

Mortuary



Minutes

Transforming Death Care Education

Welcome to the nation's premiere death care education e-newsletter, dedicated to providing funeral service professionals with a lifetime of learning, news, and insight into transformational education.

From President Lechner:

It's always a great time to be part of the CCMS family – especially in 2019!

We are excited to announce our second “*Transforming Death Care Education*” Gala the weekend of November 15, 2019 in beautiful downtown Cincinnati - [Save the Date](#) with details to follow in our May e-newsletter.



We are also excited to announce that CCMS is making history with the addition of our **Educational Cremation Center (ECC)**. We invite you to join us to celebrate the November 16, 2019 groundbreaking Gala weekend!

Construction will begin Spring 2020. As we finalize plans and launch the fund-raising aspects of this transformational project, it is evident once again why CCMS is the premier provider of death care education in the nation!

Our commitment to provide exceptional education is reflected in the new ECC, a cutting-edge enterprise that will take the college, our students and our profession

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April 2019

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Did you know?

Though a partnership with Terra State Community College, students can complete all of their prerequisites online at an in-state tuition.

Students can complete the courses at their individual pace and then seamlessly transition to CCMS's on-campus bachelor's degree program.

boldly into the future. The ECC will be a transformational facility that is not offered at any other educational institution, including expanded curriculum in pet loss care and alternate methods of disposition. The ECC serves to educate students, licensed practitioners, and crematory operators through observation and participation in actual cremation and alkaline hydrolysis operations.

The ECC will deliver hands-on instruction while reinforcing dignity and respect for the deceased. The focus is to deliver improved education in areas of liability including identification, establishing chain of custody, agent authorizations, as well as instruction in preparation and viewing of remains without embalming, the value of ceremony, and client family participation to incorporate use of a viewing room with slumber bed. We believe this is the best way to prepare students and professionals for the changing needs of client families we serve.

The show of support for the new ECC is touching. The energy and enthusiasm of our Board of Trustees, alumni, and business partners is inspiring; they realize the benefit and need for an innovative facility and curriculum that enhances cremation options when serving client families. CCMS is eager to be part of making this a reality.

Thursday, April 4th, at the ICCFA Annual Convention in Charlotte, NC, we will recognize the partners already joining with CCMS to make the ECC a reality:



Facultative Technologies (FT USA)

is partnering with us to provide the cremator, auto-loader, and dustless processing station. We are excited about partnering with FT USA because they are the manufacture of the world's most advanced cremation systems. FT USA is not only providing the equipment but also access to the most advanced technical expertise in the world.

Scott Goodsell, G.H. FORBES Associates Architects *has been the lead architect doing the planning. Scott is a veteran of many funeral home and cemetery architectural projects and believes in our Educational Cremation Center so deeply that he is providing his services pro bono.*

International Cemetery Crematory Funeral Association (ICCFA) *will be partnering with us to design, market, develop, and implement a week-long Advanced Cremation Operations Management (ACOP) course for death care professionals. We have been so pleased with our working relationship with ICCFA providing the Cremation Operator Certification Program (COCP) for the past three years that it was a natural evolution to advance our valued partnership with ICCFA to the next level by introducing an Advanced Cremations Operations Course.*

CCMS has set the standard for excellence through curriculum since 1882. We continue that legacy to this day! The enhanced curriculum and ECC expansion ensures that death care professionals emerge with experience in cutting edge technology and a broadened scope technical experience to reverently serve the evolving needs of communities for generations to follow. If you are attending the ICCFA Annual Convention in Charlotte (April 2-6) please stop by CCMS booth #326 to learn more about this exciting transformation and find out how you too can be part of it!

As I fondly say, "We are not the best because we are the oldest, we're the oldest because we are the best".

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack E. Decker, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Be part of the future of death care education. Make your gift today.

This is an exciting time at CCMS, as we finalize plans for our new Educational Cremation Center (ECC). A ceremonial ground-breaking will be held November 16, 2019; in the meantime, these schematics provide a good visual of what the new building will look like.

