

## Life

Jason A. Boothe

I saw...  
I watched...  
A person...die today  
She seemed confused  
As if she wondered why I stared at her that way.  
Momentary gasps of air  
Escaping her lungs  
Were the only sounds heard.  
Neither one of us said a word.  
Eyes glossy, skin dry, body frail  
I remember my attending telling me, one day soon,  
He thought her major organs would fail.

But I can't stop thinking  
I'm the one who failed!  
Blessed with what gift,  
My hands are now useless,  
She gripped my fingers with the little  
Strength she had remaining  
As I found myself refraining,  
Or simply holding back tears.  
All of a sudden all of my fears hit me at once.

I could do...nothing  
Nothing in years one or two  
prepared me to do anything like this.  
Years three and four didn't prepare me for much more  
Nothing more than life.  
Death wasn't a part of the plan.  
Now I stand silently holding this woman's hand  
Thinking, God, why does she have to die,  
I don't understand.

Will I ever understand?  
How Cold and Lonely  
Death must be.  
I don't even think this woman has a family  
It's... just me.  
Over the past two and a half weeks  
I've become her son.  
No not just her resident, not just her doctor  
I've become a part of her  
As if I exited her womb  
And I knew someday soon  
I would have to watch as my mother dies  
Consumed by pain,  
How will I ever be the same?

Will I ever be the same?  
I just kept thinking  
To save this woman's life  
There simply must be another way  
Because truly, I don't ever want to say,  
I watched another person die...today.

■ **Jason A. Boothe** is a fourth year medical student.  
*Poetry is his way of speaking for those who cannot or will not express themselves.*



Country Road &  
Sunflowers  
Joshua Greenstein



■ **Joshua Greenstein** is a second year medical student. Joshua graduated from Florida State University in 2011, majoring in Biological Science with a minor in Chemistry. While earning his undergraduate degree, Joshua was involved in leadership of the Alpha Epsilon Delta pre-health honor society and volunteered on a medical mission trip to Buff Bay, Jamaica. There he participated in makeshift clinics designed for people without access to health care. Joshua enjoys playing and listening to music, sports and aviation, recently earning his pilot's licence. He chose to attend the Florida State University College of Medicine because of its mission to train knowledgeable yet compassionate patient-centered physicians.