



Mortuary Minutes Quarterly Newsletter

Transforming Death Care Education

SPRING 2024

WWW.CCMS.EDU

SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2024

Spring commencement is always a special day for students, faculty and staff as we witness students celebrate their successes and join the death care profession. Spring commencement 2024 was held on April 12, 2024 at Spring Grove Funeral Home Event Center with fifteen graduates. Class President Ella Rex shared an inspirational commencement speech to her classmates with a special dedication to Todd VanBeck.



A special thank you to our keynote speaker, TR Routsong, the staff at Spring Grove, the Board of Trustees, and our faculty that make this day possible. See more details under the CCMS events section of the newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Looking for a way to support CCMS?

- Donate a used van to CCMS for a tax deduction. We are in need of upgrading our transfer vehicles.
- Be a sponsor in an upcoming fundraising event!
- Share your recycling revenue with CCMS!

It's your continued support that helps provide the best experiences and resources for our students and future death care profession members!



Message from the President



President & CEO
Jack E. Lechner, Jr.

CCMS Alumni Reception at OFDA Convention:

We are thrilled to report that the alumni reception held during the recent OFDA Convention in April was an outstanding success. The event brought together a remarkable gathering of alumni members who have made significant contributions to our organization and the field of funeral services.

The reception provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect, network, and share their stories and experiences. Laughter, camaraderie, and a sense of shared purpose filled the room as old friends caught up and new connections were formed.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the alumni who attended the reception, as well as to the dedicated organizers, volunteers, and allied professionals who made the event possible. Your presence and contributions made the evening truly unforgettable.

As we look towards the future, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for our alumni community. We are committed to fostering continued collaboration, mentorship, and support among our members, ensuring that we continue to uplift and inspire one another in our shared mission.

Thank you to everyone who made the Alumni Reception at the OFDA Convention a resounding success. Here's to making next year's reception even better!

Cremation Center Update: Recognizing Codi Kindoll's Leadership and Training Excellence

We are delighted to shine a spotlight on Codi Kindoll, the dedicated manager of our Educational Cremation Center, for his outstanding leadership and commitment to excellence. Codi's proactive approach to training and mentorship has been instrumental in maintaining the high standards of service at our center.

In addition to his impressive track record of conducting over 300 cremations at the college and over a thousand in his professional career, Codi has further distinguished himself by investing in the development of his team. Under his guidance, all of his assistants have successfully acquired licenses as Crematory Operator Permit holders in Ohio. This initiative not only underscores Codi's commitment to upholding industry regulations and best practices but also highlights his dedication to nurturing talent within the organization.

With a Bachelor of Mortuary Science Degree from CCMS and dual licenses as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in Ohio and Kentucky, Codi's qualifications exemplify his deep-rooted expertise and dedication to the field. His certification as a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP) further solidify his position as a leader in the industry.

Codi Kindoll's proactive training efforts and emphasis on continuous improvement have played a pivotal role in enhancing the



Message from the President

capabilities of our team and ensuring that our Educational Cremation Center operates at the highest standards of professionalism.

Join us in recognizing Codi Kindoll for his exceptional leadership, mentorship, and dedication to excellence in the field of cremation services.

Cremation Center Announcement: Welcoming Funeral Directors and Expanded Services:

We are excited to announce that the CCMS Educational Cremation Center is now open to cremations from the funeral director community. At a competitive price of \$275, which includes the cremation container, funeral directors can avail themselves of our advanced facilities and professional services.

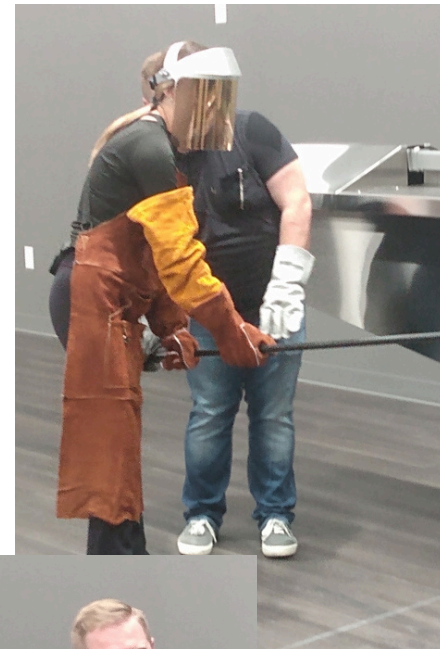
Under the expert tutelage of Codi Kindoll, our esteemed manager, the center offers a range of amenities to enhance the cremation experience for funeral directors. Our witness room is equipped with a start button and a slumber bed, providing a tranquil and respectful environment for families to pay their final respects. Additionally, our event center is available for use by the funeral director community, offering a versatile space for gatherings and memorial services.

