25 Years of Gratitude

ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM
MEMORIAL SERVICE
"In gratitude . . .
To those who have given unselfishly of themselves that others might learn."
“These tiny eyes never saw the loving gazes of a six-year-old brother, a four-year-old sister, and two parents—all who cherished this little boy before birth. It is our hope that the body of our youngest family member may help others to understand the events of pregnancy and to empathize with families who experience a loss such as our own.”

—Family Member
Letter from the Director

It is with a great sense of pride and gratitude that we recognize the 25th anniversary of the Memorial Service of the Anatomical Gift Program. That pride emanates partially from the knowledge that this was the first program in the state of Ohio to honor anatomical donors in this way. An even greater sense of pride comes from the privilege of having our lives touched by the thousands of anatomical donors who have chosen to bless us all with their incredibly generous gifts.

Their choice enables us to share the knowledge provided by, and the awesome wonders of, their physical bodies, and their gift enriches the lives of all with whom they come in contact. The magnitude and far-reaching effects of these gifts can hardly be imagined, and we are forever in the debt of those who guided each of us on the road to greater knowledge and understanding. We respect their generosity and honor them for sharing the intricacies of their human forms with us.

Countless voices have contributed to the success of the Anatomical Gift Program since its inception in 1975. Clergy from the Greater Dayton area have reached out to our donors’ families during the Memorial Services. This has enabled us to embrace diverse communities by bringing together people of various races, cultures, and religious beliefs to honor and respect those who became part of the Anatomical Gift Program. Participation such as this is unusual, if not unique, among donor program recognitions, and we are grateful for the generosity offered to us for 25 years by the clergy from Hindu, Native American, Protestant, Reform Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Zoroastrian communities of faith.

We regard the Anatomical Gift Program as a means of reaching out to the Dayton community and beyond, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity reflected by all associated with the program.

It has been both a distinct privilege and an honor to serve as director of the Anatomical Gift Program.

Frank Nagy III, Ph.D.
Director, Anatomical Gift Program
About the Anatomical Gift Program

Providing an excellent, high-quality medical education requires support at many levels. Those who practice medicine recognize that a strong foundation in the basic medical sciences is fundamental to their practices. All medical specialties depend upon a knowledge and understanding of physiology, microbiology, biochemistry, and pharmacology. In fact, these four disciplines are sometimes described as the pillars upon which medical science is built. But the foundation for all these pillars—and for medicine itself—is human anatomy.

Without the generosity of donors to the Anatomical Gift Program, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine could not provide the foundation upon which medical careers are built. Because all diseases and dysfunctions have anatomical components, it is imperative that medical students, as well as graduate physicians of every specialty, be trained in the discipline of anatomy. This is the inestimable value of the Anatomical Gift Program and those who contribute to it.

1973
Wright State University School of Medicine established.

1975
Donated Body Program established.

Antonio Zappala, M.D., Ph.D., the founding chair of the Department of Anatomy (1975–1977), became the first director and the first registered donor of the Donated Body Program.

1976
Kettering Medical Center Hospital donors transferred to Wright State University School of Medicine from preexisting program.

Wright State University School of Medicine Charter Class of 32 enrolled.
The hallmark of donors to the Anatomical Gift Program is that they were “givers” throughout their lives. These are the people who were concerned about the well-being of others. Almost to a person, donors expressed concern that others have the opportunity to learn, either through medical education or medical research. It is safe to say that the primary motivation to become part of this program is one of altruism.

“...the love and respect shown for all the donors and their families was humbling.

—Family Member

1977  

1980  
Rockafield Cemetery developed for donors.

The Charter Class graduated.

Wright State University School of Medicine became the first school in Ohio to hold a memorial service for donors.

1982  
### About the Anatomical Gift Program (continued)

Diversity is emblematic of this program. Clearly, members of all ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, and educational groups comprise our registry of donors. Donors are of diverse religious backgrounds, come from the lowest as well as the highest socioeconomic groups, and include those with no formal education as well as those with multiple doctoral degrees. Men and women are represented in approximately equal numbers. An abbreviated inventory of vocations includes machinists and military officers, automotive workers and nurses, secretaries and university professors, homemakers and entrepreneurs, physicians and truck drivers, teachers and laborers.