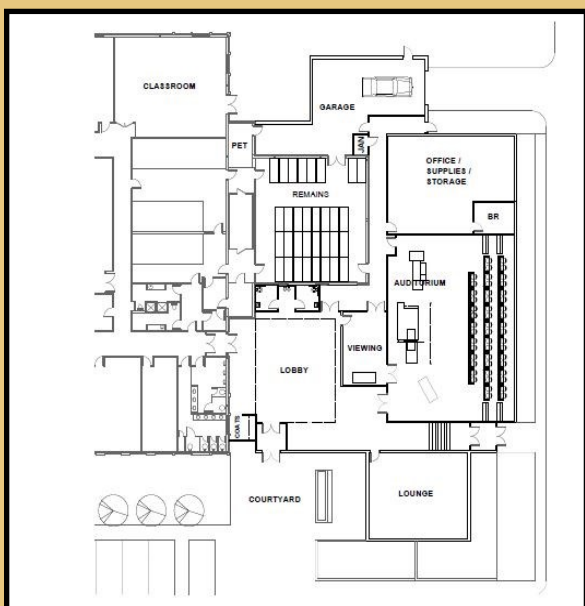
But we can't do it without your help. Your financial support is needed; please complete the form below and send, along with your check to CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 or complete online at www.ccms.edu/ecc/.

For naming rights for the ECC building or for internal rooms and labs, please contact CCMS President and CEO Jack Lechner, Jr., at (513) 761-2020.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



Gift Amount:

- ☐ Scholar: gift between \$1,000- \$2,499
- ☐ Supporter: gift between \$2,500—\$4,999
- ☐ Sustainer: gift between \$5,000-\$9,999
- ☐ Steward: gift greater than \$10,000
- ☐ Other amount (please list) _____

Payment Method

Please write your check or money order to Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science or provide the following information if you're using a credit card to make your donation.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Signature : _____

CCMS is a non-profit organization, therefore donations are tax-deductible.
Thank you for your contribution.





Robert Boetticher Shares Insight Into Planning, Conducting Notable Funerals

During his recent presentation at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Robert Boetticher, Sr., shared his insight into the myriad aspects that must be considered when planning and conducting State funerals and funeral services for notables.

During the two well-attended sessions, Mr. Boetticher shared photos and videos, illustrating how the team of funeral directors, military personal and others trained, prepared and executed numerous funerals as seen by millions around the world. Ranging from the services for George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, four First Ladies and others, Mr. Boetticher's expertise centered on one main aspect: the priority of serving the family, even while balancing the need for security and public interest.

"No matter who we are serving, we must always comprehend that there is a grieving family whom we must tend to," Mr. Boetticher explains. "While much of the traditions need to be incorporated, we also want to ensure that the ceremony honors the person as well as the position he or she had."

"In my former role as Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, I was privileged to plan and conduct numerous military funerals which were very complex," states CCMS President and CEO Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP. "And I found Bob's presentation on the logistics of state funerals to be very insightful and inspiring."



A number of our current students attended the session, including (from left to right): Chandler Northrup, Angelique Collins, Katrina Lucas, Noah Saldo, Mr. Boetticher, Briana Kirk, and Emily Von Fange.

Lechner continues, "I am very pleased with the excellent interest there was in Bob's talk. The room was full of our current students, alumni and other death care professionals. This presentation was of interest to many, from clergy members, hospice and hospital workers, coroners, even business professionals and local historians. It really is a unique aspect of our country and was so fascinating."



Robert Boetticher shared his insight through personal anecdotes, photos and videos.

Boetticher is President/CEO of LHT Consulting Group, AVP to the Founder & Chairman Emeritus of SCI and also serves as Chairman of the National Museum of Funeral History. With a career spanning nearly five decades, he is also a nationally known speaker and lecturer, movie and television consultant and contributing writer for professional publications.

"Bob is a great example of the quality of continuing education programs that CCMS is committed to offering," states President Lechner. "We take seriously our role in providing topics of interest to help our alumni and others stay up to date with the latest funeral profession news and best practices."

Alums Best Ambassadors for College, Profession

"I'm very proud of what I do and, for many of these students, I've served someone in their family. They recognize me and feel comfortable asking me questions. And, for me, it's so rewarding to share about the profession and my education; it makes me appreciate what I do even more," explains Mitch Hoyles, a 1982 CCMS alum who frequently represents the college and funeral service at high school career days.

He has been attending the Genoa Area High School for the last six years—since they started the event. "I had a number of interested students who inquired about the CCMS program and stated that it is an option they are considering," he notes.

Hoyles adds, "It was nice to be able to interact on a one to one basis which is why the school provides this opportunity. In the end I hope that I was able to show the great service a funeral director/embalmer/cremationist can provide to those in need."

