Good afternoon. My name is Kiara Blough, I am a co-president of the Modern Human Anatomy program, and I’m honored to be here with you today.

In trying to express my gratitude, I wrote a thank you letter to my donor that I’d like to share with you. I believe my words reflect my classmate’s feelings toward all of the donors. So here goes...

Dear Donor,

“Thank you,” sounds understated, for a gift such as yours.

First and foremost, thank you for entrusting us students of science and medicine with your physical self: a vital learning tool, for the purpose of education and the pursuit of knowledge.

In the few months we’ve worked together, you have taught me more about the anatomical sciences than I could have learned from any book or professor. Beyond the anatomical knowledge that you have offered me, I admire and respect the values that you embody long after your passing.

In Viktor Frankl’s, *Man’s Search For Meaning*, he states, “In some way, suffering ceases to be suffering, as soon as it finds a meaning.” When I first met you, I was hit by a wall of emotions. It was important to allow myself a moment to suffer the grief of your passing; I then regained my composure and began to appreciate the beauty of the gift you intentionally left to us.

You were a woman of purpose, until your final days and beyond. You enabled the learning of future scientists and health professionals, so we can help others and advance science and medicine.

You were a woman of values. You gave of yourself to further our education and to teach us invaluable lessons. You gave of yourself to help others; the number of people who will benefit from your gift will grow exponentially as we each apply our knowledge that you enabled.

You were a woman of courage. Thank you for being generous in the face of death; for maintaining purpose and giving us the opportunity to learn from you.

We all strive to leave our impact on the world, and you have certainly left yours.

I’m honored by the trust that you bestowed upon us with this gift and I feel privileged to have learned from you. Like you, I will strive to live my life as a woman of purpose, a woman of values, and a woman of courage.

With respect and gratitude,

Kiara and fellow classmates