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:
I’m certain that by now you’ve heard about our exciting and transformational Educational Cremation Center. The addition of the ECC is the summation of a transition the college has been undertaking for the past decade and one which will continue to strengthen our position as the premier provider of death care education in the nation.

When I first came onboard as President and CEO, I was concerned about the stability and reputation of CCMS. While historically the college had been solid, there was a period when we seemed to lose our way, without passionate leadership and strategic plan. From that low point, there has been much change and improvement, with CCMS rebounded to a position of strength.

During my three years with the college, we have worked diligently to shore up our financials, increase enrollment and to expand continuing educational offerings. Faculty have meticulously ensured a top quality of education, adding such innovative concepts as the InSight Institute celebrant training and our partnership with Terra State Community College to offer online prerequisite courses.

I want to set the record straight and to be transparent: The concerns of the past few years have been thoroughly addressed and resolved and CCMS is back on a trajectory of success. In fact, we are again in the wonderful position of looking to the future, instead of dealing with present challenges.

Instead of resting on past accomplishments, we are boldly embracing the future, making history with the addition of the ECC—a transformational facility that is not offered at any other educational institution. We know that we must prepare

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students and professionals for the evolving needs of the client families they serve and the ECC provides such opportunities.

As I have been sharing our great news at recent conferences, the interest has been astounding. At the ICCFA, numerous individuals stopped by the booth to view the schematics and to express their desire to support this initiative. Our goal is challenging: to raise $1.5 million for the new ECC along with several necessary physical improvements for the existing facility. Groundbreaking for the ECC is set for summer 2020 and the fundraising campaign will peak during the 2019 gala on November 15 at the iconic Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza’s Hall of Mirrors. (Watch for the formal launch of this event soon!)

We need your help to accomplish this goal. There are many ways you can support these efforts:

- Consider making a donation to the ECC campaign – you can give online at [https://www.ccms.edu/ecc](https://www.ccms.edu/ecc) or mail/drop off a check to CCMS. There are several giving levels or choose your own amount to donate.
- Another opportunity is naming rights for the new building. Several spaces are available for “naming,” allowing you to honor a family member or company.
- Attend our 2019 Gala event, which will be held Friday, November 15 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza. The live and silent auctions both support the ECC and will go live soon at [http://bidpal.net/ccmsgala](http://bidpal.net/ccmsgala), so go online and register to view and bid on available items. (Look for “save the date” info in this newsletter). Purchase a table or individual tickets for the November 15 Gala.
- Provide an item for the gala auctions—whether it’s a time share you can’t use, a product or service or even a themed gift basket, all items are appreciated.
- Spread the word—Let others know of this great opportunity to make a difference. If you have a suggestion for a possible corporate or individual sponsor, contact myself, Beth Williams or Ginny Hizer at CCMS; (513) 761-2020 or ecc@ccms.edu.

While the benefit to CCMS is obvious, you may be asking, “What’s in it for me? How do I benefit from supporting the ECC?” Again, there are many advantages to making a gift, which may vary from person to person. However, some of the ways supporting the ECC may be valuable to you include:

- Get a tax deduction – Because CCMS is a non-profit, you can write off donations on your tax return.
- Support the profession – You can impact future death care professionals by ensuring they continue to have access to the best quality education, especially cutting-edge curriculum. Think of how your gift will have a lasting impact on future generations of your fellow college students, long into the future. It’s a legacy that touches hundreds of future death care professionals.
- Feel better – Research conducted by the National Institutes of Health showed that participants who made a financial donation to a charity of their choice actually activated pleasure centers in their brain.
- Support your college – Donating money to your alma mater protects your investment as the perceived value of the diploma fluctuates depending on the status of the college. Gifts to the ECC will preserve the college’s reputation as setting the standard for excellence, thus leading to increased interest by potential students and increased enrollment.
- Motivate others – Your gift helps encourage others to also make a donation, building the momentum toward the goal.
- Improve personal money management – You can help yourself become more attentive to your own finances by scheduling a set donation on a monthly basis. It becomes a monthly reminder to pay attention to your bank account.
- Honor your memories – When you look back on your time at CCMS, consider all of the ways the college helped you: gave you a stellar education, new friends, great experience and a launching into the profession. For some, many life lessons were learned and other met their future spouse while on campus.

