ELON UNIVERSITY



Anatomical GIFT PROGRAM

Elon University Anatomical Gift Program



Janet M. Cope, Ph.D., OTR/L (second from right), professor of physical therapy education, with students in the Doctor of Phyical Therapy program.

A LEGACY OF LEARNING & HEALING

Donors who give their consent will leave a lasting impression upon the education and careers of students at Elon University. The gift of anatomical donation provides Elon University students and students at our North Carolina partner health care institutions with an unparalleled educational experience. Through this generous gift, future health care professionals gain the knowledge, skills, and compassion needed to provide healing, comfort and exceptional care to their patients.

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for this uniquely enriching opportunity. We are profoundly thankful for the noble decision to donate and deeply indebted to our generous "Silent Teachers." Their lasting legacy lives on through the education of future health care providers and the countless lives they will touch in the years to come. With sincere gratitude, we honor and remember our silent teachers.

WHY DONATE?

Dissection and study of the human body constitutes an invaluable and indispensable part of healthcare education. Each year, bodies are needed for teaching of undergraduate biology, graduate programs in physical therapy (DPT), occupational therapy (OT) and physician assistant studies (PA), and the nursing programs. The principal source of bodies is private donation. The need for donations is great and the gift is highly valued and honored. Choosing to donate your body for the purpose of healthcare education and research is a supremely compassionate and altruistic humanitarian gesture. With this priceless gift, you can provide an unprecedented legacy of learning and a foundation for the education and training of healthcare professionals.

WHO CAN DONATE?

Any competent person 18 or older can arrange to donate his/her body for educational purposes.

HOW ONE CAN DONATE

Consistent with the North Carolina Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, donations may be made by completing and submitting Elon University's General Information & Donor Consent Form.

The executed General Information & Donor Consent Form with original signatures from the donor and two witnesses should be mailed to the Elon University Anatomical Gift Office at the following address: Anatomical Gift Program, Elon University, School of Health Sciences, 2085 Campus Box, Elon, NC 27244.

A donor registration packet may be obtained by phoning the Elon University Anatomical Gift office at 336-278-6564 or by emailing AGP@elon.edu.

Once the registration forms are processed, your name will be added to the Elon University Anatomical Gift Program donor registry and a confirmation letter containing two donor identification cards and a sticker that includes the phone number to report the death of an Elon anatomical donor will be mailed. The individual identified as the contact person on behalf of the donor will be mailed a letter explaining their role in the facilitation of the donor registrant. The letter will include a 'Guidelines Card' that explains the process in the event of the death of an Elon Anatomical donor. It is the responsibility of the registrant to update their file as needed.

RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR THE DONOR AND THE FAMILY

Choosing to donate one's body for the advancement of healthcare education is a charitable and compassionate decision. You are encouraged to discuss your donation plans with your family, clergy, physician, hospital, and/or nursing staff.

At Elon University's Anatomical Gift Program, we take pride in the respect, reverence and compassion expressed to our donors and their families. We encourage you to schedule an appointment for you and your family to meet with our staff and discuss the Anatomical Gift Program. We will answer questions and guide you through the process step by step. We want to assure you and your family that oversight is provided from the moment an individual may register with us, until, and sometimes beyond, final disposition.



Monica Zimmerman (left), assistant professor of physician assistant studies, with students in the Physican Assistant Studies program.

UPON DEATH OF A DONOR

At the time of death, the Anatomical Gift Program must be notified by telephone immediately. The individual responsible for making final arrangements should call: 336-207-3813. Timely notification is essential to ensure proper handling for an acceptable donation. Our program staff is available 24 hours a day, ready to promptly initiate the donation procedure. The Anatomical Gift staff will confirm acceptance and make arrangements for receiving the donor from the place of death.

