

THE CLASS of 2024

The Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology



## DONORS



**Margaret Ann Abrams** May 31, 1940-September 7, 2019



**David Addicott**February 17, 1942March 15, 2020



**Mary A. Anderson** April 6, 1931-March 6, 2020



Kenneth E. Batcher December 27, 1935-August 22, 2019



Robert Nelson Baugher\*\* November 16, 1938-April 19, 2020



Franklin Robert Beaver Sr.\*\* March 13, 1942-January 31, 2020





**Joseph Arthur Bishop** June 20, 1937-April 18, 2020



**Edward Lee Boles** October 13, 1952-February 22, 2019



Richard M. Bordenkircher\*\* May 29, 1939-December 19, 2019



**John Karl Bott\*\***July 18, 1932July 4, 2020





**Robert Alfred Brewer** November 20, 1930-May 19, 2020



**Violet Pearl Butler** April 25, 1928-March 26, 2020



William Carr Butler\*\*
September 3, 1924December 28, 2019





**Sharon Jolene Byous** November 20, 1946-November 8, 2019



**Betty Jean Carmany** July 7, 1931-November 15, 2019



**Beverly Catchpole** November 21, 1928-August 30, 2019



Janet Lorraine Cetor June 13, 1949-November 23, 2018



**Robert Arthur Chapman** April 15, 1932-October 2, 2019



Clark Alex Collins\*\*
December 7, 1928September 11, 2019



**Terry Coontz**February 18, 1955November 18, 2019



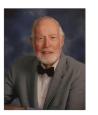
Elizabeth Jane Crothers November 10, 1951-October 10, 2019



Cora Mae Debnar November 4, 1924-November 4, 2018



**Allison Dmohowski** January 24, 1965-July 18, 2019



**Wilfred B. Dodgson\*\***February 21, 1928December 27, 2018



## DONORS



**Shirley Arlene Dubetz** November 4, 1927-April 2, 2020



**Carol Lee Duell-Brumfield** February 8, 1935-January 11, 2019



**Donald Steven Eberly**February 25, 1951September 28, 2019



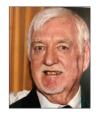
**Loren W. Furness** September 1, 1948-January 15, 2020



