attended a four-day Montessori workshop which provided her with an introduction to the key ideas behind the Montessori philosophy. There Elizabeth was familiarized with the unique features of the Montessori classroom.

Elizabeth spent the fall semester as a classroom helper at Montessori School of Lake Forest. Elizabeth was placed in a classroom of three, four, and five-year olds. She remembers that when she first started in the classroom, the children were seeking her for help. She comments that in the last couple of weeks, the children have been seeking Elizabeth to show her the work the children can perform by themselves.

Elizabeth is grateful to her cooperating teacher for allowing her to come into the classroom, and reflects the teacher, "found ways to direct the students to help both them and me learn new things." With the strong support of her cooperating teacher, Elizabeth quickly found herself involved in more than just literary works with the students. Soon she was helping students with the moveable alphabet and even cursive!

A special "Thank You" to Montessori School of Lake Forest for giving Elizabeth an enriching and unique learning experience.

## Groner Recipient Arrives at University of Oxford

This fall, Yusuf Ismail arrived at Dr. Justin Benesch's Laboratory in the Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry at University of Oxford.

Yusuf's hosting lab researches the structure and dynamics of the cellular protein machinery to understand the molecular basis for the function of the cellular proteins in healthy organisms and malfunction in disease. The lab uses a unique approach in which it combines traditional structural biology with new biophysical techniques to examine the subject from various angles. This approach has led to the successful description of the molecular structure and associated dynamics.

With the help of the research team, Yusuf has identified the lab project to which he will contribute under the supervision of Dr. Weston Struwe. Yusuf will focus on sugar ion-mobility mass spectrometry, specifically studying glycans. Understanding these glycans will offer some insight on how cancer cells differ from ordinary cells and how diseases affect cell function.

Yusuf's second major at Lake Forest College is Computer Science. During his short time at Oxford, Yusuf has been introduced to Python. Python and other computer science languages are making a strong appearance in chemistry departments as analytical tools for scientific work as they can create models and simulations of macromolecules. Yusuf will collaborate on a second project on the physical connection for

cross linking sites. Yusuf will aid Dr. Matteo Degiacomi in the writing of programs to create models and simulations of macromolecules to better understand ligand-protein binding and similar phenomenon.

When Yusuf was young, he was often asked what he wanted to do when he grew up. He would reply, "I want to seek knowledge." Yusuf believes "the laboratory research is one of much excitement as it presents one with a number of creative and intellectual pursuits."

A warm "Thank You" to the Department of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry for allowing Yusuf to pursue his childhood dream to "seek knowledge."

## Grace's Fellows Serve at Community Clinic

Grace's Fellows and College of Pharmacy students at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Roberta Dume and Jimena Resendiz devote their Thursday evenings to participating in the Interprofessional Community Clinic (ICC) at RFUMS. This free medical clinic provides healthcare to underserved men and women by students in different specialties including podiatry, physical therapy, women's health, ophthalmology, clinical psychology, and pharmacy. The clinic provides the health professionals the valuable opportunity to obtain hands-on experience.



Roberta and Jimena provide service at the community clinic and have joined the ICC Panel and Board. As part of their involvement with the panel, Roberta and Jimena have supported the effort to open the Interprofessional Community Clinic for one additional night per week due to the overwhelming demand for ICC's services. Roberta schedules the College of Pharmacy students every week and ensures shifts are covered in cases of absences. Jimena, with a fellow panel member, redesigned the intake forms to include English and Spanish in one document, and collaborated on the flu vaccine education campaign. Currently, Jimena interviews potential interpreters, trains interpreters, and is collaborating to create an all Spanish-speaking Interprofessional team.

As Executive Board Officer and Chair of Multilingual Affairs, Jimena will be overseeing the Spanish committee of the ICC Panel and will be responsible for recruiting and training new interpreters and ensuring the language needs of ICC are met. Jimena reports, "having the opportunity to participate in the day to day operations of ICC has been a privilege and an honor."

