

## Anatomy Creative Project II 2008

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your fine poem, “My Cold Hands.” It is well-written and, more importantly for our purposes, shows real insight into your experience of anatomy. “Cold hands” is well-chosen synecdoche (part for the whole). Of course, in the anatomy lab, your hands are usually on the cold side. Cold hands may also be (mis)interpreted as a cold heart, itself a metaphor for a cold soul. Yet even in exploring “coldness” you accept a bond with your cadaver who, after all, also has “cold hands.” You know, I don’t think there is one “proper” or right way to feel toward the cadaver. There are many ways to connect, to appreciate, and to respect. I think the important thing is to recognize the proper time for your hands to become warm. I appreciate the opportunity to share in your thoughts. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your thoughtful interview with the cadaver Kara. This was an original way of addressing important questions many students wonder about? Why do donors choose to donate their bodies? Was the cadaver treated disrespectfully? How should students deal with the discomfort of dissecting genital areas, or the intimacy of dissecting hands and face? Do cadavers regret their decision? Your answers show your respect and gratitude for the cadaver, and the hope that she would feel she made the right choice. Thank you for sharing this reflection. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your poem “I often wonder...” You ask the unanswerable question of anatomy dissection – would donors and their families really want this experience for themselves and their loved ones? You are honest enough to recognize that, despite your appreciation and gratitude, it is a question that can never be answered completely. However, just by asking the question, you are letting in the ambiguity and uncertainty that is part of medicine. Doing so will make you a better, more sensitive doctor in the future. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your very strong poem “My Favorite Class.” Your writing is compelling and very involving. I particularly liked

the progression of your poem from technical curiosity to awareness of the cadaver's humanity, since typically the cadaver becomes less obviously human as dissection proceeds. It was a beautiful image of you sitting next to your cadaver, studying for your exam, stroking her face, and telling her it would be alright. At that moment, I believe you not only felt like a doctor comforting your patient, you *were* that doctor. Thank you for such excellent work. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

██████████  
Hello ██████████. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I read your essay, and first let me say if you are describing an incident that actually happened (since these projects are “creative”), I am very sorry indeed. That kind of accident is scary. I know there are specific protocols that are followed, so I hope you will be just fine. However, it was fascinating to see how you conceptualized this mishap as “revenge” or retaliation by the cadavers – a very understandable feeling! You are also exploring the challenging issue of “contamination” of the well by the ill, not only literally but metaphorically, “contaminating” you by their bacteria, their vulnerability, their mortality and death. Although I wish very much that you didn't have this experience, but I suspect it will teach you a lot, and not only about care with the scalpel. Thank you for sharing. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

██████████  
I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your final creative project essay, which is very effective in highlighting the link between anatomy dissection and clinical medicine. Your conclusion is absolutely correct – you can never be completely prepared for what happens in medicine, and that is both its challenge and its reward. I was particularly impressed that you realized that medicine not only teaches you about the human body but about yourself. Medicine is about the patient *and* the doctor, just as anatomy has as much to do with the student as the cadaver. Medicine is a very mutual profession, and it is wonderful that you understand this from the beginning. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

██████████  
Hello, ██████████. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your poem “Now I see.” It is a touching tribute to your cadaver. The poem does a lovely job of simultaneously conveying all that you learned from the cadaver; and how what you learned progressively humanized him for you. I found the line “I saw the world in him” especially moving. It reminded me of the line by the poet William Blake, “To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower /Hold infinity in the palms of your hand and eternity in an hour.” That is the gift of your cadaver, to offer you insights into so much about life through his death. Thank you for sharing your