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Memorial Service expanded to two ceremonies in one day to accommodate families and friends.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Donated Body Program renamed the Anatomical Gift Program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Memorial brick walkway installed in Rockafield Cemetery.</td>
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We all benefit from the Anatomical Gift Program. Medical and nursing students are accorded the opportunity to learn normal as well as some pathologic anatomy from these gifts. Resident physicians in training are able to review anatomy, practice old procedures, and learn new ones. Medical research personnel are able to study such things as pressures within the eye, cervical spine injuries, magnetic resonance imaging techniques, and laser surgery procedures. Experienced professors and physicians expand their knowledge base and become more competent teachers and practitioners. Paramedics, emergency medicine technicians, and nurses are able to practice lifesaving skills. Because medical personnel have an impact on the lives of all of us at one time or another, each of us benefits from the generosity of the donors to the Anatomical Gift Program.

1999

- Memorial brick locator board installed in Rockafield Cemetery.
- 10,000th donor registered in the Anatomical Gift Program.

2002

- 12,000th donor registered in the Anatomical Gift Program.
- More than 4,000 donors received.

2004

- 13,000th donor registered in the Anatomical Gift Program, the largest program in Ohio.

2005

- Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine paid tribute to the Anatomical Gift Program Memorial Service and its 25-year commitment to the university and the community.
- More than 4,775 donors received.
About the Memorial Service

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine annually hosts a memorial service to honor and remember those who have so graciously served the medical community and the entire human community with their anatomical gifts.

Ours is the only school to maintain a cemetery devoted solely to the interment of anatomical donors; the Rockafield Cemetery exists as a tribute to those donors. Approximately half of the donors are interred in Rockafield Cemetery while the other half are returned to the family as requested.

In 1980, the School of Medicine implemented the first memorial service for anatomical donors in the state of Ohio. Annually, community clergy are invited to participate in the services. Every effort is made to have clergy who represent all donors by gender, religious preference, and ethnic background.

“I simply want to convey that the service of memory, interment, and committal was beautiful.”

—Family Member
Approximately 1,200 family members and friends annually attend the Service of Memory and the graveside Service of Interment and Committal. Medical students actively and enthusiastically participate in the memorial services as a way of publicly expressing their gratitude to the families of the donors. This is an opportunity for the students to share their feelings of gratitude with family members and perhaps exchange personal vignettes about the donors.

Following the ceremonies, guests are invited to a reception in the Student Union Atrium during which they may speak with clergy and interact with faculty members, medical students, and one another.

“The man whose body I studied had been a carpenter. His hands were slightly calloused and strong from holding the tools of his trade. I wondered if the questions I asked about the muscles of his arms were the same questions he had wondered about his whole life. I believe that those who give their bodies somehow recognize that it is only through giving and serving that life is renewed and souls sustained beyond death. Through their service, their sacrifice, I learn to serve and sacrifice. This is the cycle of renewal, giving back life from death.”

—Medical Student
About Rockafield Cemetery

Rockafield Cemetery is the official burial site that is used by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. It is located near the university president’s home and the Kauffman Avenue entrance to Wright State University.

A hallowed burial ground since the early 1800s, the cemetery was acquired in 1964 along with the acreage destined to become Wright State University.

The cemetery contained 45 graves on its original one-half acre plot, which was expanded for university use in 1978 and approved as a legal burial ground by the Fairborn City Council.

Located near the edge of a 200-acre woods, the cemetery is naturally scenic and shaded by a variety of trees. It was landscaped in November 1980 in recognition of its new role as the burial ground for participants of the Anatomical Gift Program of the School of Medicine. The cemetery was enlarged in 1993, and was further improved in 1995 by the addition of a brick walkway, granite benches, and additional landscaping. The benches were a gift from the School of Medicine Class of 1995.

A black granite monument memorializes those who made such a significant contribution to medical education and who make Rockafield Cemetery their final resting place.

The cemetery is open for visitation any day of the year, and receptacles have been provided for those who wish to place floral arrangements at the gravesite.
In Memoriam

Names of the members of the Anatomical Gift Program are recorded in special volumes located in the Rare Book Room of the Fordham Health Sciences Library in the Medical Sciences Building. Family members are welcome to visit the library and examine the leather-bound registries of donors.

“...my husband’s name will live on in the library at the Medical Sciences Building is a wonderful tribute and most comforting to me.”

