

Midwestern University Community Connection

News from the
Midwestern
University
Body Donation
Program

From the Director's Desk



Sandra E. Inouye, Ph.D.
Director, Anatomical
Laboratories and
Midwestern University
Body Donation Program

The past year has been exciting for the Midwestern University (MWU) Body Donation Program, which is only possible with the generous support of our donors. Anatomy is one of the foundational courses for over 800 students who are enrolled in our healthcare professional degree programs, and your donation contributes to their professional development in immeasurable ways.

The study of donors offers our students the experience of hands-on learning of real human anatomy, as well as discovering and appreciating the similarities between all people and the uniqueness that makes each one of us special. Our students not only learn anatomy, but they also develop empathy and compassion as they consider the lives of their "first patient"; this is a profound experience in humanity that no anatomy book or computer program can offer.

The MWU Body Donation Program participated in two wonderful events this past year. On March 13, 2024, the first-year students in the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM) and Arizona College of

Podiatric Medicine (AZCPM) held "A Celebration of Life," a ceremony to commemorate and express gratitude to those who donated themselves to their education in the Anatomical Sciences. Over 300 students, adorned in their professional white coats, expressed their gratitude to our donors and their families through moving poems, eloquent reflections, and instrumental performances. The event concluded with a reception at the MWU Ossuary Garden where the students, faculty, and staff were able to converse with and personally convey their gratitude to the families and friends of our donors.

Our second event was the continued partnership with the Glendale Fire Department (GFD). From late February to mid-March 2024, GFD Paramedics and Emergency Medicine Technicians received training and practiced life-saving procedures by working with donors at the MWU Body Donation Program. Over several days of workshops, close to 200 Glendale firefighters practiced securing open airways, establishing intraosseous infusion of medication, and other emergency procedures.

INSIDE

Glendale Firefighters, MWU Students Partner with BDP to Practice Lifesaving Emergency Techniques.....	2
Faculty and Student Perspectives on Anatomy.....	3
Midwestern University Celebration of Life Honors Donors, Families	4

From the Director's Desk *Continued*

Students from AZCOM, the College of Health Sciences (CHS) Physician Assistant Program, and the College of Graduate Studies (CGS) Biomedical Sciences Program assisted with the event to provide their anatomical and medical expertise to the GFD firefighters. Donors in the MWU Body Donation Program will further help to save lives by not only educating our students who will be future healthcare providers, but also assisting with the emergency medical training of our first responders through this partnership with the Glendale Fire Department.

We truly appreciate the generosity of our donors and the support of the education of our future healthcare providers and first responders in the Glendale Fire Department. Your gift as a donor will live on as a legacy of knowledge and compassion passed from our students to their future patients and from GFD first responders to their patients; we humbly thank you for your invaluable gift and contribution towards the future of excellent, patient-centered healthcare.

Glendale Firefighters, MWU Students Partner with BDP to Practice Lifesaving Emergency Techniques

For the second year, the Midwestern University Body Donation Program partnered with Glendale Fire Department Firefighters to help them practice critical emergency procedures that they will eventually use on patients in the field, via a collaboration with the University's Body Donation Program.

Over several sessions, Glendale Firefighters received training and hands-on practice in procedures such as emergency intubation, placement of chest tubes, intraosseous vascular access to establish IVs, cricothyrotomy (a procedure to establish an airway on a patient in extreme distress), and other extremely important lifesaving techniques used in the field every day. All Glendale Firefighters are required to qualify as EMTs, and approximately half of them are also paramedics – which makes practicing these techniques a critical part of their first responder preparation. The practices utilized donors from the Midwestern Body Donation Program under the guidance of University faculty, staff, and healthcare students from the Emergency Medicine Club, giving the participants a chance to perfect their skills using actual human anatomy before employing the techniques in the field.

The event drew 195 participants from the Fire Department, as well as students from the University's Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM), College of Health Sciences (CHS), and College of Graduate Studies (CGS).

The donor training sessions are part of a series of collaborations between the Glendale Fire Department and Midwestern University, which include ride-along programs for Midwestern medical and physician assistant students, a Crisis Response Unit stationed at the University's Glendale Campus, and more.



