

# Student Embalmers from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science Join Professionals to Learn Advanced Techniques



Pictured L-R: Glyn Tallon, Lars Askholm, Seth Gasche, Sara McGovern, Ed Rankin, Joshua Allen, Rebecca Mahall, Larry Buchanan, Fred Vande Vusse, Richie Holliday, and Vernie R. Fountain

Cincinnati, OH – Inspired by their hands-on clinical experience at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, students Seth R. Gasche and James R. (Richie) Holliday recently completed 20 hours of specialized embalming and reconstructive training as part of the prestigious Fountain National Academy’s 3-day “Embalming Skills Seminar.”

The program, attended by professional embalmers as well as students, focused on advanced embalming and surgical techniques, particularly important when the deceased has severe traumatic injuries. “James and Seth’s participation in the seminar is an expression of untiring devotion and dedication to the highest standards of embalming and post-mortem reconstructive surgery care,” states Fountain National Academy instructor, Vernie R. Fountain.

The students were able to keep pace with the licensed embalmers because of their experience acquired through CCMS’s clinical program in which students work on 300-500 actual cases per year. This hands-on learning is possible because of the college’s relationships with area funeral homes and, most significantly, through a partnership with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Through the Willied Body Program, UC receives tissue samples and donated bodies for use by their medical students in anatomy classes. The bodies are first embalmed at CCMS, “The Fountain seminar is a good complement to our strong, practical program,” notes Joseph S. Main, CCMS Faculty Member and Clinical Supervisor. “Any continuing education outside of our curriculum is always beneficial and encouraged.”

“Seth and Richie showed great initiative to begin their professional development and continuing education efforts at the Fountain National Academy,” says CCMS President Karen Giles. “We are proud of their accomplishment and wish them success – both in completing their formal education and continuing the practice of professional development.”

*Fountain National Academy’s world headquarters is in Springfield, MO, with representatives in Ireland, Wales, Sidney and Traralgon, Australia. Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, located on a 16-acre campus in Cincinnati, OH, is the oldest mortuary college in the nation and the first private college to offer a Bachelor of Science degree. CCMS is accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and by the American Board of Funeral Service Education.*