Hoyles, a funeral director and embalmer for Robinson-Walker Funeral Home in Genoa, adds that freshmen through seniors participate, approximately 450 students. He adds, "The gym is full, with both students and businesses since between 60-80 companies participate. I know I received a quality education at CCMS, so I love sharing about the college. I firmly believe it offers a great foundation for a successful career and am as excited today at 58 as the day I walked out of CCMS as a graduate."

Because our alums have connections in their communities, CCMS is forming an "Alumni Ambassadors" group - those alums willing to share their time and talents in a variety of ways. These alums make a lasting impact by supporting admission and recruitment, helping prepare current students for life after graduation and keeping classmates connected—just as Hoyles has done in his community.

"We need our alums to be the 'face' of the college in their community," states CCMS President and CEO Jack Lechner, Jr. "Alumni are best suited to share as they know first-hand what we're about."

From representing the college at fairs and career days, to taking a leadership role by keeping classmates connected or bringing a prospective student to visit campus, one can be very or minimally involved as an Ambassador. Even as simple as wearing CCMS apparel or displaying memorabilia can help build interest in the college.

If you'd like to serve as part of the Ambassadors Club, please complete the brief form at www.ccms.edu/ambassadors-club/

Shop and Support: Amazon, Kroger Rewards

You can easily support CCMS through AmazonSmile and Kroger Community Rewards! Every time you make a purchase through Amazon that you would've made anyway, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to CCMS at no cost to you. [Click here](#) or go to smile.amazon.com to get started.

The Kroger Community Rewards program is similar to AmazonSmiles, as CCMS receives a portion of most purchases made at Kroger stores whenever folks swipe their rewards card. [Click here](#) (<https://www.kroger.com/>) to login to your Kroger account. Under the "savings and rewards" tab, click on Kroger Community Rewards. Once on that page, you can then search for Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, then click Enroll. Then, whenever you're shopping at Kroger, just swipe your registered rewards card!



Mitch Hoyles, Class of 1982, shares insight into CCMS and the death care profession with high school students at a recent career day.



Warsitz Awarded \$3,000 SCI Scholarship

Congratulations to Semester 2 student Erika Warsitz, who has been selected as a recipient of the Service Corporation International/Dignity Memorial Scholarship winner. Warsitz was one of 12 finalists receiving a \$3,000 scholarship based on their academics; she is also eligible for a higher level of scholarship, which will be announced during the "SCI Scholarship Experience" which will be held in mid-April in Houston.

Each applicant submitted a brief essay as well as a video sharing their responses to questions like: Share your thoughts regarding your ability to help others. What do you plan to do that will set you apart from others in the profession? And "What is the one personal characteristic that you find most important for a funeral service professional to possess and why?"

Warsitz, a Beavercreek resident, currently works as a funeral assistant at Tobias Funeral Home. She notes, "I'm very honored to receive the award and am looking forward to going to Texas to have the opportunity to meet new friends and to learn about better ways to assist the families we serve. I also want to thank the Tobias family for being so kind and supportive of me. They have really been a huge influence and wonderful role models."

For Warsitz, taping the video was the most difficult part of the scholarship application. "I wanted to stay focused and professional, so it was a bit of a challenge not to smile too much or to giggle as I was answering the questions."

April will be a busy month for her—in addition to her CCMS studies, working at Tobias Funeral Home and the four day trip to Houston, she and CCMS alum Cory Knox will be married on the 28th. "We met at the Montgomery County Health Department while filing death certificates," Erika notes.



CCMS Semester 2 student and scholarship recipient Erika Warsitz



Standing Room Only At Recent Open House

The halls were crowded with eager young faces as nearly 100 guests attended the recent Open House. Prospective students and their families had the opportunity to meet faculty, staff and students, hearing what makes CCMS exceptional.

"The open houses are a wonderful way for prospective students to see first-hand not only the campus, but also for them to experience the warmth

and professionalism of our faculty and staff," says CCMS President and CEO Jack Lechner, Jr.. "We've found that, for many students, actually coming onto campus is the determining factor in their choosing to enroll."

Several student ambassadors were on hand to provide their insight as those attending toured the college, seeing the classrooms, clinical labs and other areas. Thanks to Rob Baker, Jennifer Burke, Sophia Depenbrock, Andi Reinhart, Travis Riddle, Hilary Shepherd, Alex Sweet, Gina Terry, and Alexis Young.

