CCMS President Jack E. Lechner, Jr.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused me to suspend classes. Students will participate via distance learning rather than in person for the next 3 weeks. The College remains open, however students will attend classes via distance learning vice in person. Our lab is operating full time, business as usual.

Governor Dewine closed all K-12 schools for three weeks and limited public gatherings to under 100 people. We want to support his intent by doing our part to protect the public health. This is also a great opportunity to reinforce the training our students get that goes to protecting the public we serve.

Our Continuing Education line up for the rest of the year is focused on providing the mandatory continuing education requirements. We are approved by the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to provide CEU's for Ethics, Pre-Need, and Ohio Law. We are also approved to provide the mandatory two-hour Ohio Cremation Law course required in order to renew your crematory operator’s permit. We plan on running these courses monthly until December.

We are available to come out to your funeral home or to district meetings to provide these classes for a fee (plus travel). We will be providing Crematory Operator Certification Training REFRESHER for those who have a certificate that will expire before December 31, 2020. This four hour course extends your certification so that you can renew without a gap in your ability to perform cremations. Keep an eye on our website for details of scheduled classes or feel free to call me to make arrangements for us to give these classes at your venue.

We are now authorized to provide continuing education credit to hospice workers too. Our intent is to be able to allow funeral homes to host hospice workers for lunch and we will provide some of their CEU requirements. This is a great way to bring local hospice workers and clergy to your facility so they can see firsthand the value of the funeral.

In November we held our second GALA and fund raising campaign to support the new Educational Cremation Center (ECC). The final cost of the project will be $3.25M so there will be plenty more fund-raising opportunities. I want to take this chance to publicly thank all of those who have already donated directly to help support the cost of Transforming Death Care Education by creating the ECC. More details on our donors is listed inside. Please help support this initiative by hosting a fund raising event, donating directly, or making donations in kind. “A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit it.”

Those who have come before us had the vision for CCMS to lead. Many who contributed to the concept and design of our current facility just for funeral service education, did not get to enjoy the benefits. And so it goes, now it is our turn to bring the Educational Cremation Center to life for the benefit of future graduates.

Please stay connected to the college! Register to get the newsletters and email updates to stay current with events and all that we are doing to be the premier educator!
Green Burials with Paul Bauman

Green (or “natural”) burials first began in the United States in 1998. Although still relatively rare in this country, they are becoming more popular as they have the advantages of being both simple and environmentally friendly. On February 20th, Paul Bauman, past president of the Green Burial Society, spoke to a group of CCMS students about this growing area of the death care profession. According to Mr. Bauman, green burial of several distinct advantages over traditional burials:

- **Lower cost**—they are less labor intensive and do not involve fancy caskets or concrete vaults.
- **Uses few resources**—green caskets are made of biodegradable materials like wicker (as opposed to treated wood or steel).
- **Eliminates harmful chemicals**—the body is not embalmed in a green funeral so dangerous chemicals such as formaldehyde are not subsequently leached into the ground. This helps protect water tables and clean air.
- **Preserves natural areas**—most green burial cemeteries focus on returning the grave site to its original state and do not use fertilizers or pesticides.

Embalming, as it turns out, says Mr. Bauman, is not practiced in many countries of the world and was not a widespread procedure in this country until the Civil War.

Of course, green burials are not for everyone. Many people prefer to think of their loved ones as resting in a preserved state (interestingly, Mr. Bauman’s main business line at the Champion Company, where he is vice president and general manager, is in embalming fluids) with the effects of decay held at bay for as long as possible. Even more families are turning to cremation.

But, according to Mr. Bauman, for those who are concerned about the environmental impact of the death of a loved one, green burials present a reasonable and affordable option.
Fall 2019 Graduation

On December 14, 2019, 27 amazing graduates officially began their journey into the death care profession. Twenty-four of these graduates received a Bachelors in Mortuary Science while three earned an Associates of Applied Science.

Randy Schoedinger, 1994 CMMS alumnus and CEO of Schoedinger Funeral & Cremation Service in Columbus, Ohio provided the commencement address. He shared with the graduates a set of 15 practices he feels are essential for success (see pg. 7). Class President Adam Grisier also addressed those had gathered to celebrate.

In addition to their academic degrees, special honors were also conferred:

**Summa Cum Laude (GPA 4.0-3.85)**
- Robert Baker
- Jennifer Burke
- Amanda Cafego
- Angelique Collins
- Malia Fondreist
- Adam Grisier
- C. Henderson-Johns

**Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.84-3.70)**
- Logan Alloway
- Katrina Miller

**Cum Laude (GPA 3.69-3.5)**
- Christopher Boldy
- Jordyn Schaich

“To say we are proud of these graduate’s determination, hard work, and success is an understatement...as always!” said CCMS President Jack Lechner. “We congratulate all of our them and send special thank you to the families, friends, faculty and Board members who have supported them during what is only the beginning of their journey.”