**Elona Marie Gilanyi** August 19, 1937-March 25, 2020



**Curtis Lee Gradison** November 21, 1960-July 29, 2019



Dennis N. Hackathorn\*\*
January 1, 1942December 15, 2018



**Maureen A. Hagan** September 25, 1944-November 6, 2018



**Julie Ann Jones** November 18, 1976-February 16, 2019



**Kevin Carter Keesee** October 3, 1953-January 13, 2020



Andrew Kellos\*\* November 20, 1928-August 19, 2019



**Nikki Lee Kirschner** September 19, 1972-September 8, 2020



Roseanne Lammers May 9, 1929-October 24, 2019



**Janeen Marie Lipinski** July 31, 1942-September 12, 2019



Vincent A. Little Jr. August 22, 1943-August 24, 2019



Ronald Lee Loza\*\* November 28, 1943-December 17, 2019



**Iva Lukacena**August 4, 1931November 8, 2019



**Hazel Naomi Marks** September 15, 1922-December 27, 2019



James Dale Martin\*\*
June 28, 1935October 22, 2018



**Robert Drew Mathias**July 2, 1958December 19, 2019



Nancy Jane McKinney November 23, 1946-December 23, 2019



Clinton C. Miller\*\*
June 1, 1933July 11, 2019



**Larry E. Morgan** August 14, 1946-November 3, 2019



Mark Moss March 11, 1957-December 1, 2019



**David Lowell Moyer** January 16, 1951-February 22, 2019



**Barbara Blough O'Connor** February 13, 1932-September 9, 2019



Cindy Marie Pannunzio October 17, 1959-October 14, 2019



Margaret Ruth Paul February 21, 1924-May 21, 2020



**Deloris J. Petraroli** September 28, 1937-July 12, 2019



**Dorothy Georgia Reid** October 2, 1925-April 16, 2020



**Robert Glenn Riffle** June 13, 1938-March 9, 2020



Ann M. Riley August 2, 1936-October 7, 2019



**Drew Michael Risher** August 14, 1979-August 22, 2019



**Tim J. Robinson** January 17, 1953-September 23, 2019



William Charles Robinson November 24, 1949-November 5, 2019



**Susan Grody Ruben** July 27, 1955-October 13, 2019



**Paul R. Rubinic** August 25, 1937-October 6, 2018



**Janet May Sanders** October 23, 1940-December 13, 2019



**Janet Elissa Schoby** April 23, 1951-December 9, 2018



**Barbara Summerbell Scott** September 7, 1922-April 1, 2020



**Sally Jean Shilling** August 21, 1934-December 5, 2018



**Joshua Silvis** August 15, 1980-October 26, 2019



John Lewis Smerkol\*\*
June 21, 1946January 22, 2020



**Larc A. Smith**March 19, 1934February 20, 2020



**Virginia Standridge**March 13, 1926November 5, 2019



Sarah L. Stein January 3, 1947-March 24, 2020



Susan Kay Strong June 29, 1955-August 8, 2019



**Howard Emmet Sutton\*\***December 25, 1922April 25, 2019





**Brandon Lee Trowbridge** March 7, 1995-November 13, 2019



**Debora Jean Wade** June 26, 1954-March 25, 2020



**Roger W. Weaver** February 26, 1937-May 26, 2020



Marian Christine Wideman April 16, 1933-January 20, 2019



**Jonathan W. Yenulonis** March 7, 1961-December 12, 2019



**Diana Joy Zitnik** January 15, 1936-October 25, 2018

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether be a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Silent Spaces**

The daylight of our years warmed my skin Scintillating, sustaining, supporting

Waves of intemperate time

Always returned me to the home I built in you

But as harmonies fade

and dusk succumbs.

Corporeal embrace fell away to cocooned absence

A loss greater than who I was or would be without you

The cradle of silence -

Was a canvassed shield

To dull deprivation, but painted a target of tribulation

To take you in again, in ways only I knew how

You whispered to carry me with you.

Embers of light return, vivifying
I brush my hair from my eyes
The way that I used to
Before I kissed you with the arrival of the dawn.

March 14, 2021

Rommel Morales, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



Greetings. I hope you're all doing well in these challenging times. I am an associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology at Northeast Ohio Medical University. Over the past year I have served as the director of the anatomy curriculum in our College of Medicine.

In a normal year, I would have the honor of welcoming you for an in-person Memorial Service at NEOMED. The Memorial Service is a deeply important annual tradition for us. It allows our faculty, staff, and students a chance to meet with you face-to-face, shake hands, share stories, and seek closure together. However, as a medical school, we value everyone's health above all else, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately prevents us from meeting in-person this year. We offer this memorial book as an alternative means of expressing our deep appreciation to all of you for the incredible gift that your loved one has given to support our medical students.

Medicine is a unique profession, requiring students to not only learn a huge amount of scientific knowledge, but — just as importantly — learn to be humane caregivers, healers of the body, mind, and the soul. Over the decade that I've been teaching at NEOMED, this is what I've come to view as the greatest gift from your loved ones. With their very first course in medical school, our students immediately experience the intimate relationship between science and humanity that defines medicine. I thank all of you for your generosity and devotion to helping our students become doctors.

This booklet serves as way for us to honor the accomplishments of your loved ones. In the pages beyond, our students, faculty, and college leadership also express their gratitude and deep respect. We dedicate this booklet to honoring the lives your loved ones lived and the selfless dedication of their gift.

Jesse Young, Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology



The gift of your loved one's donation to educate and train our first-year medical student class is truly appreciated. Such altruism and dedication to our students' education contributes to the future health of our community in so many ways. Besides learning about science and medicine, they learn about the human condition, of teamwork, and of themselves in their professional journey to become physicians. With many thanks from one educator to another — your loved one was their first teacher.

- Julie Aultman, Professor, Family and Community Medicine



My donor is one of the greatest teachers I have ever had. This person who so selflessly gave the ultimate gift to science taught me so much about the complexities of the human body. In doing so, my donor offered me the opportunity to become a more skilled physician for the patients I will encounter in the near future. This knowledge has constituted the foundation of my medical career, and I am so unbelievably grateful to have been given this chance. I will always remember my donor for their noble contribution to science, and I know that one day, because of them, I will be better equipped to heal and care for my patients.

- Kerry Dombroski, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I would like to express my appreciation and sincere gratitude to each and every family and your loved ones who have provided us with an incredible privilege to enrich our medical education. Our donors are truly our first teachers, and their generosity has provided us all with an invaluable opportunity to learn. I have the utmost respect for each and every donor and family. The impact your loved ones have made will carry on with me for the rest of my career and serve as an inspiration as I continue throughout medical education.

- Karina Pedersen, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



To our donors and families: thank you. I cannot imagine the difficulty of the decision to so intimately give oneself for the purpose of education. What I do know is the deep gratitude I feel towards everyone involved in such a selfless choice. You were our first teachers, guiding us through the beautiful complexities and diversity of the human body. You were our first patients, with an irreplaceable role in showing us how to care for others with meticulousness and respect. The lessons you have taught my classmates and I will continue to impact us for the rest of our lives. Thank you so much for allowing us to become a part of your story, as you have become a part of ours.