We take pride in our commitment to quality and professionalism, with all students assisting Codi holding Crematory Operator Permits in the State of Ohio. This ensures that every cremation is conducted with the utmost care, expertise, and adherence to industry standards.

As we open our doors to the funeral director community, we invite you to experience the exceptional services and state-of-the-art facilities offered at the CCMS Educational Cremation

Center. With a focus on quality, attention to detail, and a team of skilled professionals, we are dedicated to providing a seamless and dignified cremation experience for your client families.

Join us in welcoming funeral directors to our center and discover the excellence and professionalism that define the CCMS Educational Cremation Center.





Academics at CCMS

Throughout our program, students get the opportunity to connect with colleagues in the death care profession. Over this past term, the following have provided presentations to our students.

- Brandon Cathen & Eric Northrup, owners of SCU Services, LLC
- Theresa Correa & staff, host at Spring Grove Funeral Homes
- Wendy Ellis, Newcomer Funeral Homes
- Mika Kill, host at Weil-Kahn Funeral Home
- Alex Kistler, Global Recruiters, Inc.
- Fr. Jon McClish, host at Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- Jack Mueller, Mueller Funeral Home
- Randy Schoedinger, Schoedinger Funeral & Cremation Service
- Mike Sexton, Newcomer Funeral Home - Cincinnati
- Kat Vancil-Coleman, New York Funeral Director in Residency
- Justin Weber, Chief Investigator, Hamilton County Coroner's Office
- Joshua Woodruff, Funeral Director, Wappner Funeral Directors & Crematory
- Steve Zittle, Fidelity Memorial

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide our students with the best education and experiences!

CCMS is excited to announce a couple of new projects we are working on in our academic programs!

Our faculty are diligently working to bring an online program with a launch goal in 2025. This will provide students a great alternative to in-person classes.

We are also working on redeveloping our Funeral Director Certificate Program becoming accredited so that credits will transfer for students should they desire to further education in the future.

The faculty and staff continue to strive to provide the best education and hands-on training for our students.

Event Management Class

The recent event management class completed their final project as they created and implemented a Valentine's themed Remembrance event. This gave the students the opportunity to plan, budget, create menus, prepare food, decorate, market, serve, and host the event.





Academics at CCMS

Pet Loss Education

During their fourth semester, our Bachelor of Mortuary Science (BMS) students took the inaugural offering of the Alternative Forms of Disposition course which included a three-week lab learning how to operate the Pet-400 Alkaline Hydrolysis machine.

Our students were grateful to learn from three deceased pets donated into our care. As their final project, Mrs. Lee tasked them with creating a ceremony to honor these pets and their contribution to student learning. The creativity of this cohort went beyond all expectations. They took it upon themselves to craft a ceremony based upon a culmination of learning by combining elements from several courses, including Certified Celebrant Training, Pet Loss, and from Alternative Forms of Disposition, using art as a form of memorialization.

The students eagerly organized a multi-part Celebrant Service that began with a "Pouring Ceremony" led by CCMS student and artist Kelly Wilson. During the pouring ceremony, a small portion of the pets remains were carefully added to each student and instructor's individual painted canvases.

The second part of the ceremony was for hallowing or making sacred the space the pets are stored while in our care. The celebrant service was read by CCMS student Lauren Hill, and poems and other readings read by CCMS students Laken Dye and Hannah Drugmand.

Finally, the students created a larger canvas with each of their handprints added in the same paint used for the pouring ceremony. The individual memorial canvases and the larger canvas with student handprints, along with printed copies of the celebrant service and poems, will eventually be hung in the room the students had hallowed through ceremony. We

are so proud of the reverence, gratitude, empathy, and creativity that went into this project. It was work well done!



We would like to recognize all the students and faculty involved in the ceremony, as well as the instructors involved in the courses mentioned above.

