

From: Everett, Elise

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:40 PM

Subject: A message from your Clerkship Level Director

Dear Class of 2022,

I didn't know Collins, but I am absolutely heartbroken for him, who was clearly suffering, for his family, and for the LCOM community who were his friends, colleagues, teachers, and mentors. My heart is heavy seeing so many of you grieving.

I am available to help in any way I can, at any time. You may reach me through the paging operator by calling 802-847-2700.

We started this journey together in March when I celebrated your completion of Foundations and welcomed you into the Clerkship year. In that welcome address, I stated, "Medicine changes you."

I think it is safe to say that the events we have experienced in the last 4 months have changed each and every one of us. We have all grown. I am a better communicator than I was. I am a better leader than I was. I am more resilient than I was. Now don't just think about yourself, think about us, the Class of 2022, how do we identify as a group. We have had a lot of firsts. First pandemic experience. First remote bridge curriculum experience. First remote SP telehealth experience. First remote Cognitive Clinical Curriculum experience. First financial crisis. And the tragic loss of one of us, one of our community.

In my welcome address I commented, "Your world is about to get a lot bigger and the emotions and stressors you are going to experience are going to be beyond your imagination. You are going to discover the calling of medicine." The loss of Collins is going to make the clerkship year harder, and it will also make it more meaningful and more precious.

From your memories and reflections, Collins embodied compassion, empathy, kindness, and service to others. These qualities are the art and the calling of medicine. These can't be taught. This is the part of medicine that brings us joy and where we find our passion. In difficult times, these qualities will be so important for keeping us all focused on what matters most, our connections with ourselves, with each other, and with our patients. From your reflections, this is where Collins found his joy and his passion.

I hope that we, the Class of 2022, will honor Collins by embracing the privilege, the honor, it is to participate in patient's lives in these enormous moments, the delivery of a baby, news of a cancer diagnosis, ringing the gong after finishing chemo, and holding a patient's hand as they take their last breath. I hope we, the Class of 2022, will cherish and respect these moments, learn from these moments, and teach from these moments in memory of Collins. Your compassionate care of your patients and your success in the clerkship will be his legacy. He will live on in your patient's smile when they thank you for your kindness, your empathy, and your effort in caring for them.

With sadness, and hope,

Elise

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