Know that no donation is too large nor too small — all gifts are part of the momentum that will push us to success. You can make your gift using Page 9 of this newsletter or online at [www.ccms.edu/ecc](http://www.ccms.edu/ecc).

I thank you for your past support of CCMS, your loyalty to the college and your continued backing as we strive toward new goals.

In 1995 our alumni rallied to build today’s facility; it’s now time for us to rally to build tomorrow’s facility!
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. 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.
Alumni & friends of CCMS:

Save the Date

The 2019 CCMS Gala will be held Friday, November 15, at 6 p.m. in the Hall of Mirrors At the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 West 5th Street, Cincinnati, OH

- Silent and Live Auction, benefitting the Educational Cremation Center
- Plated dinner and music
- Tickets available beginning July 1

To sponsor or donate auction prizes, please visit http://bidpal.net/ccmsgala

For more information 513-761-2020 or events@ccms.edu
Congratulations to President Lechner on Recent Honors

In May, CCMS President Lechner was selected as an inductee into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps Hall of Fame! He was one of several inducted during a special ceremony held at Fort Lee, Virginia. The Quartermaster Hall of Fame award is the highest form of recognition the Corps offers. This much coveted award honors individuals who are judged to have made the most significant contributions to the overall history and traditions of the Quartermaster Corps.

According to the announcement, President Lechner was selected for induction due to his “many contributions, outstanding leadership, and distinguished service.”

The announcement continues, “You are a tribute to our Corps and we thank you for your unwavering commitment.”

Then, just a few days later, President Lechner was named an Isaac Ball Fellow of the Indiana Funeral Education Foundation. An Isaac Ball Fellow is considered the cornerstone of the Foundation, in part to their leadership and ongoing support of the foundation. Fellows are dedicated to the mission of the foundation, which is to preserve and document the history of those whose life’s work is to care for the dead and comfort the living. The recognition is named after Isaac Ball, the association’s first president who served from 1881-1882.

Compassion for Others Leads to Collections

In May, numerous tornadoes tripped through the heart of Ohio, with a record 15 twisters damaging many communities. Several CCMS students volunteered to help with the disaster relief efforts, with Delta Gamma Pi members collecting items to take with them to the impacted area, including bottled water, baby wipes and diapers, non-perishable food and personal hygiene supplies and toiletries. Here are photos of the cars full of items and unloaded at the disaster site. Thanks to student Jordyn Schaich for leading this effort!
CCMS conferred degrees to the spring 2019 Class, with 21 students earning their college degree April 20 at the Sharonville Convention Center in Cincinnati. A total of 16 students earned a Bachelor of Mortuary Science degree (BMS), with an additional five students completing their Associate’s degree of Applied Science (AAS).

Poul Lemasters, Esq., CCMS alumnus and principal of Lemasters Consulting, served as the commencement speaker. Class President Toby Day also provided an address, with the conferring of degrees led by CCMS President and CEO Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP.

“These graduates have worked extremely hard during their time on campus, dedicating themselves to both the knowledge and skills necessary to become a quality death care professional,” said Lechner.

He adds, “They have proven themselves to be mature, intelligent, compassionate and committed professionals. They are well aware of the value of their education and devoted themselves to earning a highly coveted regionally and professionally accredited Bachelor of Mortuary Science degree and AAS.”

Hailing from five states, the graduates joined the long continuous line of CCMS graduates that extends uninterrupted for 137 years. Students throughout the U.S. opt to attend CCMS as it is both regionally and professionally accredited and offers a bachelor’s of mortuary science degree that meets the educational requirements for licensure in all 50 states. 12 CCMS graduates have gone on to leadership at the national level as president of the NFDA (National Funeral Directors Association), a legacy of leadership that is unrivaled.

