

My name is Ali Kallner, and I am here representing the 2nd year physical therapy student body.

I, like all of the students here today, am fascinated by the human body, as you are likely not surprised to hear, given the nature of our chosen career paths. I will admit though, that there were times during my anatomy course when I momentarily lost touch with that underlying fascination in the midst of stressful school days or upcoming exams. It was in the lab, with the donors, where I was brought back to that.

I won't attempt to pronounce the Latin saying that is often written near the doors to anatomy labs but I will give you an English translation- this is the place where the dead teach the living. I love this translation because it captures a whole lot of meaning in so few words.

From a truly scientific perspective, nothing can elevate the understanding of the human body more than the body itself. The donors showed us the intricacies of our nerves, vessels, muscles, and organs. They brought meaning to words on powerpoint slides and connected dots between pages upon pages of notes. For lack of a better description- they brought the class to life.

Academics aside, though, I often found myself overcome by an arguably more important lesson I learned while in the anatomy lab – that all of us, living and dead, have more in common than we think. Despite differences in race, color, personality, or opinion - we're all human, and at the core of it... humans are pretty amazing.

None of us would be standing here today had the donors not continued to impact the world once they passed- and that is a truly astounding thing that very few ever

accomplish. They will live on through this next generation of health care, and even beyond as we pass on our knowledge to students of the future. I cannot emphasize how grateful we are to have known your loved ones in the capacity that we did. Thank you so much for being here.