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Congratulations to Michael Schoedinger, CFSP, President, Ohio Funeral Director Association and Andrew Allman, Executive Director for an EXTRAORDINARY convention this year! It was a great convention. CCMS held its first Alumni Reception – it was such a resounding success that we are already on board for the OFDA 2024 convention. It was a great opportunity for Alumni to socialize and enjoy cocktails and food. I hope to see as many Alumni next April!

May was an incredibly sad month for CCMS. First, Beth Williams, Director of Institutional Effectiveness passed away after a yearlong battle with cancer. Beth was so integral to the many successes of the past 7 years. She will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. We held her public memorial service here at the college she loved.

Unexpectedly, we lost Todd Van Beck on May 23rd. Todd and I drove out to St. Charles on Sunday and back on Monday afternoon after our presentations. During our ride, Todd confided in me that he never intended to retire and wanted to work right up to his death. Todd passed away Monday night. He died doing exactly what he wanted to do - give presentations and encourage ‘baby’ undertakers. I’ll miss my friends and colleagues.

The older I get, the more personal losses I’ve experienced. I am more committed to helping ensure people know how important funeral directors are in their communities. Chances are the most experienced person in your community, when it comes to grief and bereavement support, is a funeral director. We all need to let our students, apprentices, and young funeral directors know how important they are to their community. It’s time to reinforce those who have chosen to join our honored profession.

Progress on the Educational Cremation Center continues at warp speed! Save the date – September 15th – for our grand opening. Details to follow. Your alma mater will be the undisputed leader in mortuary education with the addition of the crematory with hands on training, a witness room, alkaline hydrolysis for pets (so we can teach the science while expanding our pet loss curriculum), and hospitality training. CCMS is providing the total educational experience for death care professionals. We’ve updated our auditorium and lab as a Zoom room for professional presentations.

Keep an eye on our website. We’ve entered a relationship with ACN – a provider of quality services at a reduced cost that we will offer through the college – security systems, ID protection, phone service, electric and gas, and health services. You’ll be able to obtain these services through the college at a reduced cost and the college will continue to get a residual income stream from the services you purchase.

We are a non-profit and have one of the lowest tuition rates in the country. If you have a crematory and would like to donate your recyclables to the college, we’ll give you a tax deduction – a win-win way to keep tuition costs down.

Hope to see everyone at the grand opening on September 15th – have a great summer!

Very Respectfully,

President and CEO

President & CEO Jack E. Lechner, Jr.

“Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged.

No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.”

- Teddy Roosevelt- 1908
CCMS President featured in the Southern Calls Magazine

A Life Time of Service
Reprinted with permission from Southern Calls Magazine

Click here to read the article
CCMS Welcomes New Staff Members!

Teresa Hoskins
Executive Assistant to the President

Teresa (pronounced Teressa) comes to the College from The Christ Hospital where she served as an Executive Assistant. She has 10 years experience in healthcare and over 25 years of Executive Assistant experience. Teresa is a native of Cincinnati, OH and grew up in the Madisonville area. She has a number of hobbies and interests such as motorcycles, crafts, travel and spending time with loved ones and is excited to be a part of the CCMS family!

Heath Martin
Assistant Dean

Heath joins CCMS with over 20 years of progressive experience in higher education. He has a track record of performance in development of robust and innovative strategies to achieve student enrollment and persistent goals. Prior to joining CCMS he served the Vice President of Student Development at East Central College in Union, MO. Previously Heath served at Terra State Community College as Assistant Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services, and Director of Admissions at both Western Nebraska Community College and Cloud County Community College.

Heath is a social justice advocate and has a particular interest in advocating for those individuals and families impacted by mental illness. He is the former Board Chairmen of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Northwest Ohio. Heath is an avid sports fan and is a certified basketball official with the Ohio High School Activities Association.

