



Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitae

This is the place where death delights to help the living

Jared Rich 2018

Where Death Delights to Serve the Living

By Jared Rich

Painting By Jared Rich

What better place to start than at the beginning. The first step in our long path to becoming doctors is Gross Anatomy. It is our first class in medical school, and the cadavers that we dissect are often called our first patients. They are also called our silent teachers. We learned more from them than any professor's lecture or any picture in a textbook could ever teach us. Studying our cadaver was not like reading words on a page or looking at an image on a screen. It was actual personal interaction with a human being, a human being that so generously donated their body so that we could learn. When that person died, it was one life lost, but in their death, they have given life to countless other people, and they have done that through us. There is an exchange that occurs between cadaver and student. Through death they willingly extended out to hand us the gift of life, and we reached out to

graciously accept. They have passed on to us the foundation of our education, and for this we are forever grateful. This exchange of knowledge begins in the anatomy lab, but continues on throughout the entire medical school experience. It lives in every classroom, study hall, and library. This is the place where death delights to help the living, and it is our responsibility and our honor to make sure that the death of our first patient will be a help to all those that we serve. The tremendous amount of knowledge we gain from our silent teachers is the first step in our pursuit and our conviction to become protectors of life. We must always continue to learn, for there is no limit to our abilities, but it is important to never forget where we began, and those who helped us along the way.