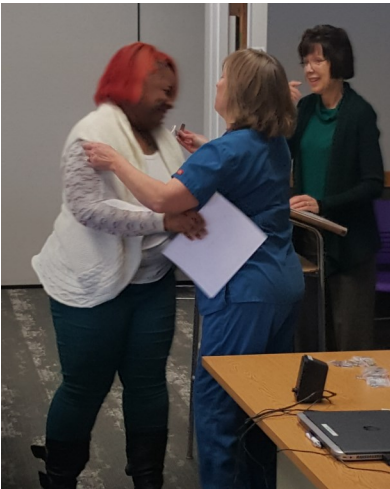
Future open houses will be held Thursday, June 13 from 4—6 p.m. and Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Kevin Brinkman at admissions@ccms.edu for admissions questions.



College Holds Associate's Degree, Celebrant Certification Celebration

Congratulations to the students who received their Associate's degree of Applied Science (AAS) diplomas from CCMS on March 5. Sixteen of the 21 students were on campus to receive their diploma.

The students, who completed the academic component of their Associate's degree in December, will soon begin apprenticeships or employment at a funeral home. Many of them are completing the fourth semester in April in order to fulfill the requirements for their Bachelors of Mortuary Science degree.



Those students enrolled in fourth semester were also recognized for completion of the InSight™ Celebrant training. As part of their academic coursework, the students became certified celebrants, trained by CCMS faculty through a license with InSight Institute. Celebrants assist families during their time of loss by providing individualized funeral ceremonies that reflect the personality of the deceased.

"We're incredibly proud of these graduates as they represent what is great about the next generation of death care professionals," said Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CCMS President & CEO. "They have worked hard during their time on campus to establish a firm educational foundation. Their commitment and drive will serve them well as

they continue their academic and professional growth."



Congratulations to:

- Summa Cum Laude ("with highest honors"—grade point average between 3.85 -4.0): Toby Day; Sophia Depenbrock; Megan Estep; Steven Hines; Natalie Hrcek; and Matthew Huitger
- Magna Cum Laude ("with great honor"—grade point average between 3.7-3.84): Kristen Bahr; Patricia Callender; and Jasmine Major
- Cum Laude ("with honor"—grade point average between 3.5-3.69): Ashley Stenger; Hayden Stofcheck; and Kayla Workman
- Graduates: Emma Coleman; Taylor Ellison; Hunter Haley; Jeanette Hawkins; Jessica Helphinstine; Haylie Jefferson; Victoria Lockwood; Grace Mabiala; and Michael Shanks





CCMS Helps Meet New Crematory Operator Requirements

With the March 1 state deadline looming, more than 60 practitioners and CCMS students recently completed the requirements for their Crematory Operator Certification. Another dozen participated in an Ohio Cremation Law session, thus ensuring they too comply with the new Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors statute.

"We noticed that there was a lot of confusion about the process – people weren't certain what they needed to do to meet the new requirements and were, unfortunately, putting themselves at risk for missing the deadline," states CCMS

President and CEO Jack Lechner, Jr. "This is a complex and yet vital process, with several key steps that were necessary. Plus, there was a timing issue, with the urgency of meeting the March 1 deadline."



Larry Stuart, Jr., makes a point during his presentation as part of the Crematory Operator Certification session.

And that's when CCMS offered to host the two continuing education classes. "I felt we needed to take an active role in helping people through the process, and to provide coursework for the two certificates," adds Lechner. Working with the Ohio Board, CCMS is one of only three providers that offer the 2 hour stand-alone course. Such programs are "reflective of our commitment to offering high quality continuing education sessions," explains Lechner.

CCMS typically offers the Crematory Operator Certification twice a year, while the 2-hour Ohio Cremation Law will be offered multiple times. For more information on upcoming continuing education classes, visit

