



Medical Students Thank Body Donors

To the families of those who have generously donated their bodies to the Medical College of Georgia: We, the Class of 2007, would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for the gift made to us by your relatives who donated their bodies so we could gain a greater understanding of medicine.

We can only imagine the sacrifice you have made: the loss of your loved ones without the opportunity to put those people to rest. You may have accepted your loved ones' decision to donate their bodies with pride and compassion, maybe with resignation, perhaps with resentment.

We want to extend to you the reassurance that their sacrifice (and yours) is deeply appreciated and respected: It has allowed us to acquire an immeasurable amount of knowledge. As we have progressed in our studies, we have only begun to understand the true depth of this knowledge.

The donation of one's own human body is an invaluable gift, one that requires trust and resolve from the donor and the family. We can only imagine the strength, will and benevolence that your family members must have possessed. We will not know who they were, as our studies cannot reveal the essence of character and soul. We can only know who they were to us, generous and honest hands to guide us through our study of medicine.

Therefore, we hope that you will keep their memory for us, and that you will rest in the knowledge that we recognize your family members as strong, kind-hearted, and heroic human beings for whom we have the utmost respect and gratitude.

The Class of 2007, The Medical College of Georgia, School of Medicine.

Editor's note:

The writers, Rebecca Downey and Frances Casey are freshmen at the Medical College of Georgia.
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