- Shabnam Mansur, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to learn from your loved ones. The valuable information that was learned is something that is going to make us become better physicians, which translates into greater care for others. This experience will be one that I will never forget and one that had immense meaning to me. Thank you.

- Andrew Alejo, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I can still remember the first time I really saw the right hand of the donor many years ago as a student. I stopped. This was a woman with beautiful hands. She had graceful nails with coral colored polish. Her hand was gently curled because the muscles that close the fingers are stronger than those that straighten them out. But it seemed as if she was reaching to pick up a hairbrush. I held her hand, and she held mine. This hand had held other hands. These fingers had written shopping lists, and dried children's tears. I straightened her hand, but it felt as if she was squeezing my hand. She was giving me permission to learn from her and have this one last anatomy lesson.

Rebecca German, Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology

#### TESTIMONIALS



I always liked to think that the person in front of me would have been described by their family and friends as giving, adventurous, and passionate. Only a person with a giving heart would give such a precious donation as their body to medical science. Only a person with an adventurous spirit would find it compelling to give a medical student the journey of discovery by donating their body to medical science. Only a person with a passionate soul would find the richness in learning by donating their body to medical science. I can't say for certain you would use these terms to describe your beloved, but these are the thoughts that came to mind when I reflect on the opportunity given to me and my classmates by your family members and friends. I am ever thankful and appreciative of their donation, their gift of discovery and knowledge to us.

- Emily Ruckman, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I am sitting here trying to piece together a few words to thank my donor; however, the emotions I am feeling simply cannot be felt through a short writing. Your loved one was the best gift I could have received during my first year of medical school and my very first teacher. I dedicate most of my learning and acquired knowledge to my donor. Without them, I would not be the medical student I am today and I would not be the physician I aspire to be. I would like to thank you all as well for also being a part of the process of teaching the next generation of physicians. My peers and I are very grateful for such an amazing opportunity.

- Alekhya Mannava, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I have taught anatomy for more than 30 years, and every year I am humbled by the total selflessness of the donors and their families to this program. Your generosity in sharing this gift of a loved one with total strangers renews my hope and optimism for a better and more connected community in these times of unprecedented uncertainty. Mere words cannot express the depth of our gratitude...but the students and the faculty of NEOMED give thanks for your gift every single day.

- Dana Peterson, Associate Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology



I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and your loved ones for choosing to become a donor. Our class and the entire NEOMED community are truly grateful for this selfless gesture. Your loved ones provided an invaluable experience to our class. Their contribution has enabled us to grasp the intricacies of the human body which will help us become great healthcare providers. Know that they will continue to live on with each patient we care for in the future. Thank you once again!

Oroshay Kaiwan, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



Your loved one's selfless gift of knowledge taught my classmates and I infinitely more than mere words or pictures ever could accomplish. I am, and ever shall be, grateful to my donor – my first teacher. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Nino Kovaljesko, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



The impact that the donors have made on me and my classmates is indescribable. This gift is something that will surpass simply our first year of medical school. Your loved one has enabled us to treat our future patients to the best of our ability, which is the greatest gift we could ask for. There will never be a way to show how truly grateful we are for our first patients and our greatest teachers.

Kyra Deep, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



To the donors, thank you. To their loved ones, be proud of them.

Chris Vinyard, Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology



The year 2020 was unprecedented and incredibly difficult in many regards, including education. We were fortunate to be able to provide our students an uninterrupted educational experience — an experience made more meaningful by your generous gift. Your loved ones are the first patients our students encounter in a career of practicing medicine. As such, it is a unique and significant experience for our students and one they will remember for years to come. As an instructor in the anatomy course, it is a privilege to observe the students realize and appreciate the intersection of medicine and humanity — an understanding that would not be possible without your loved ones and one that I believe was much more poignant during such challenging times. Thank you.

Erin M. Franks, Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology



Donating is not just about giving to others, it's about making a difference in each of our lives. Although I have never met you or your loved ones, I will never forget the lasting effect your donation has instilled in me. Your altruistic act is one that can never be repaid, but know that in death, you have given new perspective and knowledge in life. Words cannot express the level of gratitude I owe to you and your family, for what you have done is the greatest gift anyone could give. Nevertheless, I would still like to personally thank you and your loved ones for this amazing gift and act of kindness!

