

July

Med School Begins

My expectations:

- Nashville won't feel like home
- Making new friends will be challenging
- I've lost all academic capabilities after taking 2 years off from school

My reality:

- Though I lost the mountains and homemade maple syrup, I gained honky-tonks and hot chicken. The people felt like complete strangers and family all at the same time. Nashville wasn't Lebanon, NH but it could be home for the next little while.
- NOT making friends is challenging. Maybe I just lucked out and had really fun, interesting, and friendly classmates. Either way, I'm still so grateful for the people around me.
- I could be a student again! The transition back into the classroom was gradual and very intentional. Cobwebs were brushed off, new pens in my pocket, I said "bring it on Dr. Pettepher."

August

I became a Shade Tree Social Worker!

First Exam

My expectations:

- OMG I'm going to fail HBA.

My reality:

- OMG I did not fail HBA. Some shocking news: professors don't want you to fail! It wasn't a walk in the park. I put in some serious overtime and Au Bon Pain made some major bucks off my coffee intake, but I got through that first hump and so can you.

September

I was lucky enough to be elected class president!

October

College Cup

My expectations:

- It's going to be the best weekend ever.

My reality:

- It was the best weekend ever. #RobinsonOnTheRise #YearOfTheRaven

November

I went clay shooting for the first time ever!

Winter Break

My expectations:

- I must study for next month's exam because everyone says "Homeostasis is the hardest block."

My reality:

- It was okay to relax! It was possible to achieve a balance between enjoying time with family and keeping lecture material fresh in my mind. It had been a challenging 4+ months and there was still a long year ahead, so hot cocoa and cheesy Lifetime Christmas movies were a priority.

December

January

The Homeostasis Hump

My expectations:

- I'm going to study harder than I've ever studied

My reality:

- I did study harder than ever, but not alone. I pushed through a tough month with the help of my amazing study buddies. It wasn't the most pleasant month but we got through it together!

February

I got to dance in a music video on the Vandy helipad (what?!)

Cadaver Ball

My expectations:

- It's the hottest event of year. Everybody who's anybody will be there: Dean Fleming, Pilla, Bader...

My reality:

- It was such a special night! A pleasant change from scrubs and white coats--everyone looked like royalty. I danced the night away with my friends and couldn't believe I'd get to do it all again the next year.

March

April

Spring break!

May

The Last Block Begins

My expectations:

- I'll probably be "burnt out" as they say, but I'll just need to push through.

My reality:

- The energy drop wasn't as dramatic as I expected. Though it had already been a long year, BBM material was really engaging and Dr. Zimmerman was truly a star—he could instill a love for neuro in anyone!

June

Harpeth River canoeing adventure!

Final faculty roast. Faculty roast?! Yes, we get to do that—ask me about it!

July

That's A Wrap!

Medical school is an intense experience wherever you go, especially the first year. You'll work really hard and your stress levels may reach record highs. However, there is no other place I'd rather be, and no other group of people I'd rather go on this journey with. I had new experiences, I discovered unexpected passions, and I made lifelong friends—and I'm only a year in! I cannot wait for what else is to come.