More —>
Fall 2019 Graduation continued...
Randy Schoedinger’s

15 Principles of Leadership

(as delivered to the Fall 2019 Graduating Class)

1. You must care about the people you work with and the organization you work for. I have seen too many people act like they care but they really don’t. The people around you and your organization will ultimately figure out if you truly care. If you do you will grow, if you don’t you will suffer.

2. You must behave with integrity and honesty. You cannot fake this. This means you do the right thing, especially when no one is watching and most importantly in the face of trouble. Do the right thing.

3. Awareness. You must be aware of yourself and your surroundings. We all have blind spots. Blind spots are weaknesses in our self that cloud our judgement and how we see things. Understand your blind spots and know how they affect your judgement. You may need help from others uncovering your blind spots --- because you’re blind to it after all!

4. Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is more important than Cognitive Intelligence (IQ). Emotional intelligence is your ability to recognize and understand emotions in yourself and others, and your ability to use this awareness to manage your behavior and relationships. The studies are amazing around this. People with high EQ tend to be more successful than those with just high IQ. The great thing about this is EQ skills can be learned and practiced.

5. You must look in the mirror and be willing to improve. This goes back to the concept of constantly learning. Learn from the people around you. Realize that you can always get better. Admit when you make a mistake and use that failure to improve.

6. Be consistent. People will follow consistency, however they will struggle to follow someone who is up and down. You need to be even keeled so that people look at you as a rock and know where you stand.

7. Trust. Without trust you can do nothing. Once people trust you, they will believe in you and phenomenal things can happen. You can change an organization with trust, without it, good luck.

8. Communicate! You can’t communicate enough. It helps to be “real” – to humanize yourself through your communication. Without communication people won’t know where you stand or what you believe.

9. You don’t need to be flashy or charismatic. People are often mistaken that only these types of people can lead. This is just not true.

10. Focus on culture. There is a saying that “culture kicks the crap out of strategy every day.” I believe in it fully. Values and behaviors make up the culture so focus on your individual values and behaviors.

11. Understand that resistance is normal and learn how to deal with it. People generally like change, however change is necessary for success. Don’t get aggravated, use it as an opportunity for more communication.

12. Remember that email and texting is for notification. Face to face and the telephone is for communication. I have seen more issues arise than I can remember from texting and email. You don’t get feeling from an email and the message’s interpretation can be taken the wrong way, causing a downhill spiral. If at all possible, talk the old way – face to face – when possible. Great things in this world have occurred by people getting together to communicate.

13. Leadership is a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the ride.

14. You need both self-esteem and self-confidence. Self-esteem is to value yourself as a person. Self-confidence is to believe in your skills. Work on both and don’t beat yourself up when something goes wrong. Use the experience to improve yourself.

15. And most importantly – BE YOURSELF! People like to follow and be around people that are authentic. Don’t try to be someone else. Learn from others and develop your own style.
Thank you to all of our generous sponsors & supporters!

2019 GALA

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2019 Gala Fun!
And thanks to all of our guests!
Get to Know your Clinical Director
Wanda Mullins Lee, CFSP, M.S.

Wanda is a 1996 graduate of CCMS where she earned her Bachelor of Mortuary Science Degree. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Indiana University and a Master of Science Degree in Psychology from Walden University.

Wanda lives in Franklin County, Indiana with her husband and two sons. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, spending time with friends and family, reading, going to the occasional Red’s game and attending her boy’s sporting events.

We’re thankful to have her on our team!

See the entire CCMS team.

New Staff: Ken Coggeshall, Development Director

As Development Director for CCMS, Ken Coggeshall is responsible for all the day-to-day fundraising operations of the College. He has been in fundraising for sixteen years, becoming a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) in 2014. Prior to joining CCMS, Ken served in various fundraising capacities at Special Olympics, The Children’s Home of Cincinnati, The Dayton Art Institute in Dayton, Ohio and the National Democratic Institute in Washington, D.C.

Before he embarked on his career in fundraising, Ken was a licensed social worker, working with severely mentally ill adults. Ken holds a BS in Psychology from Wright State University and a Master of Public Administration in Non-Profit Management from the George Washington University.

Ken has served as Vice-President of Communications for the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals and as Board President for the Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation. He is also a member of the Cincinnati Rotary Club. Music has been a central part of his life, having been a singer and guitarist for several critically unacclaimed bands over the years. In addition to music, Ken enjoys film, history, reading, golf, the Cincinnati Reds and, for some reason, the Minnesota Vikings. He has been a husband for eleven years and has won most of the awards and commendations available in that role. He and his wife Mary live in Madisonville with their dog Bertram.
Alumni News

Adam Grisier—Student Ambassador

It brings us so much joy to see our previous students making a difference in their communities! Adam Grisier is one of our outstanding student ambassadors. He is a 2019 graduate of CCMS and was the President of his class. On January 30 of this year, he visited Archbold Area Schools in his hometown to speak to the psychology classes about grief as a part of their Human Development curriculum.

Adam said, "I feel confident enough to speak on these subjects because of the knowledge I learned from the best mortuary school in the world!"

Adam continues a long tradition of CCMS alum who strive to give back once the leave the halls of our college. It is through former students like this that people are able to gain a greater understanding of our profession and the important role it plays in society.