www.ccms.edu/continuing-education-resources/



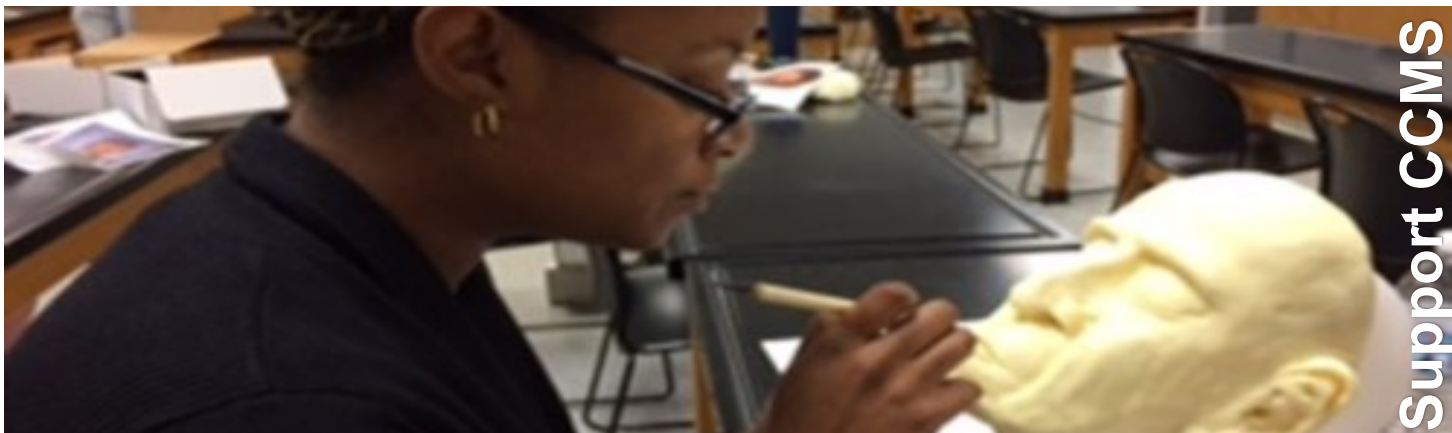
Presenter Poul Lemasters (at left) chats with an attendee during a break at the Crematory Operator Certification course.

Meet the CCMS Board: Michael Ryan, Vice-Chair

Michael was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and now lives in Mason with his loving wife Melinda. After attending The University of Cincinnati, he attended and graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1978. Michael is owner of the Vorhis & Ryan and the Shorten & Ryan Funeral Homes, with all locations in the Greater Cincinnati area. He is also a certified funeral celebrant.

Outside of work, Michael says he "enjoys life, and take pleasure in reading, cycling, hiking, antiques, wine making, and my Rhodesian Ridge-back dog, Doc."





Bricks “Perfect Way” To Celebrate Time at CCMS and to Support the Future

Semester 2 student Noah Saldo feels it is a simple decision – one that he urges other CCMS students and alumni to join him in. He says he purchased one of the commemorative bricks ‘because it seems like the perfect way to both recognize my time as a student and to also be part of the future of the school.’

For him, it is an investment – a permanent way to stay part of CCMS, even once he’s graduated. “I am thoroughly enjoying my time here and am learning so much, yet I also want to support the new Educational Cremation Center as that will be a huge opportunity for future students,” he explains.

A path of engraved bricks will serve as the entryway for the college’s new Educational Cremation Center, linking the current building to the state-of-the-art learning facility. According to CCMS President Jack Lechner, “The path connects the past to our future – a way to salute the past, preserve the present and ignite the future.”

The quote Noah chose for his brick provides another connection. He states, “I selected the Scripture passage from Matthew 5:4, which is ‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.’ My Dad is a pastor, so that passage always meant a lot to me; it was really what sparked my interest in the death care profession. And it speaks to me because the comforting is exactly what we try to do to help those we serve. It’s a reminder and an inspiration.”

Noah, who enrolled at CCMS because “this is the best college with the best reputation,” has most enjoyed learning the history and progression of the profession. “I’m from a small, rural portion of North Carolina, so being here in Cincinnati has been a great experience! The history is fascinating, from how ancient Egyptians did things compared to more recently. And I like hearing the different perspectives, such as how different religious denominations handle funerals, and how things are done differently up North than from what I’ve seen at home.”



Semester 2 student Noah Saldo poses with a sample of the new commemorative bricks. His brick will be an 8’x8’ size and include his favorite Bible passage.

The commemorative bricks are a great way to honor a significant individual – such as celebrating one’s year of graduation, recognizing a favorite teacher, or to show gratitude to someone who has made a difference in your life. It’s a perfect way to create a legacy or to acknowledge someone. The \$100 cost includes the brick and 3 lines of permanent engraving; other sizes of bricks and memorialization are available at extra cost. The brick purchase is tax deductible and all proceeds support the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. [Click here](https://www.ccms.edu/pathway-to-the-future/) (<https://www.ccms.edu/pathway-to-the-future/>) to be part of the “Pathways to the Future” brick campaign.



