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Society (FPMS)

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Students Feel the Impact of the Society

by Terence D. McDonald, DPM

The good work of your Society continues! The Florida Podiatric Medical Society (FPMS) continued its vital philanthropic work throughout the year. In May, the Society presented its first ever Past President’s Scholarship, the Society’s newest scholarship category. This award is given to a graduating senior who has exemplified leadership and commitment to the podiatric profession. The scholarship was presented by **Dr. Samir S. Vakil** (FPMS Director) to **Nicholas Coretti** at the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine’s Commencement ceremony on May 2, 2015. This \$1,000 award, which provides a new graduate with help to begin residency training, was fully funded by FPMA’s Past Presidents (aka the Mushroom Club), who understand the importance of dedication to the Association. Dr. Vakil also presented the Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship, which provides \$250.00 to the top graduating Podiatric Radiology student, to **Amber Morra**.

In August, I was extremely honored to represent the Society at Barry University’s White Coat Ceremony, where I presented the Dr. Harvey Kopelman Award to student doctor **Vanessa English**, Class President of Barry University’s School of Podiatric Medicine Class of 2017. Vanessa has shown leadership and dedication in a manner befitting Dr. Harvey Kopelman’s legacy. The Dr. Harvey Kopelman Scholarship is a \$1,000 award funded by memorial gifts given to the Society after Dr. Kopelman’s passing, as well as generous support from the Kopelman family. Awards like these send a message to students that their profession cares about them and wants them to succeed. These scholarships represent the fraternal nature of our profession, as well as its strong advocacy on behalf of podiatric students’ careers. Student Doctor English wrote:

The Kopelman Award was validation that not only did I make the right career choice, but that the last two years spent working with my class was a success. I had not had any positive reinforcement or confirmation until that night. I cried as I walked to the stage, because I felt completely transformed from the person I was when I started only two short years ago. The scholarship accompanying the award was a surprise as well, and I plan on using the funds to purchase the manuals I need as well as covering the cost of my upcoming clinical skills exam. The Kopelman Award has given me both a personal and financial boost in the transition to my clinical education.



Dr. Terence D. McDonald, FPMS
President (right) presented the
Dr. Harvey Kopelman Award to Barry
Podiatry Class of 2017 student Vanessa
English (left) at the Barry University
White Coat Ceremony.

I couldn't have said it any better! Please consider making a gift donation to one of the many named awards/scholarships the Society presents. Or better yet, consider establishing an award yourself. We will bestow your award to parameters you wish to highlight. For example, Dr. Irving Block, who taught Radiology at BUSPM, established an award (the Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship), which is presented to the student with the highest GPA in Radiological courses. Any and all donations count, and all gifts help the future of our profession in profound ways.

May God be with you and bless you,

May you see your children's children

May you be poor in Misfortunes

And rich in Blessings

Irish Proverb



FPMS Director Dr. Samir S. Vakil (right) presented the FPMA Past President's Scholarship to Barry Podiatry Class of 2015 graduate Nicholas Coretti (left) at the BUSPM 2015 Commencement ceremony.



Dr. Samir S. Vakil (left) presented the Dr. Irving and Muriel Block Scholarship to Barry Podiatry Class of 2015 graduate Amber Morra (right).

Did you know that as a member of FPMA you are also a member of FPMS? Find out more about the philanthropic arm of FPMA by visiting the new FPMS web page on the FPMA website. A link to the FPMS web page is located in the right hand side bar on the FPMA home page at FPMA.com.