Ceremony Participants:

Lindsey Canter
Hannah Drugmand
Quinn Dwyer
Laken Dye
Chiara Gallegos
Drew Gray
Lauren Hill
Ella Rex
Mikayla Sauseda
Marissa Schuttera
James Triplett
Kelly Wilson

Faculty:

Teresa Dutko
Wanda Lee
John Vinnedge
Leigh Combs
Codi Kindoll
Jordyn Schaich



Continuing Education 2024 Course Offerings

WWW.CCMS.EDU

Ohio Laws & Rules - Cremation & Death Care, Ethics in Death Care, and Preneed Ethics

Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT
President & CEO CCMS
4 Hours; \$200

Ohio Laws & Rules (2 hours) This four hour program is delivered at/by Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 and is intended to provide licensed funeral directors, embalmers, and crematory operators an overview of recent changes and proposed changes to Ohio Laws and Rules for death care practitioners and businesses. Registrants will be provided resources to navigate the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors website to keep them current with Laws and Rules which directly impact them as a practitioner, as well as their business and employer.

The objective of this program is to help practitioners understand and embrace the function and efforts of the state regulatory agency.

Preneed Ethics (1 hour) Attendees will also educate funeral homes about preneed reporting requirements, and the ARPPS reporting system, and Preneed Recovery Fund.

The presentation includes an overview of Ohio Administrative Rules about ARPPS published by the Ohio Board.

Ethics (1 hour) We will also discuss ethics, along with the responsibility and challenges we face as death care professionals. The course will challenge registrants to understand the differences between ethics, morals, and laws. We will engage in discussion and provide resources on Model Ethics Policies in the workplace, the Ohio Ethics Commission, and the Order of the Golden Rule Ethics Model. The objective is to engage registrants in dialogue about ethical dilemmas they have experienced, or could experience, that may result in liability.

In-Person:

- Friday, May 31, 2024
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 6, 2024
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 4, 2024
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

Ohio Laws and Rules for Cremation & Death Care

Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT
President & CEO CCMS
2 Hours; \$100

This two hour program is delivered at/by Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 and is intended to provide licensed funeral directors, embalmers, and crematory operators an overview of recent changes and proposed changes to Ohio Laws and Rules for death care practitioners and businesses. Registrants will be provided resources to navigate the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors website to keep them current with Laws and Rules which directly impact them as a practitioner, as well as their business and employer.

The objective of this program is to help practitioners understand and embrace the function and efforts of the state regulatory agency.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, June 26, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, August 28, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

“The Lung Wait” - Organ Donation and Arlington National Cemetery: Restoring Honor

Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT
President & CEO CCMS
2 Hours; \$100

This two-hour continuing education program will be hosted at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224. Mr. Lechner discusses his time as a trade embalmer and the feelings of resentment embalmers have about remains that have undergone organ and tissue donation. He goes on to explain how that perspective all changed when his son needed a double lung transplant. Now, when the former trade embalmers view remain that have donated organs and/or tissue, he views the individual as a hero. His story is compelling and supports funeral directors encouraging organ and tissue donation.

The slide presentation is followed by a 38-minute, emotional documentary film about the long time his son spent on the waiting list. During the period of waiting his physical health continued to deteriorate and he continued to lose weight which almost excluded him from getting a transplant. The documentary finishes with his successful transplant, marriage, becoming a father of two, and continued good health.

Mr. Lechner will also provide insight into the nation's largest federal cemetery from the perspective of the former Superintendent. Content includes operations processes to facilitate 3.1 million visitors per year while simultaneously conducting over 8,000 funerals with varying degrees of military honors. A 20-minute video produced by the Association of the United States Army depicts the 2010 scandal which prompted the Millennium Project to create process improvements and redefined governance to this national shrine.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, July 17, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

Ohio Master Training & Certification

Presenters: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT, President & CEO CCMS
Wanda M. Lee, CFSP, MDI, LFD/LE, Faculty CCMS
Board Member, Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors
6 Hours; \$300

This 6-hour continuing education and Master Certification Program delivered at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 is a one-day seminar intended to deliver the most advanced and thorough training for funeral director and embalming "Masters". To achieve excellence as a Master Funeral Director and/or Master Embalmer, death care professionals must be intentionally invested in their role as a teacher and mentor and must desire to develop a well-rounded understanding and knowledge of required legal, ethical, and regulatory components, interpersonal communication skills, understanding of the apprentice's expanded educational concepts and a desire to help mold the candidates slated to carry on existing and new traditions as the future of the death care profession.