Alumni News

We want to hear from you! Do you have a change in employment, want to share about awards, accolades or other good news? Need to update your contact information? Please complete the [brief online form](http://www.ccms.edu/keep-in-touch/) (www.ccms.edu/keep-in-touch/) so we can share your news!

Accolades and good news

Congratulations to the James H. Cole Home for Funerals, which will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this spring. The home, which is the oldest African-American funeral home in Detroit, will host several events beginning with a legacy breakfast in April. Karla Cole Green graduated from CCMS in the late 70's and her son, Antonio Green, in 2007. Throughout the years, several CCMS students have completed co-ops or apprenticeships there as well. For more info, go to: <http://www.cole100.com/>

Class Ring Help Needed

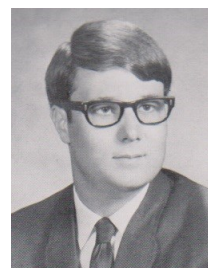
1984 graduate Imani Fowler lost his class ring and is hoping someone will provide him with images he can share with Balfour to have a new ring produced. It would be a torch image from that period; if you can assist, please contact him at imanirfowler@gmail.com or call (513) 200-8601.

In Memory of

CCMS extends our condolences and prayers to those dealing with the grief of loss; below are the recently shared notices:

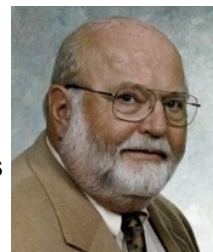
John Salvatore "Sal" Signorini, of Tiltonsville, Ohio; 1975 Alum

Sal passed April 10, 2018, at his home. He was born in Martins Ferry, OH, May 11, 1951, a son of Mary (Brandi) and the late Salvatore Signorini. He was a graduate of St. John's Central in Bellaire, attended Ohio State University, and the Mortuary School of Cincinnati. He was a former employee at McGorray Funeral Home in Cleveland, Berkowitz-Kumin Memorial Chapel in Cleveland, and Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel. ([Click here](#) for obituary—www.wilsonfuneralhomes.com/notices/John-Signorini.) Thanks to Trent Snyder, Class of 1975, for sharing this information.



Ronald Lee Kercheval, of Harrison, Ohio; 1961 Alum

Ron passed away February 19, 2019, at the age of 79. Ron was born in Dayton, Kentucky on October 26, 1939 to Arthur William and Virginia Lee (nee Bratton) Kercheval. In 1962, he married Judith A. Rapking, and together they were blessed with two sons. He served 20 years at the Harrison Fire Department and was the owner of Jackman- Kercheval Funeral Home in Harrison from 1975 until 1992. Ron served as a President of the Greater Cincinnati Board of Funeral Directors, and took pride in his work. ([Click here](#) for obituary—www.braterfh.com/obituaries/Ronald-Kercheval/.)



Gregory D. Hayden, of Westlake, Ohio; 1971 Alum

Gregory passed away March 16, 2019, at the age of 69. Mr. Hayden leaves behind his wife Cynthia, daughter Kristen and sons Scott and Jeffrey. McGorray-Hanna Funeral Home of Westlake cared for the Hayden family where services were held March 20th. ([Click here](#) for obituary—www.mcgorray.com/obituaries/GREGORY--D--HAYDEN?obId=4225667#) Thanks to Kathleen Berry for sharing this information.



Ways to Connect

Open House

Thursday, June 13 from 4-6 p.m.

[Register to join us](http://www.ccms.edu/open-house/) (www.ccms.edu/open-house/)

Visit CCMS to get the scoop on admissions, financial aid, prerequisites, and more. We look forward to meeting you! (Note: Another upcoming open house will be held Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to noon)



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(www.ccms.edu/ccms-merchandise)



Shop CCMS Merchandise

Be ready for sunshine and spring evenings while still showing your CCMS pride! From shorts and tank tops to snapbacks and go-anywhere tumblers—we've got lots to keep you styling! Choose from casual options and even more professional wear, such as our dri-mesh polos. Shop our online store for authentic CCMS trademark products! Get your CCMS swag here: [Shop the CCMS online store!](#) (www.ccms.edu/ccms-merchandise/)



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