thoughts. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your thoughts about how anatomy crystallized your perceptions of life and death, spirit and flesh. Your essay is an eloquent testimony witnessing to the strength of your religious conviction; and shows that science and faith can walk hand in hand. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I remember you from your one-time attendance at the literature and medicine course! I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your lovely poem "Recognition." It is a very well-written poem, full of emotion and the power to bring the reader into your experience. I particularly liked the way you "learned" about your future from the body of your cadaver. I also liked how intimate you were with her body, how you were on such good terms with her. Finally, it was a cute twist that this "young" cadaver was really only "young at heart." Very nice work, Aislinn. I think you should have been in the litmed class after all! Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your clever poem "Ode to Anatomy." The aabb rhyme scheme perfectly complemented the humorous tone. It sounded as though not only have you learned a lot of anatomy, but you had a pretty good time doing it! Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your final project poem. You selected a restrictive rhyme scheme (only words that rhyme with anatomy), but managed to extract a great range of significance within this constraint. You successfully acknowledged how anatomy challenged you, humbled you, and helped you grow. Not bad for one class! Thank you for this strong work. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your thoughtful and honest

essay. I really appreciated the authentic sharing of your experience. I too worry that sometimes anatomy is overly romanticized: “the cadaver is your first patient,” “the mystery and beauty of the human body” etc. It is not that these things aren’t true, but there are other truths to anatomy – tedium, brutality, the inevitable loss of dignity (for student as well as cadaver at times). The only thing I might suggest to you is that change doesn’t always take the form or present itself in the time that we expect. Anatomy gets under your skin, metaphorically as well as literally. It may have changed you more than you think. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was fortunate to receive your poem about your cadaver, “Now and Then.” Many students imagine that if the donor really knew what would happen to his or her body during dissection, they would regret their decision to donate. So I really enjoyed your conceit that the donor might share many of the same personality characteristics as medical students of curiosity, adventure, scientific enthusiasm; and far from being appalled, would find the whole experience “awesome.” I also thought your whole framing and reframing of the book on the face was very nuanced. Yes, it could be a sign of disrespect and as such needed to be appropriately corrected, as you did. On the other hand, in life, the cadaver might often have engaged in exactly the same behavior. Great insight! Thank you for this fine work. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I actually first read your essay in Plexus and really enjoyed it. You do a wonderful job of evoking a “sick” room, a sensation familiar to anyone who works in healthcare. The exchange with the patient highlights in a particularly poignant way all that separates the care receiver from the care giver. Your writing makes us feel the yearning of the patient, the guilt and helplessness of the phlebotomist. How much you had to be thankful for, and how little the patient had. That is a painful thing to confront. Yet by confronting it, the patient became paradoxically a little less alone. Lovely work. Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello, [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects. I was lucky enough to receive your funny little nursery rhyme about Old McLeonard and the anatomy lab. Very cute! Sometimes humor is a good way of coping with a stressful and demanding situation. I’m glad you all passed; and I’m glad you are still smiling :-). Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hi [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects, and received your poem "How do you think the cadaver feels...?" I liked your reference to The Growing Tree, it is a very apt analogy to the cadaver and dissection. The tree gives and gives, and sometimes the boy/man just takes and takes. The tree is always generous, and happy in that generosity; while the boy/man must grow into appreciation for the gifts he has received. Your poem also reminds me of Camus' essay about Sisyphus, pushing the boulder up the mountain, only to have it roll down and have to do it all over again. Camus writes, "We must imagine Sisyphus happy." In order to participate in dissection, most students must imagine the cadaver happy. Like the tree :-). Thanks for such an interesting reflection. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).

Hello [REDACTED]. I am one of the faculty who works with Dr. Leonard reviewing the anatomy creative projects, and received your poem "A Journey in Anatomy." It is really a beautiful piece of writing in the voice of the cadaver. You capture a particular voice very clearly, full of courage, humor, joie de vivre. I also loved the metaphor of crossing a busy street as a description of life. Quite apt! By the end of the poem, I really believed the spirit of your cadaver *would* fly. Let's hope so. Regards, Dr. Shapiro (Professor, Department of Family Medicine; Director, Program in Medical Humanities, UCI-SOM).