Great job, Adam! Keep up the fantastic work!

The Rachael Anderson Memorial Scholarship

The Rachael Anderson Memorial Scholarship was established to honor 2016 CCMS Alumna Rachael Anderson whose life was abruptly taken just thirteen months after graduating from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. Through this educational scholarship we celebrate and remember her charismatic, energetic, funny, and compassionate personality.

Rachael graduated from CCMS on December 17, 2016, earning a Bachelor of Mortuary Science degree.

The educational scholarship is established through the partnership of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and Ohio Funeral Directors Association to honor Rachael’s passion for life and passion for becoming a funeral service professional. CCMS and OFDA are working to honor the Anderson family’s vision in memorializing their daughter.

To find out more and make a donation, [click here](#).

Feeling Overwhelmed? There’s Help.

Let’s face it—school can be stressful. Classes, assignments, exams, the pressure to perform and most of all, to graduate—it can be a lot to handle. And when these responsibilities are stacked on top of the pressures of just being a human being, it can be overwhelming. But bear in mid you are not alone. If you are feeling frazzled, there is probably another one of your fellow students who is feeling much the same. We consider ourselves family here at CCMS, so do not hesitate to reach out to your family members—your fellow students. If you are having specific academic issues, make sure to talk to one of your instructors. Helping you succeed is an important part of their job.

If you feel like you are experiencing serious mental health issues, you can contact Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services at (513) 354-5200.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, call the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.
Meet the Board

Coleen Ellis

Coleen Ellis is the founder of Two Hearts Pet Loss Center in Southlake, TX. She also founded the Pet Angel Memorial Center in 2004. A certified Pet Loss and Grief Counselor, Ms. Ellis is an international speaker in the field. She holds a BBA in Marketing from Fort Hays State University in her native state of Kansas and is also certified in thanatology by the Association of Death Education & Counsel.

In addition to her many other achievements, Ms. Ellis is the author of “Pet Parents: A Journey through Unconditional Love and Grief” originally published in 2011.

“I am excited to partner with CCMS,” said Collen upon joining the Board. “It is a forward-thinking educator that understands and embraces the value that pets have on the family system and the role of a funeral director in providing that service.”

She shares her home in Indianapolis, IN, with her husband and business partner, Chris Burke, their two two-legged children, Brian and Amy, and their three four-legged children, Mike the Dog, Ellie Mae, and Crisco.

See the entire Board.

In Memory of

Henry Crill MerryDay - Tallahassee, FL Class of 1949

Henry Crill Merryday, age 93, passed away peacefully following a brief illness on February 23, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife, Danatta, to whom he was married for 59 years. After serving in the U.S. Navy in WWII, Henry graduated from the Cincinnati College of Embalming and went on to become certified as a licensed funeral director by the State of Florida. He then went to work helping his uncle run the family business, T.J. Beggs Funeral Home in Madison.

Frank Schmidt - Evendale, OH Class of 1969

Frank M. Schmidt, loving father of Heather (Tim) Meyer and Jeannette (Jesse) Schmidt passed away Friday March 6, 2020 at age 75. Frank was a founder of the former Schmidt-Dhonau Funeral Home in Evendale/Reading, Ohio. His brother Tim is a member of the adjunct faculty here at CCMS.
Continuing Education courses scheduled for this week are POSTPONED until further notice!

We hope to resume the course lineup May 2020.

Please watch for updates.

If you would like to schedule an continuing education event at your funeral home for your employees, call us at 513-761-2020

Ohio Mandatory Topic Areas
Originally scheduled for March 18, 2020 1:00—6:00 p.m.

- Ohio Preneed & AARPS (2 CE)
- Ethics in Death Care (1 CE)
- Ohio Laws & Rules for Death Care Professionals (2 CE)

Ohio Cremation Law (2 hours) for Crematory Operator Permit Holders
Originally scheduled for March 18, 2020 4:00 - 6:00pm

Open for Registration!

New Crematory Operators Certification Program (7.5 CE)
Wednesday, June 3, 2020
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Learn more and register
MUGSHOT MONDAYS

#CCMSMUGSHOTMONDAY
Donating to CCMS

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.

Click here to make a donation!

Other ways you can support CCMS this year:
Top Golf event (at Top Golf in West Chester) - August 4th
Golf outing (at the Mill Course, Winton Woods) - September 16th
More info to follow on these two terrific, fun events!

Support CCMS Through AmazonSmile
You can now support CCMS through AmazonSmile! Every time you make a purchase through Amazon (which, let’s face it, you would have 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. So, do your shopping year-round through AmazonSmile as you support CCMS.

Just Swipe and Support: Kroger Rewards Card
We’re now part of the Kroger Community Rewards program – similar to the AmazonSmiles, CCMS will receive a portion of most purchases made at Kroger stores whenever folks swipe their rewards card.

It’s easy for you as a customer to enroll – Click here.
Ways to Connect

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
What better way to show your CCMS pride and display to the world that you have a personality that is just slightly (or in some cases a lot) off-center? 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!