Qualified candidates for Ohio Funeral Director and/or Embalmer "Master", he/she must hold an active Ohio funeral director or embalmer license for a period of no less than five years and be in good standing with the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. The candidate must complete a one-day, six-hour face-to-face (or live interactive webinar in accordance with Ohio's amended pandemic hardship rule) board approved training course. Master certification is valid for five years from the date of training.

Training is delivered by Ohio Licensed Funeral Directors and Embalmers, Ohio laws, rules and regulations experts, and college educators specializing in death care and funeral service.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, October 30, 2024
10:00 am - 4:30 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

Transforming Death Care Education and Arlington National Cemetery: Restoring Honor

Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT, President & CEO CCMS
2 Hours; \$100

This two-hour continuing education program by Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science President & CEO, Jack E. Lechner, Jr. is to facilitate understanding of the prescribed ABFSE educational and national examination requirements, along with insight into the college's transformative curricula expansion and advanced trainings delivered in the new Educational Cremation Center.TM

This course also provides insight into the nation's largest federal cemetery from the perspective of the former Superintendent. Content includes operations processes to facilitate 3.1 million visitors per year while simultaneously conducting over 8,000 funerals with varying degrees of military honors. A 20-minute video produced by the Association of the United States Army depicts the 2010 scandal

which prompted the Millennium Project to create process improvements and redefined governance to this national shrine.

Attendees will gain inside knowledge and professional benefit from the speaker's first-hand experience as former Superintendent regarding Interment Scheduling System (ISS), Chain of Custody, interment and inurnment eligibility requirements, wait time impact for funeral professionals and families, and improved correspondence via call service center /smartphone app. An opportunity for open forum question and answer session allows death care professionals in attendance to address their experiences and unanswered questions about scheduling timelines and overall cemetery operations.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, June 12, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

Transforming Death Care Education and Ohio Laws & Rules for Cremation and Death Care

Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT,
President & CEO CCMS
3 Hours; \$150

This one-hour continuing education program by Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science President & CEO, Jack E. Lechner, Jr. is to facilitate understanding of the prescribed ABFSE educational and national examination requirements, along with insight into the college's transformative curricula expansion and advanced trainings delivered in the new Educational Cremation Center.™

Ohio Laws & Rules (2 hours) This two hour program is delivered at/by Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 is intended to provide licensed funeral directors, embalmers, and crematory operators an overview of recent changes and proposed changes to Ohio Laws and Rules for death care practitioners and businesses. Registrants will be provided resources to navigate the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors website to keep them current with Laws and Rules which directly impact them as a practitioner, as well as their business and employer. The objective of this program is to help practitioners understand and embrace the function and efforts of the state regulatory agency.

In-Person:

- Wednesday, September 11, 2024
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Please note that these are also available as a livestream, but will not count toward In-person credit.*

Get in touch!

513-866-4084

coned@ccms.edu

645 W. North Bend Rd.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

**Click on the QR Code to
register for upcoming
Continuing Education courses:**





What's Happening at CCMS?

Event Highlights

Spring Commencement 2024

Congratulations to all of our Spring 2024 graduates! A special recognition given to those graduates who have demonstrated outstanding characteristics of motivation, aptitude, skill and commitment:

- **Class President Recognition:** Ella Rose Rex
- **Nunnamaker Memorial Award (highest class standing):** Kelly Wilson
- **Sleighter Memorial Award (second highest class standing):** Hannah Gale Drugmand
- **Lyerly Management Award (Scholastic achievement and potential for outstanding business and management skills):** Kelly Wilson
- **Leffler Funeral Directing Award (Potential for excellence in ethical and compassionate service, development, and community relations):** Loudon Saulbeamer
- **Bowsher Award (Academic excellence and artistic skill in restorative art):** Laura Dye
- **Dhonaue Memorial Embalming Award (Highest competence in both embalming theory and clinical application):** Hannah Gale Drugmand
- **Ohio Embalmer's Association (Ohio resident displaying achievement in the combined theory and practice of embalming):** Drew Gray
- **Dodge Award (Exceptional advancement in the art of embalming):** Marissa Schuttera
- **Ohio Funeral Directors Association Leadership Award (Exemplary leadership qualities and abilities):** Lauren Hill



OFDA Conference - Mortuary Student Day

In April, CCMS students had the opportunity to attend the OFDA Conference for Mortuary Student Day for a day full of presentations, a job fair, and connecting with death care profession colleagues!