—Family Member
Donations History

Donations Received Annually
ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM
(including those gifts from Kettering Medical Center Hospital before medical school was established)

Wright State University
Boonshoft School of Medicine
1970–2005

Number of Donors

“I would like to tell you a bit about the man before you, my grandfather. He was a husband for 63 years, father of two, grandfather of four, and great-grandfather of eight. He was a pharmacist for 35 years and kept his license current until he was 80. He was smart, funny, gracious, and kind. He loved to travel, loved to read, and learn about different places. He enjoyed watching old movies, especially John Wayne westerns, and Price is Right.” He loved college football and the Cincinnati Reds. He never had a harsh word to say about anyone or anything.

He kept his dignity until the end and even at the worst times of his illness he was still able to laugh and joke. I never heard him complain or feel sorry for himself.

Even though the decision to donate his body to science was a recent one, he felt strongly about it, saying that if it helped just one person it was worth doing.

May you look upon the donation of his earthly body as a gift to you, the aspiring doctor, nurse, surgeon, or researcher. Use this gift to help you become the best you can be.

Good luck and God bless.”

—Family Member
Ceremonial History

2005
First Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Lena Winkler
Rev. Robert Biekman
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. George McConnel
Kai Mobed
Fr. Christian Rohmiller

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Robert Fyffe
Student, Raafia Mir
Rev. John Cunningham
Rabbi David Sofian
Fr. Richard Walling
Rev. William Youngkin

2004
First Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Pooia Fattahi
Rev. Charles Brown
Rev. Linda Middelberg
Kai Mobed
Fr. Terry Schneider
Rabbi David Sofian

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Dean Parmelee
Student, Michele Arthurs
Rev. Linda Bruce
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. Rebecca Erb Strang
Fr. Christian Rohmiller

2002
First Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Dean Parmelee
Student, Andrew Jacques
Rev. Charles Brown
Rabbi Marianne Gevirtz
Rev. Glenn Leupold
Fr. Richard Walling

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Dean Parmelee
Student, Stacey Savage
Rev. Greg Bidgood Enders
Rev. Wilton Blake
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Fr. Christian Rohmiller

2001
First Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Paul Carlson
Student, Anika Moore
Rev. Greg Bidgood Enders
Rev. Wilton Blake
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Fr. Christian Rohmiller

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Paul Carlson
Student, Vanessa Madrigal
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. Lois Fortson
Rev. William Youngkin
Fr. Richard Walling

2000
First Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Robert L. Baltzer, Jr.
Fr. Lawrence Breslin
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. Faith Jongewaard
Rev. Rose Parker
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

Second Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Fatima I. Shah
Rev. John Cunningham
Rabbi Marianne Gevirtz
Rev. John Harris
Fr. Thomas Meyer
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

1999
First Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Margaret Dunn
Student, Monica McHenry
Rev. Jim Futrell
Rabbi Marc Gruber
Rev. Earl Harris
Rev. Faith Jongewaard
Fr. Christian Rohmiller
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Margaret Dunn
Student, David Wilkinson
Rev. John Cunningham
Rabbi Marianne Gevirtz
Rev. Larry Hoffsis
Fr. Thomas Meyer
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

1998
First Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Albert Langley
Student, Dominique Barkley
Fr. Gary Aultz
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. Earl Harris
Rev. Fritz Wiese
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

Second Ceremony
Assoc. Dean Albert Langley
Student, Jill Waibel
Fr. Lawrence Breslin
Rev. John Cunningham
Rabbi Marianne Gevirtz
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

1997
First Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Maurice Young
Rabbi Judy Chessin
Rev. David Fox
Fr. Joseph Goetz
Rev. Mark Shimer
Rev. Jesse Ziegler