- Connor Landers, Bio-Med Science Academy Student



I wish I could have met a person so selfless as to donate the only thing in this world that was truly theirs, and who was willing to contribute to society even in death. I will never forget these acts of profound generosity which have forever impacted my life and the lives of many others. For continuing to inspire and educate future generations, I humbly express my sincere gratitude to your loved ones.

- Elinor Case, Biomed Science Academy Student



Medical school is far from what I imagined. It became overwhelming a lot of the times, but my experience in anatomy is what reminded me of why I am here. I am training to take care of people in the future and learning directly from them has shown me a side of humanity that you don't see outside of this career. Humans are known to be vulnerable and donating your body to science is a decision that takes selflessness and a desire for others to learn. I want to thank the generous individuals for the invaluable gift they provided my classmates and myself. I have learned so much through these individuals that I hope to carry with me as I become a practicing physician in the future. I cannot imagine how tough of a decision this donation could be on an individual and his/her family and loved ones, so I cannot express enough how appreciative I am of the opportunity to learn and hope that you are all taking care during these difficult times.

- Rahi Patel, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



To my donor: Thank you for your choice, an ultimate act of generosity that impacted not only me but every human I will work with as time goes on. I cannot express how privileged I feel to have been your student. So much of my education this year was theoretical and based on textbooks. You taught me this education holds little meaning without acknowledging the complexity and uniqueness of every human being. Your selfless donation helped me grow in so many ways. I experience a lasting appreciation for the trust and faith you held in medical students, and the generous choice that resulted. I will never forget what your decision meant to me or how it shaped me as an aspiring physician. Thank you.

- Kailey Christman, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I wish to thank all of our donors and their families for their generous gift. Your loved one's gift had an immeasurable impact on the future of our entire class and the patients we will go on to treat. I am forever grateful for the knowledge that was given to me by working with our donors.

- Nicholas Krasnoschlik, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I can say that the most profound learning experience I've had in my medical training was taught to me by your loved one. He became the greatest teacher I've had in my education so far. He expanded more than just my academic knowledge. He also taught me more about myself. Under his guidance, I learned and reflected on my past experiences that inspired me to go into medicine, the person I am today, and the type of doctor I strive to one day be. I will never forget the donor I was blessed to learn from. Hopefully, I will be able to take the lessons I've learned from him and use them to help others. I'll forever be grateful for his donation. I also want to thank his family and friends for allowing him to teach my classmates and me. May God bless his soul.

- Danny Belmona, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



The beauty and bravery of her, your beloved, was exemplary. She, with all the courage to be found on this Earth, held firmly in her heart that the world ought to be better. She knew that the world needs selfless givers, and so she chose to be that person — that hero — who works for a brighter future. While it is good to weep, to mourn the passing of your beloved, I pray that, in time, you will ultimately come to appreciate fully the gift she bestowed not just upon me, a gracious student, but the world. Yes, her decision will carry her onwards. Her decision will save lives, cure disease, and ease suffering, of this I can be sure. For every student I teach, she will live. For every patient I treat, she will live. For every life I save, she will live. Through all time, in memoriam, now and forever, she lives.

Thank you to all donors and their families for their donation. Their choice will not be in vain.

- Peter Koulianos, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



The gift that your loved ones made was not in vain. In death, they showed a degree of altruism that we should all aspire to have when our time comes. We gained indispensable knowledge and experience as a direct result of their courage, and I will never forget the experience I had learning from my donor.

- Hassan Abdalla, College of Graduate Studies Student, Class of 2021



"Thank you" is not enough to describe my sincere gratitude for having the opportunity to learn from your loved one. I feel honored to have been a part of this incredibly selfless act. I think of your loved one as my first patient, who stood at the foundation of my medical education. The knowledge bestowed upon me has undoubtedly shaped me into the physician I will become. I hope to leave a positive impact on my future patients just as your loved one has left this lasting impact on me. I will forever cherish this gracious gift.

- Alexa Wawrzyniak, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I am a professor of anatomy at NEOMED, and I attend the Memorial Service for our donors every year. This event is meaningful for the relatives, the students, and the faculty. It is a place where the NEOMED community can thank the families for their gift and explain how it furthers medical education. This year, just like last year, it is not possible to have an in-person memorial service. It is not possible for the family members and friends of the deceased to meet the doctors-in-training that have been able to learn and whose early education has been shaped by the experience. Please rest assured that all faculty and students appreciate the gift of the people who donated their bodies and that the experience of learning will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

– J. G. M. 'Hans' Thewissen, Ingalls-Brown Professor of Anatomy, Anatomy and Neurobiology



Your loved ones have given a priceless gift to us medical students. In a way they have become our first patients and taught us something that simply cannot be taught in textbooks. I can certainly say this generous act will never be forgotten by any of the students. Thank you for your generosity.