What's Happening at CCMS?

Upcoming Events

CCMS Summer CAR SHOW

645 W. North Bend Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

FOOD! PRIZES! KIDS ACTIVITIES!

Pre-register at www.ccms.edu
or scan QR Code:
\$20.00 Pre-registration/ \$25.00 Day of show

6-2-24 SUNDAY 1 PM - 4 PM

Proceeds benefit student resources

FALL HARVEST Festival

Presents....

Saturday OCTOBER 12

CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE
645 S. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224
FROM 10:00 AM - 05:00 PM

CRAFT FAIR, LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, FACE PAINTING, FUN GAMES, RAFFLE PRIZES

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

For more information, contact Holly Hoffman
hhoffman@ccms.edu, or call 513-618-1929

For vendor information, visit our website at:
www.ccms.edu/events

Please join us in our upcoming fundraising events with proceeds benefiting student resources and activities.

Whether you come visit campus this day, register to participate, or become a sponsor - there are lots of ways to support our current and future students at CCMS!

For more information, contact Holly Hoffman at hhoffman@ccms.edu, or call 513-618-1929

We are currently searching for craft, food, and farm market type vendors and raffle basket donations for our Fall Harvest Festival. If you or someone you know would like to participate or donate a raffle basket, please let us know!



What's Happening at CCMS?

Upcoming Events

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING!

TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM OR
BE A SPONSOR, USE THE QR
CODE BELOW:



COME OUT FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science is holding our 4th Annual CCMS Golf Fundraising Classic, proceeds raised will go towards student scholarships and to reduce the cost to attend college.

New this year...we've Moved!
Glenview Golf Course is Cincinnati's premier public championship golf course, offering 27 beautiful golf holes with lush landscapes, panoramic views, and demanding hazard features. Glenview was once ranked among Golf Digest's Top 75 Public Courses and site of the 1987 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship.

☐ Team of four - \$500.00
☐ Individual golfers - \$135 ea.

Includes:

- Green fee for 18 holes
- Cart
- Lunch & Dinner
- Two drink Ticket

Registration deadline is Sept. 6th

4TH ANNUAL CCMS FUNDRAISING GOLF CLASSIC & DINNER

September 18, 2024

10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 11:00 a.m.
Dinner & Awards to follow

Thank you!
We raised over \$29K for students last year!!

CCMS
645 W North Bend Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45224
ATTN: Golf Outing

To register, go to www.ccms.edu or fill out the registration form and mail it with your payment to:

Registration deadline is Sept. 6th

Split the Pot

Hula Skirt \$50 \$1 per team

Door Prizes

Raffle

Mulligans

Hole-in-One Contest!

LUNCH, DINNER & DRINK TICKETS!

Contact a committee members for more detail!

Alesha Neal: 812-621-1670 / aneal@matw.com
Laura Nobbe: 513-518-5008 / laura@heartlandpreneed.com
Tim King: 513-383-5981 / tking@tuftsschildmeyer.com
Steve Bittner: 513-460-7610 / steve@cccsohio.org

Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Glenview golf course

COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE CINCINNATI

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION:

Title Sponsor - \$5,000

- Top-line logo placement on all promotional materials
- Top-line logo on all CCMS media platforms as "Title Sponsor"
- Logo on signage in club house, registration and a hole
- Two foursomes - including lunch & dinner
- Title Sponsor reserved table at dinner
- Dinner line priority
- Team sponsor announcement and thank you during announcements
- Opportunity for company executive to address attendees at dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Ace Sponsor - \$2,500

- Logo placement on all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Logo on signage in club house, registration and hole
- Two foursomes - including lunch & dinner
- Opportunity for company executives to present trophy to winning team
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Reception Sponsor - \$2,000

- Logo recognition on all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Logo on reception Sponsor signage
- Two foursomes - including lunch & dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Birdie Sponsor - \$1,500

- Logo recognition on all promotional materials
- Logo recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Name recognition on Hole signage
- One foursome - including lunch & dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$1,200

- Name recognition on all promotional materials
- Name recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Logo on drink cart signage
- One foursome - including lunch & dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Par Sponsor - \$1,000

