

Deeded Body Ceremony 2019

Hello, my name is Amalia Leveille and I am here to speak on behalf of the Physician Assistant Class of 2020. I am honored to be with you all today and am grateful for the opportunity to share my gratitude with you in person. You have made a huge sacrifice in delaying your grievances and giving your loved ones for the betterment of our education. I am completely humbled by this fact every time I think back to anatomy lab.

I remember the first time my classmates and I stood in the anatomy lab in the presence of your loved ones. It was a solemn moment where students, our instructors, and a University of Iowa Chaplin shared a moment of silence. I remember taking a deep breath and feeling all of the emotions that were running through my body. At that moment, I was fully immersed in the reality of our training. Anatomy lab was where my path to becoming a PA would start and where my focus has stayed during the entirety of my studies. Anatomy lab was where I was able to connect all of the pieces that I missed when reading through text books and listening to lecture presentations. Anatomy lab taught me the intricacies of the human body, but this experience most importantly gave me a deeper appreciation for human life.

I would like to share a poem written by Christy Ann Martine, which captures how anatomy lab has impacted my education and my outlook on life.

When your world moves too fast and you lose yourself in the chaos,

Introduce yourself to each color of the sunset.

Reacquaint yourself with the earth beneath your feet.

Thank the air that surrounds you with every breath you take.

Find yourself in the appreciation of life.

It is so easy for me to get caught up in the chaos of life, especially during this rigorous academic adventure. With weekly assignments, group projects, and exams, I am forced to keep my eyes focused on my pen and paper goal of becoming a physician assistant. However, when I step back for just a minute, I am able to see the greater picture in my path of becoming a PA. I am able to see the reason behind it all. I am able to appreciate the idea of life itself. It is so fragile, so sweet, and such a blessing. Each one of the donors has taught us to acknowledge and appreciate the life we have each been given.

Even though they have passed away from this earth, their presence in our studies will make a lasting impact on every patient we have yet to serve. We are so honored to have anatomy lab be part of our curriculum. We were able to learn the depths of the human body and are now able to carry this knowledge with us into every patient room. We have gained immense academic knowledge, but have most importantly gained a stronger appreciation for life.

So to all of you here today, on behalf of the Physician Assistant Class of 2020, we would simply like to say "thank you".