Transportation of the donor will be arranged and paid for by the Anatomical Gift Program. Elon's Anatomical Gift Program staff will oversee the filing of a death certificate. A death certificate is filed with the Register of Deeds in the town or city where death occurred. **PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the estate or the responsible party to purchase death certificates from the Register of Deeds.**

A donor's body must be received within 24 hours after death, unless specific arrangements have been approved by the Anatomical Gift Program. A body that has been autopsied, embalmed or is known to carry an infectious disease cannot be accepted.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Anatomical donation is a benevolent gift that benefits the lives of future generations. Questions regarding the religious considerations of anatomical donation should be directed toward your spiritual advisor.

While we acknowledge the importance of organ and tissue donation, a body from which organs (other than the corneas of the eyes) have been removed cannot be accepted by the Anatomical Gift Program.



Dianne Person, director of the Anatomical Gift Program with Gytis Balilionis, human anatomy laboratory specialist, enjoying anecdotes submitted by families.

Jeanmarie Koonts (left), assistant professor of nursing, with students from the nursing program.

If you change your mind and no longer wish to donate your body to the Anatomical Gift Program, simply provide us with a signed, written notice that you wish to revoke your donation and we will remove your name from the donor registry.

If you relocate out of North Carolina, or if you have recently moved to North Carolina after having registered with another anatomical gift program, you may wish to update your registration by withdrawing your donation to the original program and bequeathing your donation to a local institution.

Anatomical donors will not be available for traditional funeral services. A donor's family may hold a memorial or a religious service at their convenience without the body present. Arrangements and costs for such services are the responsibility of the family and in their discretion. Upon completion of studies, the anatomical donor will be cremated and the ashes will be made available to be returned to the family or designee as listed by the donor on the consent form.

ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS

We cannot guarantee acceptance of a willed or donated body and acceptance of an anatomical gift is contingent upon the decision of the Anatomical Gift Program at the time of death of the registered donor. We may be unable to accept a donated body for any number of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- Organs or parts (other than the corneas of the eyes) have been removed at or following the time of death, such as for transplantation or in an autopsy;
- Decomposition of the body prior to embalming;
- Severe trauma, such as death from drowning, burning, homicide, or motor vehicle accident;



- Deep and open wounds;
- Diseases such as COVID, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, tuberculosis or a Prion disease;
- The individual is morbidly obese as determined by the Anatomical Gift Program; and
- The condition or pathology of the remains precludes safe preparation, storage, or study.

Elon University's Anatomical Gift Program reserves the right to decline a donation. Although most anatomical donations are accepted at the time of death, a donor or family should plan alternative arrangements in the event a donation must be declined.

WHEN STUDIES ARE COMPLETE

Studies are usually completed within two years. At the conclusion of studies the Anatomical Gift Program will comply with the donor's instructions regarding disposition of the cremated remains as selected on the Donor Consent Form. Cremation is at the expense of the Anatomical Gift Program. The options for disposition are: retrieval of the cremated remains or delivery of the cremated remains (with a written or verbal request to the Anatomical Gift Program). The ashes will only be returned to the individual designated on the General Information & Donor Consent Form following the chain of custody.



HONORING DONORS

Each year, Elon University's Anatomical Gift Program hosts a memorial service to honor and celebrate the individuals whose generous gifts have contributed to education, research and the advancement of health care. Families and loved ones are warmly invited to attend this special event.

The service provides a meaningful opportunity for students, faculty and Anatomical Gift Program staff to express their heartfelt gratitude to donors and their families. Through reflections, tributes and shared experiences, attendees recognize the lasting impact each donor has made on the education of future health care professionals.

More than a remembrance, the memorial service brings students and families together in a spirit of appreciation, healing and connection. It offers a time to honor lives, celebrate legacies and find comfort in knowing that each donor's gift continues to inspire learning and compassionate care for generations to come.

Please share this brochure with the individual in charge of executing your donation.

> *"This is my body, the shell of my being, which is given to you in final offering to the world"*
>
> –Claire Small, anatomical gift donor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN ELON UNIVERSITY'S ANATOMICAL GIFT PROGRAM. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR MAGNANIMOUS AND TIMELESS GIFT TOWARD HEALTH CARE EDUCATION.

Elon University Anatomical Gift Program
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elon.edu/anatomical-gift