- Name recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Name recognition on Hole signage
- One foursome - including lunch & dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

Hole Sponsor - \$500

- Name recognition on all CCMS media platforms
- Name recognition on Hole signage
- Opportunity to set up a tent on the hole and promote your company to all players
- Lunch & Dinner
- Opportunity to promote your business in the gift bags

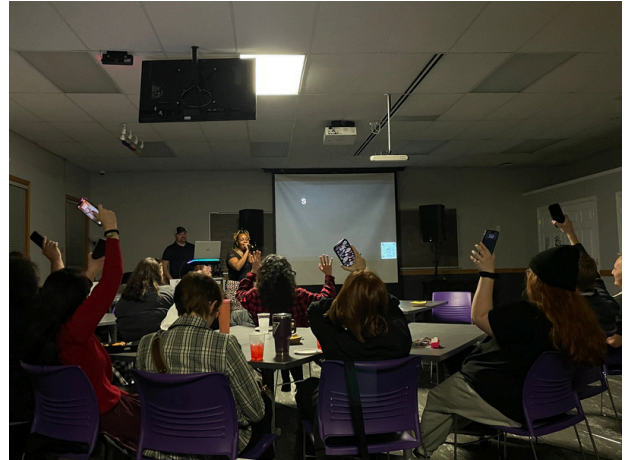


What's Happening at CCMS? Student Life

Students have been enjoying a break from their rigorous education for a little fun with student activities including Karaoke Night, Exam Destress Week, and celebrating National Food Holidays including Pizza Day, Cookie Day, and Nacho Day!

During Exam Destress Week in the fall, morning students got to enjoy breakfast and afternoon students received warm lunch prepared by staff! They also had the opportunity to participate in some fun activities.

More events will be coming this fall including craft workshops, cooking classes, bowling events, and more! If you are interested in sponsoring any of our events or participating in our upcoming fundraisers, please contact Holly Hoffman, Assistant Dean at hhoffman@ccms.edu.





CCMS Family

New Employees: CCMS would like to introduce our new employees that have joined the CCMS family.

Samantha Legendre, Registrar

Samantha is a licensed funeral director/embalmer in the state of Ohio and a Certified Professional in Funeral Planning through Dr. Alan Wolfelt's Center for Loss and Life Transition. She was born and raised in California then made her way to the East coast by way of service in the United States Air Force. She was an F-16 Fuel Systems Craftsman for 6 years during which she met and married her spouse, Christopher. In 2018, Samantha was honorably discharged from the military to resume her pursuit towards her passion of becoming a funeral director and embalmer.



This is the year she was blessed with the second love of her life: her handsome son David. She is a 2020 alumna of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and now serves as the college's registrar. In her free time, she enjoys spending time obsessing over her vegetable garden.

Alumni Spotlight

Kat Vancil-Coleman, a 2023 graduate of CCMS and nominee for the American Funeral Director's "Ones to Watch" for 2023.

She is currently an apprentice with Newcomer Funeral Home. Kat is a Dayton, Ohio native and a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community committed to education, advocacy, and outreach to make deathcare accessible and inclusive to all marginalized communities. Kat comes from a long line of teachers and is passionate about developing informative and engaging continuing education programs to help bridge the gap between funeral professionals and the diverse communities they serve.



CCMS was proud to see Ms. Vancil-Coleman present a webinar titled "Death Without Deadnames" as a continuing education seminar with the OFDA.

If you or someone you know that is a CCMS alumni and would like to share your success stories, we want to recognize you!

Sharing your achievements is not only a way to celebrate your success, but to help inspire future generations of students.

Please contact Holly Hoffman, Assistant Dean/Director of Admissions at hhoffman@ccms.edu, or call 513-618-1929.

Keep an eye out for more information and special events for our CCMS family in the near future.



Alumni News

Breaking News

↓ READ MORE ↓

We are in the process of updating our alumni records! Please take a moment to update us on your contact information by clicking [here](https://forms.gle/4pYKnmtMNno8auCx7) to provide us with your current information, so we can keep you up-to-date on all of the great things happening at CCMS: <https://forms.gle/4pYKnmtMNno8auCx7> or email alumni@ccms.edu.

OFDA Conference Alumni Reception

CCMS hosted our second annual Alumni & Friends reception at the OFDA conference in Columbus and had a great time reconnecting with old friends!