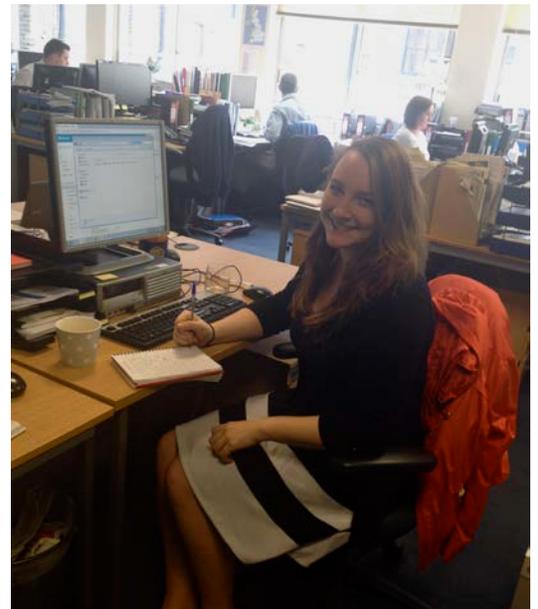


## Partnership Continues with London Based Regeneration Trust

The London charitable trust welcomed our fourth Groner Recipient, Stefanie Turza, finance and studio art major, for a Grace E. Groner Foundation Bridge Program. The trust's mission is to support and enrich communities by saving and repurposing important British buildings at risk of being lost due to demolition or decay. They primarily focus on impoverished areas through the United Kingdom which would benefit the most from the regeneration and economic growth that would result from the projects.

Stefanie, Projects Intern, is involved with work on various design projects due to her experience and background with design programs. Stefanie's duties include researching potential projects, writing sections of reports for the Fund Project management, and assisting in creating marketing literature. Additionally, Stefanie has used her business and finance background to collaborate on creating and researching business plans, creating a database of the historic projects completed, researching partnering organizations, helping with all of the logistics of event planning, and conducting team site visits to better understand the depth of the projects.

Stefanie has "really been enjoying all of the projects. Working with the staff at the organization is wonderful."



## A Place for Children

The Drop-in Center is an educational child care program supported and housed by the Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest, Illinois. Since 2011, Gorton Community Center and the Grace E. Groner Foundation have developed a strong partnership which has allowed many Grace Groner Recipients from Lake Forest College to pursue service-learning opportunities.

The first student to pursue a year-long service-learning opportunity at the DIC, Mikayla Warner, graduated from Lake Forest College with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and Education. After graduation, Mikayla worked at a private school as a second grade teacher's aid.



Agnes Dadej was at Gorton's Drop-in Center for more than a year. Agnes graduated from Lake Forest College with her Masters of Arts in Teaching. Agnes is currently a Special Education Teacher's Assistant at Washington Elementary School.



Jordyn Varga volunteered at the Drop-in Center for one semester, graduated from Lake Forest College with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology, and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Psychology program at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology.



Ashley Gora throughly enjoyed her time at the Drop-in Center and recalls her time with the children as "unique and rewarding." Ashley currently serves as the Student Intern Coordinator at the Monteverde Institute in Costa Rica. Ashley has recently been accepted into the Monterey Institute of International Studies for their joint MBA in Global Impact Management and MA in International Environmental Policy.



Elizabeth Bulley, prior to Montessori School of Lake Forest, volunteered at the Drop-in Center. Elizabeth will be graduating this year with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education.

Heather Heikotter has been volunteering at the Drop-in Center since 2012 and has spent innumerable hours working with the children. Heather is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Neuroscience at Lake Forest College. Heather recently put together a "Build-A-Bear" activity for the children. The children responded so positively to the activity that Heather was asked to run the activity an additional day. The children made sure to show their parents their new creation when they were picked up at the end of the day.



A very special "Thank You" to Gorton's Drop-in Center for all of the opportunities provided to Grace Groner Recipients!



## Catching up with Allie Urbanik

While she was at Lake Forest College, Allie Urbanik, Class of 2013, pursued two summer service-learning opportunities at Colonial Williamsburg's Rare Breeds Program through the Grace E. Groner Foundation.



Currently, Allie is enrolled at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. Allie is a second-year student and has recently gone through comprehensive written and practical milestone examinations which test knowledge to date.

During her time at the University of Illinois, Allie has been actively involved with the Wildlife Medical Clinic. The clinic's mission is to "provide care and treatment to sick, injured and orphaned wild animals, offer hands-on training to veterinary students, and educate members of the community about coexisting with native Illinois wildlife." In March, Allie will assume a managerial role at the Wildlife Medical Clinic.

Allie has enjoyed her involvement with the clinic because she has been able to teach the public about the care of the animals and mentor other veterinary students.



## Hello From the GEGF

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

A sincere thank you to all students, families, professors, and service-learning supervisors who made 2014 successful. To all students pursuing new service-learning opportunities, good luck!

## Contact us

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