

# FPMS Scholarship Recipients

What does the Florida Podiatric Medical Society (FPMS) do? Why would I donate money to the Society? Why should the FPMA maintain the "Society"? These are frequent questions that I have answered over the last seven years as President of the FPMS. They are also questions that I have strived to be able to answer better. It is my hope that the articles below, written by recipients of just two of the many scholarships that the Society has established, will help you understand some of the answers to those questions and convince you to either continue giving to your Society or begin giving. The motto of the Society is "Giving Back to the Future of Podiatry". I hope that you will join me in that mission.

Fraternally, Terence D. McDonald, DPM, President, Florida Podiatric Medical Society



Katy Rhoden is 15 years old and lives with her parents in Lake Wales, Florida. She will be in the 10th grade in the fall.

Katy was diagnosed with diabetes in 2005. She attended the Florida Diabetes Camp in July, 2011 thanks to a scholarship from the FPMS. She loved her camping experience and would like to be a writer someday, so she submitted the article below to describe the impact that Diabetes Camp had on her personally.

## What Diabetes Camp Means To Me

By: Kathryn Rhoden

Walking on to the Diabetes Camp grounds for the first time was overwhelming. People were rushing around getting kids signed in and into their cabins. I was anxious and eager about the week ahead. But by the time I left I had so many friends. A support system of people that knew what I meant, when I said it. They didn't just have to say "I'm sorry" or "how can I help" it was "yes I know." They know what I'm going through everyday, because they're going through it too.

Diabetes is harsh. It's conquering. It's repetitive. It's a daily thing you have to remember, that you would like to forget. Similar to washing the dishes, no one likes doing it but it has to be done; but you can't forget about diabetes, that's what camp showed me. I can't ignore my diabetes, it's an important part of my life.

Going to camp opened my eyes and showed me that yes I'm different, but it's not stopping me from achieving anything. I still have those moments where I crash and burn, when I think I'm done. That's when I get on the phone with my friends from camp, and talk about what we will be doing this year at camp. This year it won't be as overwhelming as I walk onto the camp grounds, because my support system will be there.

Sarah Haller with FPMA member Dr. Jeff D. Kopelman at SAM 2012.

Sarah, a member of the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine class of 2013, currently serves as the president of the Florida Podiatric Medical Student Association (FPMSA).

Sarah received the Dr. Harvey Kopelman scholarship from the FPMS in 2011 and describes how it impacted her below.



As a third year podiatric medical student at Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine, being recognized as the recipient of the Harvey Kopelman, DPM Award and a \$1,000 scholarship this past year was a tremendous honor. As a student, you learn from the individuals that pioneered and sculpted our great profession. Dr. Kopelman certainly did just that, not only being a dedicated practitioner for his patients in St. Petersburg, Florida for 30 plus years, but also for serving as a past president of FPMA. I had the privilege to meet his son, Dr. Jeff Kopelman, who shared stories about how much his father enjoyed his patients, which motivated him to follow in his father's footsteps.

I am humbled to think that I have some of the same passion for the field of podiatric medicine. I would sincerely like to thank Ms. Audrey Kopelman, Dr. Jeff Kopelman, and Dr. Terence McDonald, President of the Florida Podiatric Medical Society; without their support, this award would not be possible. This support has permitted me to continue pursuing my dreams of becoming a podiatric physician and continuing Dr. Harvey Kopelman's legacy.