Savannah Gomes

June 7, 2012

Advisory Task: Job Shadow

Meet the Cadaver: December 10th

When I went to Meet the Cadaver at Brown, I got to touch organs and body parts that came from real donors. I was excited about this because I had seen organs before, but they had either hadn’t been real or I wasn’t allowed to touch them. In this case, I was shown all types of things I had never seen except for in pictures, such as the liver or brain. I was disappointed, however, at the blood pressure station we went to. My group was led by a fellow attendee, instead of someone who worked there. The person leading mostly knew what to do, but I think it would have been more informative if an actual medical student had told us, as opposed to someone whose mother worked in a hospital.

We had a bit of trouble on arriving, since we were dropped off at Brown’s main campus and had to trek over to the medical building. Once inside, however, everything was moving smoothly. We gave the workers our permission form and were ushered into the lecture hall, where we were told guidelines on how to act and what was expected. Once separated into groups by school, we were told to move on to the lab where we would examine body parts from humans who had donated their bodies to science. The people who were working were having fun at their job teaching us about their body part. They would make jokes and talk to us casually, but their quick presentations were full of great information. Then, we went to the blood pressure station where we practiced taking each others’ blood pressure and using the stethoscope. Finally, we went to a lecture about college life and medical classes. In all, I think that what I most remember learning is that the joints need a fluid to keep them moving properly. Without the fluid, joints will rub and cause an ugly scar-type mark to appear in the joint area.

From my Job Shadowing experience, I learned that being a medical student is a lot of work, yet I can make time to have fun and be with friends if I do end up going. I absolutely loved this experience and would recommend it to everyone, even if they aren’t planning on going into medicine. It’s a fun and educational experience where you can socialize and learn about college life in general.