Is your class interested in hosting a class reunion?
Contact us at alumni@ccms.edu or call
513-618-1929 - we would love to host your class!

CCMS Fall Class of 1974 50TH CLASS REUNION

MORE
DETAILS TO
COME!

**Saturday
September
21**

**Cincinnati College of
Mortuary Science
10:00am - 2:00pm**

**645 West North Bend Road
Cincinnati, OH 45224**

For more information contact:

**Gil Carlson
352-391-7010
gil.carlson@ymail.com**

**Ken Rogers
850-209-8034
rnc2050@yahoo.com**



**Drury Inn & Suites, Sharonville OH 833-487-0623
Hilton Garden Inn, Blue Ash OH 513 469-6900**



Alumni News

1882 ALUMNI SOCIETY



As a CCMS alumnus, you know how seriously we take our mission of educating the next generation of funeral service professionals.

That's where you come in!

By joining the 1882 Alumni Society, which honors the rich history of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science while also paving a way for the future, you won't just be showing your CCMS pride, you'll also be helping us continue to lead the way in death care education through continued ____ at the college.

Click [here](#) to learn more and join!

Ada Jean Fraley
Brian R. James
Carl Lambert
Charles W Anderson
Craig Wise
Daniel W Counts
David E. Small
Donald O'Guinn, Jr.
Dwayne R. Spence
Erin Schwanitz-Vogt
Frank Rosenacker
Gene Gompf
Gina Lee Terry
Jacob L. Wittrock
Jeffrey Keller
Jodi Ranannee Lucas

John Marsco
Jonathan Brandon
Karen S Sharpe
Kimberly Ogle
Leighann Bayliff Johnson
Linn Hert Geib Funeral Home
Louis Crow
Marie McCune
Mark Schneider
Marlan Gary
Michael Pierson
Michael T. Neeld
Noah Schlabach
Ralph F. Scott III
Randy Schoedinger
Richard G. Snider

Rob Rue
Robert B. Cilles
Robert Mayhew
Robert S. Lovein
Ron Gard
Samuel W. Walters 1971
Seth T. Coughlin
Stephen Herget
Stephen McCune
Thane Van Liming
Tiffany Hill
Timothy Schmidt
Tyler O'Brien
Van Cardaras
William C. Peoples
William Greaney



In Memoriam

Eric J. Sparks, 54, of Galion, won his battle with pancreatic cancer Tuesday, February 13, 2024 and will spend eternity with his savior Jesus Christ.



Born November 13, 1969 in Toledo, he was the son of Fred and Pat (Ketchum) Sparks. He married Jayme (Starkey) Sparks in Defiance, Ohio on May 4, 2013 and she survives.

He was a graduate of Colonel Crawford High School in 1988 and Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1991. Eric was a funeral director and embalmer for 31 years with the last ten with the Richardson Davis Chapel of Snyder Funeral Homes in Galion. He was a member of Ohio Funeral Directors, National Funeral Directors Association and the Ohio Embalmers Association.

Eric was a member of Grace Point in Galion and a member and past president of the Galion Kiwanis Club and a board member of the Galion YMCA where he enjoyed working out. He enjoyed traveling, boating at Lake Erie, white water rafting in West Virginia, scuba diving in the Caribbean and was passionate about helping others and making the world a better place.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by twin brother Ryan (Caren) Sparks of Upper Arlington; brothers-in-law, Larry (Laura) Starkey, Marty (Kari) Peacemaker and Kenney Peacemaker; sisters-in-law, Judy Peacemaker, Cathy (Steve) O'Den and Tracy (Lane) Wiley; numerous nieces and nephews, including Brock (Kaitlyn) Sparks and Bryant (Mason) Sparks and mother-in-law Cathy Peacemaker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by father-in-law Pete Peacemaker.

Barbara F. Heston, 80, of Huron Township passed away Tuesday morning, December 5, at her home with her daughters at her side.



She was the loving mother of Kelly (Daniel) Dwyer and Heidi Umin (William Brown). Beloved grandmother of Brittany (Michael) Stevenson, Brandon (Stephanie) Umin, Alexandra, Danielle and Quinn Dwyer. Great-grandmother of Henri and Hamilton Dwyer and Errol, Jack and Frances Stevenson. She is also survived by her sisters Patricia Horn and Dorothy Traves. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Dorothy Heston and her sister Merry Palicz.