Second Ceremony
Dean Howard Part
Student, Janice Bach
Fr. Lawrence Breslin
Rev. Charles Brown
Rabbi Marianne Gevirtz
Rev. Miriam Lawrence Leupold
Rev. Mark Steury
Rev. Jesse Ziegler
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>First Ceremony</th>
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| 1996 | Assoc. Dean Paul Carlson  
Student, Don Ziegler |
Rev. Wilton Blake  
Rabbi Judy Chessin  
Fr. Joseph Goetz  
Rev. Lawrence Hard  
Rev. Mary Jo Steury  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1995 | Assoc. Dean Albert Langley  
Student, Sarah Dennison |
Rev. William Augman  
Rabbi Judy Chessin  
Fr. Thomas Meyer  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1993 | Exec. Assoc. Dean John Lindower  
Students, Yaser Abdelhamid and Felicia Robertson |
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Rev. Tommy Byrd  
Fr. Joseph Goetz  
Rev. Doris Hill  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1992 | Assoc. Dean William Marshall  
Student, Ed Schwartz |
Rabbi Mark Glickman  
Fr. Joseph Goetz  
Rev. Mary Jo Steury  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1991 | Assoc. Dean John Lindower  
Student, Teresa Zyrd |
Rev. William Augman  
Fr. Lawrence Breslin  
Rev. Lawrence Hard  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1990 | Assoc. Dean John Lindower  
Student, William McDonald |
*Fr. David Brinkmoeller*  
Rev. Joyce Fry  
Rabbi Mark Glickman  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1989 | First Ceremony  
Dean Stephen Kaplan  
Student, Kathleen Bain |
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Rev. Charles Brown  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1988 | Int. Dean John Lindower  
Student, Katherine Wingate |
Rev. William Augman  
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rev. William Schram  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1987 | Int. Dean John Lindower  
Student, John Wagoner |
Rev. Charles Brown  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rabbi David Lipper  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1986 | Dean William Sawyer  
Student, Richard Christensen |
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rev. Arthur Younger  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1985 | First Ceremony  
Dean William Sawyer  
Student, Elliot Fegelman |
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1984 | Dean William Sawyer  
Student, Mark Fetter |
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rabbi Avi Schulman  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1982 | Dean William Sawyer  
Student, Larry Schlabach |
Rabbi Irving Bloom  
Fr. Ellis Harsham  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
| 1980 | First Ceremony/Dedication of Cemetery  
Dean John Beljan |
Fr. Lawrence Mick  
Rabbi Jonathan Wall  
Rev. Jesse Ziegler |
Special Acknowledgements

Rev. Dr. Jesse Ziegler, Professor of Community Health

Dr. Ziegler was the force behind the development and implementation of the annual Memorial/Interment Service to honor donors to the Anatomical Gift Program. As a theologian and academician, he was able to meld the spiritual component of the memorial services with the endless gratitude of academicians and community members. He respected and befriended those of every belief and religious faith. For the services he brought together women and men of all races from the Dayton community. Dr. Ziegler was the consummate gentleman who served the Anatomical Gift Program from its inception until his death in 2001. Yet, he continued in his role of mentor by making a gift of his remains to the Anatomical Gift Program to foster medical education. Funds from the Jesse H. Ziegler, Ph.D., Scholarship are awarded annually to the medical student who best exemplifies the humanism that was the hallmark of Dr. Ziegler. He and his beloved wife Harriet are interred in the Rockafeld Cemetery. We are in his debt.

Dr. Robert Reece, Professor and Chair of Community Health

Dr. Reece represents the longest, continually serving member of the group of faculty and staff who have worked relentlessly for the Anatomical Gift Program since its inception. He is highly respected by his colleagues and the countless students who have learned, at his hand, the essence of sensitivity towards their patients. Dr. Reece has guided a department that has extended its faculty resources into many niches of the Dayton community. In concert with Dr. Jesse Zeigler, he developed and nurtured a magnificent rapport with the clergy and lay people in the Dayton area. This has enabled the Anatomical Gift Program to reach out to members of the entire Dayton community and their families. Dr. Reece’s well-deserved retirement after 37 years as a university professor and chair of Community Health will leave a tremendous void, not only with those of us who have been truly privileged to be his colleagues and students, but also those outside the university with whom he has established liaisons. We acknowledge Dr. Reece’s countless contributions to us with our endless gratitude and great respect for him as a friend, colleague, and mentor.

Diane Schaff, Calligrapher

Diane Schaff, a professional calligrapher who does corporate, commercial, and private work, records the names of donors in leather-bound volumes. She holds a degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a major in speech and minors in art and English. She has studied the art of calligraphy in continuing education and adult education programs in Newport, R.I., the Washington, D.C. area, and in Dayton, as well as in workshops with nationally and internationally renowned calligraphers.
Benediction

“Now may the courage of the early morning’s dawning,
and the strength of the eternal hills at noontime,
and the peace of the open spaces at evening’s ending,
and the love of God be in your hearts now and forever.
Amen.”

—Delivered annually by
The Reverend Doctor Jesse Ziegler
For more information about the Anatomical Gift Program, please contact
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