



**PROTECTORS OF THE STEPS**  
Stefano Leitner, Class of 2019

# DAY 1

Roddy Bernard, Class of 2019

I am anxious, but confident.  
I have practiced this before  
Yet this time is different.  
How will I perform?  
I grab their chart.  
A smile masking my face.  
I'm tachypneic and diaphoretic,  
My pulse running a race.

A differential diagnosis  
After an HPI and physical exam.  
Select and advise  
The correct treatment plan.

I close my eyes,  
Inhale deeply to clear my airway.  
Taking a flashback  
To the good ol' "Book days."

Hours of practicing  
Numerous patient interviews,  
At first I stuttered,  
But over time I grew.

I grew not in size,  
But in knowledge of mind.  
Building habits  
To last through time.

Now back to the present,  
I have controlled my fear.  
I am doing what I love  
And I've worked hard to be here.

*Roddy Bernard was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Tampa, Florida when he was ten-years-old. He earned a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences and Psychology at the University of South Florida. Roddy enjoys writing, taking pictures, and composing songs on his guitar. His favorite part about art is the ability "to show others, not what my eyes see, but how my brain perceives it."*