Heath holds a bachelor’s degree in Speech Communication from Washburn University (KS) and a Master of Science degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University.
Elizabeth "Beth" A. Williams (nee Meyer) beloved wife of Rusty Williams, passed away on May 8, 2023. She was a devoted mother of Grey and Lainey Williams; daughter of the late Arthur S. Meyer and Edna Meyer (nee Maine); survived by birth father John (the late Cindi) Kemplin; dear sister of Andy (Alice) Meyer, Erin Kemplin, Josh (Christina) Kemplin; sister-in-law of Julie (Bob Bibb) Randolph, Amy (Tad) Alper, Kerri (Andy Curfiss) Williams; daughter-in-law of Russ and Barb Williams. Also survived by many nieces & nephews. Beth was a 1996 graduate of the University of Cincinnati and a 1998 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. She was an Ohio Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer since 1999 and was certified as a Master Funeral Director/Embalmer and Funeral Celebrant. Beth was devoted and passionate about her career at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. She was a blessing to so many and able to touch their lives in such a special way. To her co-workers and work family she was known for her sense of humor and funny comments. Her spunky spirit and work ethic will truly be missed. The death care profession lost an icon in funeral service on May 23rd with the passing of Todd Van Beck. Beloved father of Thomas. Son of the late Tony and Norma (nee Fecan). Brother of Scott (Sarah) Van Beck; uncle of Wesley, Helen, Sam and Neil Van Beck. Todd was a person who had a half-century love affair with both funeral and cemetery service. He willingly admitted that he was no “expert!” and also quickly admitted that there was nothing about this work and life that he did not enjoy, and in which he did not have intense interest. Todd had said: “I have never done a day’s work in my life; it has all been fun and interesting.” Todd was uniquely gifted and took great pride in providing reverent care for the dead and compassionate care for the living. Contributions to the Beth Williams memorial Scholarship can be made to: https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/CincinnatiCollegeofMortuarySc/beth.html.

Todd earned his Professional Diploma in Mortuary Science in 1973 from the New England Institute of Funeral Service Arts and Sciences (MA), his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology from Mount Mercy University (IA), and his Master of Arts in Religion from Athenaeum of Ohio (Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary). In 2005, he was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, (Houston, TX). Todd held several certifications and licensures, including the Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), Certified Funeral Executive (CFE) and licensure in several states. Prior to his employment as Program Director at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (CCMS), Todd served as Faculty/Director of Continuing Education at John A. Gupton College (TN); General Manager of Forest Hill Funeral Homes & Memorial Parks (TN); Director of Family Funeral Care and Public Relations at A.S. Turner & Sons Funeral Home (GA); President and CEO of the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service (TX); Director of Education for the Loewen Group, Inc. (OH), and Director of Education for Trust 100. His academic career began at CCMS in 1982. Todd was an active writer and prominent international speaker in the profession. He authored 8 books and over 400 articles on death care topics. An avid historian and academician, Mr. Van Beck grew up in Southwestern Iowa and declared at the young age of 5 that he would become a funeral director one day. Todd operated funeral homes, cemeteries and mortuary colleges during his career. Todd selflessly served the death care profession in many arenas across the nation and internationally, which satisfied his desire to see the world. Contributions to the Todd Van Beck Memorial Scholarship can be made to: https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/CincinnatiCollegeofMortuarySc/todd.html.
Jason M. Ellinger
Husband of Amy Baucher, OFDA Professional Development & Events Coordinator

Jason Michael Ellinger, 43, formerly of Celina, passed away unexpectedly on March 27, 2023, in Columbus, Ohio.

He was born on Nov. 6, 1979, to Wally Ellinger, Celina, and Linda Ellinger, Columbus, who survive. On Sept. 1, 2018, he married Amy Baucher, formerly of Celina, who survives in Columbus. Other survivors include a sister, Kendra Ellinger (Mark) Scott, Monroe; father-in-law, Wayne Baucher, Celina; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Deceased are mother- in-law, Peggy Baucher, and grandparents, Gene and Nancy Ellinger, and Olen and Helen Boise.

Jason was a 1998 honors graduate of Celina High School, where he played football. He graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the prestigious Ohio State University Fisher College of Business.

In Columbus, Jason worked as a financial advisor at Huntington National Bank, Heartland Bank and Edward Jones. Jason received numerous awards for his work. He studied the markets and scoured national and world news daily to advance his clients’ interests. Many of his clients became close friends. Jason could talk to anyone and frequently did. In addition to offering free financial advice, he enjoyed watching and talking about sports, especially the OSU Buckeyes, Chicago Bears and Cincinnati Reds. He will be missed and remain forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved him.