Congratulations to the following spring 2019 graduates of CCMS:

- Summa Cum Laude (“with highest honors” – grade point average between 3.85-4.0): Toby M. Day; Sophia L. Depenbrock; Megan J. Estep; Steven M. Hines; Natalie A. Hrcek; Matthew R. Huitger
- Magna Cum Laude (“with great honor” – grade point average between 3.7-3.84): Kristen M. Bahr; Patricia A. Callender; Jasmine D. Major
- Cum Laude (“with honor” – grade point average between 3.5-3.69): Ashley E. Stenger; Hayden Stofcheck; Kayla M. Workman
- Graduates: Emma J. Coleman; Taylor M. Ellison; Hunter Haley; Jeanette Hawkins; Jessica M. Helphinstine; Haylie H. Jefferson; Victoria Lockwood; Grace Mabiala; Michael W. Shanks
Career Days: Great Way to Promote College, Profession

Thanks to 1987 alum Tom Taylor who recently spoke to several classes at Amanda Clearcreek High School in Amanda, Ohio. Taylor, the owner of Taylor Funeral Home in Amanda, shared about the death care profession and CCMS to four classes of 6, 7 and 8th graders during the school’s career day.

He’s an example of how our alums can support the college, through our new “Alumni Ambassadors” program. Because alums have such strong connections in their communities, this is a great way to be the “face” of CCMS. As ambassadors, alums volunteer to share their time and talents in a variety of ways—thus, making a lasting impact by supporting admission and recruitment, while representing CCMS at fairs and career days. Other alums take a leadership role by keeping classmates connected or by bringing prospective students to campus for a tour.

If you’d like to participate as an Ambassador, please complete the brief form at www.ccms.edu/ambassadors-club/

Astral Industries, Batesville Casket Company
Create a Showstopper Showroom

What better way for students to hone their interaction skills with client families than to have a stunning showroom? And, thanks to the generosity of Astral Industries and Batesville Casket Company CCMS now has a beautiful new room that highlights new products. If it’s been a while since you visited campus, make plans to stop by soon and tour the spruced up showroom.

The Mushin’ Mortician Makes a Stop At CCMS

Just like weather might change the Iditarod race, an unexpected schedule change allowed Scott Janssen, aka “The Mushin’ Mortician,” to visit the college in May. Janssen, who is internationally known as a veteran dog musher and Iditarod racer as well as a funeral director and funeral home owner, shared about his life in Alaska.

He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 32 years, primarily in Alaska. Scott began mushing in 2007 and says that the “Iditarod has been my dream since 1986." He realized his dream by finishing 42nd in the 2011 Iditarod and 38th in the 2012 Iditarod; 2018 was his 7th entry in the Iditarod.
Students On the Move: Field Trips
Provide Direct Experience and Insight

CCMS students were on the move this spring, with several field trips providing them the opportunity to visit local funeral homes and death care corporations.

Our semester 2 students recently visited Weil Funeral Home, (photo to right) a Jewish funeral home that has been serving the families of Cincinnati for over four generations. Students learned about Jewish funeral customs and toured the facility, including the beautiful chapel, the selection room, and the prep areas. Thank you to Robert Weil, our host, funeral director, and owner of this historic funeral home!

On another opportunity, semester 3 students ventured to Batesville—A Hillenbrand Company. They met with company representative Nick Prewitt, who shared about various products and the facility. Students were able to tour and then participate in a discussion with company officials.

Meet the CCMS Board: Bill Smith, Treasurer

Bill is a 2006 CCMS alumnus and a funeral director and embalmer for Maeder Quint-Tiberi Funeral Home in Columbus, Ohio.