Perspectives on Anatomy: Midwestern University Faculty and Student Profiles



Faculty Profile:
Andrew H. Lee, Ph.D.
Professor, Anatomy



Student Profile:
Antoine Haddad,
first- year podiatric
medical student, Arizona
College of Podiatric
Medicine

Dr. Andrew Lee joined Midwestern University in 2010. He currently teaches courses in human anatomy for Dental Medicine, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, and Podiatric Medicine.

The gift of body donation helps our students develop skills in lifelong learning. It gives them the power to direct their own education by leaving their comfort zone of memorizing printed and digital media to explore an actual person.

Exploration starts in the Gross Anatomy Lab, where our students are active participants rather than passive recipients of information. With the metaphorical assistance of their donors, students hone dissection skills, make decisions on how deeply to dissect, create mental maps of complex human anatomy, and explain progress to dissection teammates and lab instructors. The journey is non-linear and presents numerous struggles when students encounter variation and pathologies in donors.

However, such struggles are deeply rewarding opportunities for students to solve problems, test general anatomical relationships and appreciate the uniqueness of each person.

In ways unmatched by other teaching methods, anatomical dissection sparks passion in our students. For many, seeing anatomical variants, diseased organs, and surgical techniques firsthand encourages further investigation into those topics outside of class. Hands-on experience when working with the dead reminds our students of their purpose in treating the sick and injured with respect and dignity; professionalism acquired in the Gross Anatomy Lab is refined later in clinical rotations. To the donors who have gifted their bodies for education: we owe tremendous thanks to each of you.

Antoine “Tony” Haddad (Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine Class of 2027) graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Science from Bradley University. He also worked as a Medical Laboratory Technologist and was the Sickle Cell Disease Clinical Research Associate for the St. Jude Midwest Affiliate.

Donors bring new life and comfort into all the patients who will place their trust in me as a future podiatric surgeon. During my classes, I not only learn all parts of the body and their function, but also where they originate, terminate, and their importance to everyday life.

In the anatomy lab, donors provide the opportunity to explore the intricacies of the human body in a three-dimensional and clinical context that bridges our theoretical knowledge with clinical skills. As a future surgeon, it is an invaluable experience. Observing and engaging with diverse anatomical variations will help me develop my critical thinking skills, enabling me to identify the best treatment for each patient that I provide care for.

Podiatric medical students have a unique opportunity to be able to work with our donors and directly apply our experiences to our future profession. More importantly, my interactions with the donors have allowed me to gain more respect and empathy towards those who have made the selfless contribution to further advance healthcare.

Through the generosity of our donors and their families, I know that I will be able to be a better physician who will work hard to get my patients back on their feet.

Midwestern University Celebration of Life Honors Donors, Families



The Midwestern University Body Donation Program and the College of Graduate Studies’ Department of Anatomy were honored to host the annual Celebration of Life event on the Glendale Campus in March. The

and students from the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM) and the Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine (AZCPM). The program included a musical performance by AZCOM student musicians. Midwestern University President and CEO Dr. Kathleen Goeppinger, AZCOM Associate Dean Dr. Randall Nydam, College of Graduate Studies Associate Dean and Director of the Body Donation Program Dr. Sandra Inouye, and anatomy professor Dr. Jason Kaufman all offered remarks during the event. The program’s centerpiece involved the numerous AZCOM and AZCPM students who contributed reflections about their experience learning anatomy and offered their thanks to the donors and their families.

The event concluded with a reception at the Ossuary Garden on the Midwestern clinical campus, a special area established in 2023 to honor donors and where families may elect to have their donors’ ashes interred. Each donor family received a white rose as well as personal thanks from students who worked with their donors in their studies.

event, held to honor donors and their families and their important contributions to Midwestern students’ education, took place at the University Auditorium and the Midwestern University Ossuary Garden.

Donor families and friends were invited to campus to hear remarks from University administration, faculty,

We hope you have enjoyed seeing just a few of the ways that Midwestern University enriches the communities we serve. Thank you for expressing an interest in our Body Donation Program, which supports our students in the detailed study of human structure (anatomy) through the ability to study the whole human body. The integral knowledge provided by this opportunity is foundational for the education of our nation’s future healthcare professionals. We recognize the thoughtful consideration that goes into the decision to donate to our program and wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those individuals who generously choose to invest in the future of healthcare by making this donation. To learn more, visit www.midwestern.edu/bodydonation.

