



Dr. Gibson said the addition of this technology this spring is the first time in history that MCC students have been able to explore such diverse bodies, with four specimens cataloged in the system. Two females and two males include one with a brain tumor who died from lethal injection, one with gastric cancer who was pregnant, one who died of leukemia and one who suffered a heart attack.

"We only had one cadaver before," Dr. Gibson said. "Most often, our cadavers were female, and often didn't have their reproductive organs. They were also older – age 59 was the youngest cadaver we have ever had.

"To have cadavers of different backgrounds and younger ages is invaluable," Dr. Gibson said. "We are able to see a lot of different features."

For example, Dr. Gibson explained that previous cadavers, due to age and lifestyle choices, often had very little muscle definition, while the muscles in the digital cadavers of younger, more fit individuals are more well defined.

"It's amazing the conclusions you can make regarding lifestyle and habits from the shape of a person's body," Dr. Gibson said.

Chambers said while she had looked forward to experiencing the feel of a real human cadaver, she finds a lot of value in the virtual version.

"At first, I did feel I may have missed out a bit by not

"We can see how the heart contracts to pump blood throughout the body and how muscles contract and relax during running," Dr. Gibson said.

Dr. Gibson also explained that once a cut was made to explore a lesson on a real cadaver, it never could be duplicated. That meant not all students could experience every aspect of working on a real cadaver.

"We just don't have those limitations with the Anatomage cadaver," she said.

In addition, the technology comes with a complete library of case studies which can be used as teaching tools to target instruction for students with varying interests.

"We have endless options to provide personalized learning for our students," Dr. Gibson said. "This really is the type of technology that is usually not available until a student moves on to the university level."