Bill is an active member in the Shamrock Club of Columbus, The Ohio Funeral Director's Association where he is currently serving as the South Central Regional Director, and the National Funeral Director's Association. Bill also is very active in the Ohio Board of Embalmers where he is a board member as well. This is not just a job as Bill states, it is his vocation. He is married to Amanda and together they have two wonderful children, Ian and Evan.
Transforming Death Care Education: Arlington National Cemetery
Wednesday, June 19 from 3—5 p.m.; Kissner’s Restaurant, 524 Clifton Street, Defiance, OH 43512

Organizer: Ohio District 1, Becky Krill, President
Presenter: Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, President and CEO, CCMS
To register, contact Becky Krill at mkrill1955@aol.com (419) 298-2329

NBE Exam Review Course  (not approved for Continuing Education credit)
Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9; CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224

This National Board Examination (NBE) review course is designed as a curriculum review for enrolled semester 3 students and for any individual who has completed a 12-month American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) accredited Mortuary Science program. The objective of this NBE Review Course is to deliver a comprehensive review of the prescribed ABFSE mortuary science curriculum in accordance with the curriculum outlines as a resource for students and graduates of an ABFSE accredited Mortuary Science Program in preparation for taking either/both sections of the NBE (Arts and Science) administered by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.

Presenters: CCMS faculty
Course length: two days, 8 hours each day:
Thursday, August 8 is Arts review and Friday, August 9 is Sciences review
Pricing: Mandatory course for CCMS students (no charge);
for all others, $99 for one day or $149 for both days

Note: The NBE Exam Review Course is not intended to prepare individuals who have not completed, or who are not currently enrolled in and nearing completion of, an ABFSE accredited Mortuary Science Program. However, this course may be of significant benefit to those preparing to take the ICFSED SBE in the state of Ohio such as those seeking a Funeral Director Only license serving a two year apprenticeship in lieu of a twelve month accredited mortuary science program.

Apprentice Seminar series  (not approved for Continuing Education credit)
Save the date: Wednesday, Sept., 11
Mark your calendar now and watch for registration info!

Need help? Have Con Ed questions?
Mail coned@ccms.edu or call Beth Williams at (513) 618-1930.
CCMS is unique in that it receives no state or federal funding, outside of the financial aid our students receive for tuition, for its operation. 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. Giving to CCMS can be done either directly or through ways that can provide tax benefits and even income to the donor, such as a gift through your will, an IRA rollover or other retirement asset, designation gifts, charitable gift annuity or gifts of stocks and bonds. Please contact us at (513) 761-2020 or email support@ccms.edu to discuss which giving options are most beneficial to you and to the college.

Be Part of the “Pathway to the Future”
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. The path connects the past to our future – a way to salute the past, preserve the present and ignite the future.

Commemorative bricks are a great way to honor a significant individual – such as celebrating your year of graduation, recognizing a favorite teacher, or to show your 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. For more information or to complete your order, click here.

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. 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. Just create a new or login to your existing 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!

Did you know......
CCMS has articulation agreements with 25 other colleges and universities? The agreements document the pathway between the other entity and CCMS, helping to ensure the student has a clear outline for transferring between the academic programs. Universities in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana currently participate, with CCMS open to additional agreements.
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 so we can share your news!

Accolades and good news

- Congratulations to Ashley Brooks-Bennett, a first generation funeral director/embalmer and a 2007 graduate of CCMS. She obtained her licenses in 2008 in the state of Kentucky as a funeral director/embalmer. At the age of 22 years old, Ashley, alongside her mother and aunt, purchased Durham Funeral Home established in 1929, in her hometown, of Pineville, KY—making her the youngest majority owner of a funeral home in the state of Kentucky. The Brooks-Durham Funeral Home is now going into its tenth year of business. In addition, Ashley was named People’s Choice Awards, “Best of the Best” funeral home directors in 2010 by the Middlesboro Daily News.

- In 2019, Gilberg-Hartwig Funeral Home celebrates 90 years of serving families in West Central Ohio! For all 90 years, the firm has been family owned and operated under the direction of CCMS graduates. Beginning in 1929 with Paul F. Gilberg (class of 1924), and later in 1965 by his son John P. Gilberg (class of 1963), and currently by Steven J. Hartwig (class of 1984) who is a grandson of Paul and nephew of John. According to Keith May, who submitted the good news, all three generations were proud of their education at CCMS, and the impact it had on their lives.