Natalie Ganios, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



As the nephew of someone who is going to be a donor, I recognize the weight that such a decision can have. Giving back to the next generation of healers is truly a selfless, generous, and humbling act. Donor, thank you for being my first look into the fascinating world of the human body and the first teacher I had on my medical journey. The knowledge that I gained will last me for a lifetime and will guide me everyday as I help others. I am extremely grateful for you, donor, as well as your loved ones. This experience and your memory will live on in me and my classmates. Your dedication and vision for a positive future in medicine is what paves the way for doctors to excel and achieve harmony in their profession. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

- Christopher Economus, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



I walked into my anatomy lab for the first time, excited and ready to learn. As I approached my table, I was flooded with emotions. My first thought was you. I wondered about his family: the pain you must have gone through, the emptiness in your heart from losing your loved one.

I then realized how incredibly amazing this man and his family must be. Your loved one displayed the ultimate example of selflessness by donating the most precious thing a human can: their body. For that I am eternally grateful.

I also want to thank you, the family. Losing a loved one is never easy. You weren't able to have a traditional service honoring them the way you may have hoped for. I can't even begin to imagine what you have gone through, but please know how incredibly thankful we are for you. Thank you for believing in the students of NEOMED. We will forever be indebted to you. And your loved one will always be remembered.

- Nicole Price, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



Thank you so much to our donors, their families, and their friends for entrusting us with such a deeply personal gift. Your overwhelming generosity is an important contribution to the education of our students. Please know we sincerely appreciate this gift, and that your loved one's donation has helped to shape the future of medicine.

- Catherine Mattinson, Assistant Professor, Anatomy and Neurobiology



I am forever grateful for your loved one's generous gift. Their selfless act truly lives beyond our education and contributes to the future of our medical practice. A few days after my grandfather passed away last spring, it was revealed that he chose to donate his body to the anatomy department of the medical school where my mother studied before beginning her career. I continue to take it upon myself today to study medicine in honor of my grandfather and all our gracious donors. Your gift has provided my classmates and me with our first teacher in medical school allowing health care to continue to serve humanity.

- Meghana Chalasani, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



The donation your loved one provided me, has shown me life does not stop after death. Through their donation, they expanded their time here on earth by teaching me a very important lesson, not only in my medical education, but my life as well. Due to the generosity of your loved one, I have learned so much more about life and what it truly means to be human. What I learned about life through my experience with your loved one has forever changed me in the best way possible. If it were not for your loved one, I know I would not have the same perspective on life as I do now. This experience was vital for me to go through, so I now can be the best physician for my future patients. I will be forever grateful for your loved one. Find comfort in knowing your loved one's generous donation has made me a better person now and forever.

Emily Marsico, College of Medicine Student, Class of 2024



Dear Families,

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the Northeast Ohio Medical University, I thank your loved one for their generous donation. The educational experience that they gave to our students is fundamental to their training as a physician.

I am sad that we are unable to hold our Memorial Service, so that I could express my gratitude to you in person.

We are deeply appreciative.

– Jeffrey J. Wenstrup, Professor and Chair, Anatomy and Neurobiology



Your loved ones "Gave in Death for Those in Life." While we are unable to gather together as a community to pay tribute to their lives, let us remember we are a community, transformed by their selflessness and their sense of purpose to train future physicians to care for patients and to advance medical science. We honor and respect those who have given so much.

 Elisabeth H. Young, M.D. ('85), Dean of the College of Medicine, Vice President for Health Affairs

# An Excerpt from "My Thanks" by John Greenleaf Whittier (Submitted by Student Teresa Whetstone)

There still the morning zephyrs play, And there at times the spring bird sings, And mossy trunk and fading spray Are flowered with glossy wings.

Yet, even in genial sun and rain, Root, branch, and leaflet fail and fade; The wanderer on its lonely plain Erelong shall miss its shade.

O friend beloved, whose curious skill Keeps bright the last year's leaves and flowers, With warm, glad, summer thoughts to fill The cold, dark, winter hours

Pressed on thy heart, the leaves I bring May well defy the wintry cold, Until, in Heaven's eternal spring, Life's fairer ones unfold.

# Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one,
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun of happy memories
that I leave behind when day is done.

Written by: Helen Lowrie Marshall

# My Final Gift

It is now time for me to move on

Into the dusk, but also the dawn.

I will remain as the morning comes

As I've left behind a gift for someone.

So another may walk, may talk, may see,

Where their life was locked,

I offered a key.

I am a donor to someone in need.

My final gift, my final deed.

- Author Unknown

