Surviving (barely)

Even though I have never been on a roller coaster ride, the year so far has certainly given me some insight into what it would be like! Having left my old university behind to start a new chapter at UCT filled the beginning of the year with dread. I had to start from scratch again: learning the layout of a new campus, trying to make new friends, getting acquainted with new lectures, and shifting my academic journey in a completely new direction. It was a lot of new things coupled with a fast paced few weeks trying to get through techniques courses and figuring out how to write a project proposal for the first time. I vividly remember standing in the lab during my Biomedical Forensic Science techniques course and feeling immensely overwhelmed with all the information being dropped onto my plate. During those first few weeks I questioned if pursuing my honours degree was the right decision. Some days it felt like I did not deserve to be here, other days I questioned if I had the capacity to handle the workload, the brains to pass my modules, or the ability to write in an academic tone.

Surviving the exam period and passing the halfway point of my degree, I can confidently say that I have more than proven to myself that I deserve to be here. As time passed, I got used to the pace and workload. I strengthened my academic writing skills, and it turns out I do have the brains to pass my modules. Although there were some ups and downs, I still managed to persevere. This perseverance is partly attributed to the support I received from my fellow Biomedical Forensic Science colleagues, and guidance from an amazing supervisor. Although the year is not over yet, and there are still many late nights and early mornings ahead of me as I try to complete my research project, I am grateful to be where I am. I am determined to finish the year with my head held high, but I am most definitely taking a break before attempting to pursue a master's degree!