

TO MY FIRST PATIENT

Keila Rose López, Class of 2019

In the midst of anatomy I reflected on
Strategies and stress
Arteries and tests
Endless nights of studying
Long days of learning
Praying, yearning, saying
I can't wait
Until I'm done
Until this battle is won
Until I close this chapter of my life where I don't feel so
Lost
Where I don't feel that achieving is coming at too high of a cost.
Where my mind is not a jumble of arteries
The artistry of nerves
Words on pages I've never seen before
Hurdles and challenges just to, get that score
And be done

But I missed something
Let's go back to the beginning
Back to the start
In between the cranial nerves I lost the, heart.
I missed that part, of you.
And here is what I do, have to say
Thank you
For your love.

For being that Godsend of learning from above.
For teaching me those lessons you can't learn on a page.
For opening my mind, spirit, and soul into a new age.
Thank you
For teaching me to cherish every breath
To give all I have in this life until there is nothing left.
To my patients, my peers, and my community
Thank you for giving a gift of love that created unity.

Thank you for teaching me humility
That my abilities should not overshadow His majesty.
For the epiphany that the uniqueness of my patient
Should never be diagnosed as simplicity.

Thank you
To the families
For teaching me that the body is temporary
But love and the soul is what carries an eternal legacy.

Thank you
To my teachers and my mentors
For showing me that empathy is an action and not a word.
That medicine is a science but compassion is the cure.

And to my first patient,
You have changed us as medical students
And as the physicians we will become
Your gift of love will live in us
So your presence will never be gone.
Thank you

Keila López is a first year medical student. She is a freestyle rapper in her spare time and believes rap and poetry can serve as a tool to unite and inspire others. She is proud of her Puerto Rican heritage, passionate about homeless advocacy, and believes that love, compassion, and humility is what creates a meaningful legacy.

Thank you
To the families
For teaching me
that the body is
temporary
But love and the soul
is what carries
an eternal legacy.

VIETNAM ORCHID

Daniel J. Van Durme, MD, MPH, FAAFP,

Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and
Director of the Center on Global Health

