David Kim Donor Memorial Speech

Welcome honored guests, family, and friends. I would like to thank you for making the trip all the way to Anschutz Medical Campus. My name is David Kim and I am a student of the Physical Therapy Program, Class of 2019. I’ve had the honor and the privilege to work with the ceremony committee to help coordinate today’s event, but more importantly, I’ve had the opportunity to have worked with one of the many donors who we are here to honor today.

Our theme for this year is Ripples. A theme that all of the programs here have agreed upon and one that would illustrate the everlasting impact your loved ones have made on each student at this campus. Anatomy is a subject that healthcare providers never forget and is always one of the most impactful learning experiences of any medical curriculum. We are forever grateful to have such selfless individuals provide the gift of themselves and education.

The physical therapy program kicks off its program with a class known as professional development. A class where we explore the self and the journey of becoming a physical therapist. After the first week of school and anatomy dissections, our faculty facilitate discussions about our feelings regarding cadaver dissections and what it was like to work with our donor. We saw them as teachers. An intimate relationship formed as we learned about each individual’s body. They are mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, siblings, grandparents, friends, but most importantly, they are human. Humans that have made a profound impact on all of us here today.

After the facilitated discussion, we were given one of three assignment options. Write a reflection about dissections, a narrative from the view of our donor’s perspective, or a letter to share to our donor. I chose to write a letter and would like to share it with you all here today.

To my donor, I am forever indebted to you. The true meaning of selfless service, providing the gift for us to learn from you. I’m here in physical therapy school fulfilling my dream, what I believe is my calling. I’m a very religious guy and every time I drive to and from school, I see the sunrise and the sunset, and I thank God for such an opportunity. To be present. To have the opportunity to have met you, and to learn from you. The school protects your history and information to prevent us from knowing you, but I really wish I did. I know that you’ve lived a full life and it would have been amazing to have heard your perspective on it. On life, death and dying, and your past. As I continue to learn from your body, I want to share a heartfelt thank you. Although I haven’t heard your story, I know that God’s plan was for us to meet in this way. I hope that you’ll look over me with a smile on your face as I continue to learn, grow, and develop. Cherishing the gift that is you. As I progress throughout the curriculum and eventually my career, I want you to know that you are forever in my memories.. and maybe, just maybe when the time comes, all of us here today will get the chance to hear each individual’s story we are honoring here today in heaven.

Thank you.