

THE SMILE SHE CARRIES

Shannon Lyons, Class of 2020

Dark, cracked, and hollow
Surrounded by a halo
White,
Like the rest of them
Appeared on the light.
Radiating from a silver pen with a logo
Everything else in place, “pink and moist”
We say. Automated. Passively,
“The pain is sharp”
She says
“She misses ice cream”
She says
All in quotes
Don’t misquote.
Brush and floss
I advise
Prior proper prevention. My dad used to say
Preventative care
Not a choice for all, where
A free monogrammed toothbrush
Isn’t so free.
Nothing left but a black hole.
It’ll be gone soon enough, the traveling
Ladies who pull
“What’s your favorite ice cream?” I ask

PLAYING OUTSIDE

Michelle McCullers, Class of 2020

It used to be green
I swear
I swear... desperately, as I feel its heat rising.
She looks up, with a drip of sweat
Lining her bangs.
“Like in the pictures?”
No, better than the pictures.
I’m so sorry that you can’t see it.
“It’s okay”
It’s not okay.
Growing up in concrete, skinning
Your knees instead of falling
Into grass.
Not fair.

Michelle McCullers is a second year medical student. She graduated cum laude from FSU in December 2015 with an honors thesis in molecular biology. She is heading to the Daytona Beach campus in May.