

Hello, my name is Kelly Crowley and I am here today representing the physical therapy class of 2021. I'd like to start by thanking the deeded body program for the opportunity to speak today and express my gratitude to the loved ones of those who gifted themselves to better our educational experience and to contribute to the world of medicine. I can't even begin to explain the disappointment that we have experienced as a program that we are unable to meet all of you in person and listen to your stories about your loved ones and express our gratitude to each of you individually.

Somehow, this speaking role picked me; the one person out of my class of 44 who was very obviously not prepared for the gravity of such an experience on the first day. I had been nervous about our first lab, simply because I did not know what to expect. I became immensely overwhelmed the second I stepped in and had to leave, even though it was only our introduction and we didn't even start anything. It took me several weeks to warm up to being in lab, but after a while I grew to love it because of how much it taught me about myself and what I value as a person and a clinician.

When you first walk in, it is very hard to detach from the reality that under those tarps there are someone's grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, best friends, and role models. The very thought that crossed through many of our minds was, "this will be us some day," and it was both a sobering and humbling feeling. But after we got over the initial shock, it became easier to see each person as a learning opportunity and turn our apprehension into drive to understand. We formed deep connections with each person in that room, living or not, as it was both an emotional and educational experience. We would find anomalies to show off to each other and ponder how each life was lived. Even though we were only given an age and cause of death in the beginning, they each acquired a nickname, a background story, and many hypotheses as to how they ended up with us by the end of our time with them.

Throughout our semester in lab, many of our classmates experienced hardships and loss of their own, which only brought us closer together and enriched the experience we had with each individual at a table. Not only is learning the anatomy of the human body critical to our career, but so is being able to emotionally relate to our patients and coworkers. The gifts your loved ones presented to us provided an invaluable learning experience that has positively impacted each of our lives and our careers. We want to thank you for supporting their choice to contribute to our education and let you know that because of them, we are all better people and clinicians. We are indebted to all of you.

Thank you!