As the president and 3rd generation owner of Michigan Memorial Park, Barbara was very active in the Downriver business and civic communities including the Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce where she was a past Chairwoman, Soroptimist International, Flat Rock Business Association and many more. In her time at the helm of Michigan Memorial Park, she guided it to become the largest privately-owned cemetery in Michigan.

Funeral services will be Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, 30895 W Huron River Drive, Flat Rock, MI. Visitation will be from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Celebration of Life party to follow. Private entombment will be on Friday December 15 in the Shrine of Remembrance mausoleum at Michigan Memorial Park. Flowers may be ordered online through Michigan Memorial Flower Shop or donations may be made to Soroptimist International by selecting the link above and to the left.



In Memoriam

Paul John Hannay, 88, of Tiffin, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 30, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.



Paul was born in Youngstown on March 31, 1935 the third child born to Ray and A. Katherine (Hess) Hannay. The family moved to Salem where two more siblings were added to the family. Paul graduated from Salem High School in 1953 and started working at the Stark Memorial and furniture store until he was drafted into the Army in 1958.

During basic training at Ft. Knox, he was given the opportunity to take an audition to get into an Army Band. Now this sentence is for high school students that play an instrument, if you are going into the military for a couple of years, please take an audition to get into a band.

After his service time, he came home to work at Starks again while attending Youngstown College to earn enough credits to enter Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science.

Paul and Sarah "Sally" (Scullion) were married on August 10, 1963 at St. Paul's Church in Salem, OH and after a one week honeymoon, moved to Cincinnati where Paul continued his education.

Paul had worked at a couple different funeral homes after embalming school until 1975 when Lou and Kate Nemeth decided it was time for them to sell and retire. The Hannay's bought the business on July 1, 1975 and later named it Hannay-Nemeth Mortuary and retired in 1997.

Paul was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Third and Fourth Degrees, Past Faithful Navigator of the Fourth

Degree, Ohio Funeral Directors Association and Ohio Embalmers Association.

Paul enjoyed good music, traveling, golf, and playing cards, Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Browns and The Ohio State Buckeyes.

Survivors include his wife, Sally Hannay, a son, David Hannay, a sister, Mabel Lou McLeah along with many nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Ronnie Hannay, two sisters, Margaret Garloch and Eva Rae Cody and a nephew, Greg Garloch.

Brett W. Cunningham, 61, passed away Tuesday, January 16th. Beloved husband of Lori (nee Bernert); loving father of Bradley (Laura) and Becky (Thane) Wallingford; adored grandfather of



Brayden, Vera, Quinn, Landen and Nash; loyal brother of Ken, Bill and the late Ben Cunningham. Survived by nine nieces and nephews and several great nieces and nephews who he loved dearly. Celebration of Life, Saturday, January 20, 12:00 P.M. at Mount Carmel Christian Church, Batavia. Friends and family may call at the church from 10:30 until time of service. Family desires memorials to be made to The National Kidney Foundation.



Thank you....Supporters!

A special thank you to our sponsors of the CCMS Alumni & Friends Reception held at the OFDA conference in April:

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A special thank you to other recent donors:

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- Coyle Funeral Home for donating clothing for our woman's professional wardrobe building.
- Cletus & Jill Kinn for donating both men's and women's professional wardrobe building including clothing, shoes, and accessories.
- Young Funeral Directors Association
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- Anita Rossi, In Remembrance donation
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- Donations in memory of Harold J. Vroman

Thank you to all of the continuing donors that help support our memorial scholarships in honor of Todd VanBeck, Beth Williams, and Rachael Anderson.

Please help us congratulate the recent winners of the CCMS Memorial Scholarships:



Devin Shoemaker, winner of the Todd VanBeck Memorial Scholarship



Brianna Sullivan, winner of the Elizabeth Williams Memorial Scholarship



Shauna Krise, winner of the Rachael Anderson Memorial Scholarship



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We are united in that we receive no state or federal funding outside of the financial aid our students receive for tuition for its option. As a result, CCMS heavily relies on support from our alumni, private individuals, corporate partners and members of the Cincinnati Foundation for Mortuary Education. Such generous and continual support is in large part why we have remained successful for well over a century. All donations are tax deductible.

Simply send a check to CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45224, or click here to make a donation!



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