- On March 1, 2018, CCMS alumnus Steve McCowen purchased the funeral homes he had worked at for the past 17 years. McCowen, a 1993 graduate, purchased three locations in Michigan, formerly RDMG Life Story Funeral Homes in Vicksburg, Portage and Plainwell. The homes are now named McCowen & Secord Family Funeral Homes.

- Kurt Olding has been promoted to a managing funeral director role with Spring Grove Funeral Home (along side Lacey Fox). Kurt, a 2011 CCMS alumnus who was licensed in Ohio in 2012, oversees the care center, fleet and transfer team. He also recently became a Master Funeral Director and Embalmer with the State of Ohio and is a certified celebrant. Thanks to his wife, Andrea, for sharing his accomplishments.

- Congratulations to 2015 alumna Ashley Thacker who is the director of Defenbaugh-Wise Schoedinger Funeral Home in Circleville. Ashley was recently featured as a “community champion” in the March 20 edition of The Dimple Times, an online and printed news outlet that covers several counties in central Ohio. To view the article on Ashley, visit: https://dimpletimes.com/2019/03/20/community-champions-march-2019?sfns=mo
Class Ring Help Needed
1961 graduate David Dane lost his class ring and is hoping someone will assist him with images he can share to have it remade. It was the Cincinnati College of Embalming and he wore the cherished ring for the past 58 years. As he states, "At the age of 83, I know I don't have much time to prove I graduated from the best. The name has changed, but the pride and memories still remain." If you can assist, please contact Ginny Hizer at CCMS at (513) 618-1921.

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

Marilyn E. Gump Holt, of Cheviot, Ohio; 1955 graduate
Marilyn passed November 27, 2018 at the age of 84. She was one of the earliest female licensed funeral directors and embalmers in Greater Cincinnati. She worked alongside her father and husband in the Gump-Holt Funeral Home for nearly sixty years. (For complete obituary: https://www.gumpholtfuneralhome.com/obituary/6157708.)

August K. Graumlich II, of Worthington, Ohio; 1955 graduate
August passed December 4, 2018 at home. A licensed funeral director and embalmer, he was the third generation owner of Graumlich Funeral Home in Columbus, Ohio. He served as past president of the Central Ohio Funeral Directors Association and was a Korean War Veteran. (For complete obituary: https://www.graumlichfuneralhome.com/notices/AugustK-GraumlichII)

Ronald Rex Hostettler, of Uhrichsville, Ohio; 1959 graduate
Rex passed January 14, 2019 at the age of 82. he was a funeral director for more than 50 years, having owned the Uhrich-Hostettler Funeral Home, Inc. since 1962. He retired from there in 2003 and was a lifelong member of the OFDA and Tri County Funeral Directors. (For complete obituary: https://www.uhefh.com/notices/RonaldRex-Hostettler)

J. Roger Primm, of Troy, Ohio; 1961 graduate
Roger passed February 6, 2019 in Kindred Hospital in Dayton. He was formerly of Ashland, Ohio, where he owned and operated the Denbow-Primm Funeral Home and Crematory for 50 years. He retired in 2013 and moved with his wife to Troy, his wife’s hometown. Roger was a lifetime member of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association, Ohio Embalmer Association, and the National Funeral Director’s Association. For more than 10 years he served as a board member on the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors taking his first appointment in 1991 by then governor, George Voinovich. (For complete obituary: https://denbowfh.com/book-of-memories/3719100/Primm-J-Roger/service-details.php)
Open House
Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m.—noon
Register to join us

Visit CCMS to get the scoop on admissions, financial aid, prerequisites, and more. We look forward to meeting you!

Get Connected to Our Blog & Social Media

Just scan the QR code to be linked to all of our social media outlets.

#CCMSmugshotmonday
Send us your mugshot! social@ccms.edu
You could be featured on CCMS Facebook!

Need a mug? Shop the CCMS online store!

Shop CCMS Merchandise
Be ready for sunshine and hot summer 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!