Career Journal #2: Activity 1.3.2

1) Forensic Anthropologist

2) Forensic anthropology is the study of human remains for scientific evidence and is a specialization within the anthropology field. The first step in becoming a forensic anthropologist is to earn a bachelor’s degree in anthropology. Undergraduates focus on taking classes in a wide variety of areas such as archaeology, cultural and physical anthropology, and science classes such as genetics, anatomy, and chemistry. Mastering osteology, ethnobotany, and dentition is important for someone who wishes to be successful in this career. A master’s degree or Ph.D. in forensic anthropology is necessary to find a job within the field.

3) Forensic anthropologists are educated in osteology, or the study of bones. Using this knowledge, a forensic anthropologist can look at human remains and determine how the person died; whether it was suicide, homicide, accidental, or from natural causes. Using human bones the forensic anthropologist can determine the age of the individuals, the sex, the height, the type of occupation they worked in and the overall health status at the time of death. This information can lead crime scene investigators to their identities is as well as how they died. Forensic anthropologists are experts in analyzing human remains and for this reason are important at the crime scenes to help recover evidence, as well as, to many different types of forensic investigations. They are usually called on after mass disasters (like earthquakes and tsunamis) in order to help in uncovering and identifying the human bones of missing people.

4) The average salary is around $54,000 per year with salaries of up to $75,000 per year for individuals with more than five years of experience.

5) What is a forensic anthropologist?. (2013). Retrieved from http://www.forensicanthropologist.net/

ABFA - the american board of forensic anthropology. (2008). Retrieved from http://www.theabfa.org/

6) The person in this career is related to what we are studying because we have been learning about the human skeleton and how it is possible to learn about who that person was just by analyzing their bone shape, structure, measurements, and markings. Before wanting to become a cardiologist or any type of physician, my childhood dream job was actually to become an anthropologist, but like the kind of forensic anthropologists working in the applied field who work with a law enforcement agency, a coroner’s office, or directly with medical examiners. I dreamed about being in the anthropology field involved with visiting crime scenes and working directly with bodies to gather information about how the individual died. However, job outlook for forensic anthropologists is not great since most of the positions for this type of work are those in the academic field who work in colleges and universities teaching classes and performing individual research projects. The number of people specialized in this field is not large, which means getting a job may prove difficult. So I would probably not pursue it, and plus, I am now interested in the human heart instead of the bones.