



AAPSM President Paul Langer, DPM (l) presents the 2014 Robert Barnes Distinguished Service Award to recipient Matt Werd, DPM (r)

The AAPSM is pleased to announce that AAPSM Fellow and Past President Matthew Werd, DPM from Lakeland, Florida was the 2014 recipient of the Robert Barnes Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented by current AAPSM President Paul Langer, DPM during the Awards Luncheon held Friday, March 14, 2014 during the AAPSM Sports Medicine and Spring Training Stand Alone meeting at The Westin in Tampa Bay, Florida.

The Robert M. Barnes, DPM Distinguished Service Award is presented by the AAPSM to a recipient who has dedicated many years to the AAPSM in promoting the importance of podiatric sports medicine.

Listed below is a copy of Dr. Werd's acceptance speech.....

### **Robert M. Barnes Distinguished Service Award**

*Acceptance Speech, Matt Werd, DPM AAPSM/Tampa 2014*

#### **Wow!**

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What an incredibly humbling honor to be recognized with a distinguished service award named after our Academy's Founding Father! Although some of us have never met Dr. Barnes, we have all benefitted from his legacy, which has helped guide our Academy through many peaks and valleys for more than 44 years. Several words come to mind when reflecting on Dr. Barnes' legacy: Vision, Passion, and Leadership. These words have inspired many of us, including myself over the past 20+ years of volunteer service to the Academy. *With the hope of possibly inspiring others - just as Robert Barnes did for his 58 years of practice in Burbank, California - I wanted to briefly review what each of these words has meant to me.*

#### **Vision**

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We strive to live up to the standard set by Dr. Barnes, and we all share in the fruits of his incredible vision that he had when he formed our Academy at the APA National meeting in San Francisco in 1970. Part of the original Academy mission was to *"spread the gospel"* of podiatric sports medicine through meetings and collaborations. Ironically, we have now come full circle today, at our 1<sup>st</sup> standalone meeting in nearly 20 years! *Kudos to Rita, Dr. Fullem, and the rest of our current Board for their vision making this standalone meeting happen.*

#### **Passion**

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For those of you who did share the privilege of spending time with Dr. Barnes, it is certain that you would feel that Dr. Barnes shared something with each one of us in this room today. Why? Because there is a common thread woven through and connecting each one of us; whether we are biomechanists, or surgeons, or comprehensive foot and ankle doctors, or whether we are athletes in training or not in training (*TY Dr. Sheehan*). Our common thread is what? Passion, a passion for sports medicine that bonds each of us together, regardless of our backgrounds or training.

As with any sport or activity, the more effort and passion you give, the more benefit you will receive. Said another way, *"Luck is a dividend of sweat. The more you sweat, the luckier you get."* Our profession is now an integral part of mainstream sports medicine, thanks in part to our founding fathers' sports medicine passion. Many of our members practice as key team doctors at every level of athletic

competition. Dr. Barnes was also an early member of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), and several of us have since become Fellows of ACSM, and we strongly encourage each of you to follow your passion to become more involved with ACSM, as well as the Academy.

## **Leadership**

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Leaders set a positive example; Rita Yates has been our leader and mentor, and she is now a PM Hall-of-Fame Inductee – Congrats to Rita! Her leadership style follows her highly effective mantra, “Kill ‘em with kindness!” which has helped both to lead, and also to diffuse countless challenges from within and outside of the Academy. Leaders are always being watched, so, “Do the little things that matter.” As one of my first “house call” patients while I was a 1st-year surgical resident under Dr. Kashuk in Miami; Head Dolphins Coach Don Shula once said, “My responsibility is leadership, and the minute I get negative, that is going to have an influence on my team.”

True leaders are not those who strive to be first, but those who are 1st to strive, and give their all for the success of the team. So, *Serve your Academy first - not yourself- and the Academy, in turn, will reward you with tremendous opportunity, fulfillment, and recognition.* It has been an incredible honor to represent the Academy, and in turn to have been rewarded with fulfilling experiences around the world!

## **This service award would not be possible without giving thanks to...**

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*\*Rita Yates-* forever known as the glue that has kept this Academy together. *Thank You! Btw, be sure to help celebrate Rita’s and her soon-to-be 18 y/o daughter Amanda’s birthday, with big birthday hugs this weekend!*

*\*to our Past-Presidents, Board Members, Fellows and Members-* with whom many ever-lasting friendships have been made, especially to Drs. Jim Losito, Keith Kashuk, and my practicing partner Ed Fazekas. *Thank You!*

*\*to our Athletic Trainers* at all levels including Florida Southern College and the Detroit Tigers. *Thank You!*

*\*Finally, to My Family.* Serving the Academy is a time commitment; my biggest thanks goes to my family for support and patience, especially from my beautiful wife Heather. She is our ray of sunshine, and she runs our family like no one else! *Grazie! Mahalo! Merci Beacoup! Gracias! unt, Danke Shoen! Thank You!*