John E. Robinson
Retired owner of Robinson Funeral Home

John E. Robinson, 80, a lifelong resident and longtime Delaware Funeral Director, passed away Monday, March 27, 2023, at home following an extended illness. He was born in Delaware on December 12, 1942, to the late Eugene H. and Margaret (Swope) Robinson. John was a graduate of Willis High School in 1961, attended Ohio State University, and graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1964. While in Cincinnati, he met and fell in love with a nursing student, Sue Tippens. They were married in 1965 and together raised a family and shared a wonderful life. John embraced the calling to become a funeral director and was dedicated to his profession and serving the needs of this community. He was an Ohio Licensed funeral director and embalmer for over 50 years. True to his character, he often provided services for those in need, who couldn't afford them. A man of compassion, he often put caring for the needs of his community before his own. John loved people, he enjoyed telling jokes as well as hearing them and always carried a list of his jokes with him. His life centered on his family and funeral service. He will be remembered for his compassion, large heart, caring ways, love of family, and for always being there.

Thomas D. “Tom” Rue
OFDA Past President and Father of Rob Rue, both of Littleton & Rue Funeral Home

Thomas D. “Tom” Rue, 79 Springfield, OH passed forward peacefully in his home following a hard-fought battle against Glioblastoma. Born on January 27, 1944, to the late Robert David and Lucille (Merrick) Rue. Following graduation from Fairborn High School, he attended Urbana University and the University of Cincinnati, ultimately finishing his education at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. Upon arriving in Cincinnati, he met and quickly married the love of his life Lorann Verville Rue. For 58 years together Tom and Lorann lived life well, spending time at Indian Lake, Michigan, boating on the Ohio River, RV-ing, traveling all over, and ultimately becoming ‘snowbirds’ spending their winters in Florida. He was a member of the Springfield Country Club, The Polo Club, University Club, and the Van Dyke Club. He worshiped at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and played an active role in the building of the new church and facility.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Lorann of 58 years, his children and their spouses: Rob Rue and his wife Jenny, and Nikki Rue Turner and her husband Eric with whom he enjoyed a special bond. He cherished his grandchildren enjoying a unique relationship with each: Rylie and Reese Turner, and Zach, Lydia, Brock, Rachel, and John Luke Rue; he held them in his heart with immense love, adoration, and pride. Over the years, Tom valued celebrating special occasions and holidays with his sister, Roberta Lillich, and her children, David (Barb) Lillich, Lori (Kurt) Bublick, and Ruthe Ann Lillich. He also cherished these moments with his numerous great-nieces and nephews. Also surviving are his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Betty and Bill Oliver, who he enjoyed visiting, golfing, cooking, and traveling with. Sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Michelle and Joe Harpole also survive him. He also leaves behind many cherished friends and long-time buddy Marc Turner. He was
Funeral Director Certificate

CCMS offers a certificate program option for individuals who seek formal education as a funeral director (only) or other death care related professions without any need for college prerequisites.

The Funeral Director Certificate program is an online program that awards hours and brings formal education to qualified individuals pursuing a career as a licensed funeral director (not embalmer), funeral assistant, pre-need counselors, insurance professionals, cemetery personnel, or anyone else in the death care profession who want to receive comprehensive knowledge in funeral service arts to better serve the public.

This program prepares a student with the necessary knowledge to pass the National Board Examination arts section.

Certificate program at-a-glance:
- Hours Earned: 30 certificate hours (no academic credits are earned)
- Delivery: Online, distance-learning
- Length: 7 months, 2 semesters (each 14 weeks in length) - or go at your own pace (you choose the number of certificate hours you enroll in per semester)
- Cost: $450 per certificate hour with no additional costs for fees or textbooks

Prerequisite: High school diploma or GED

For complete information, please click here: https://www.ccms.edu/academics/funeral-director-certificate/
Upcoming Continuing Education Sessions

Ohio Masters Training & Certification— 8/7/2023- 6 CEU's
Arlington National Cemetery: Restoring Honor— 8/23/23-1 CEU
Transforming Death Care Education— 8/23/23- 1 CEU
14th Annual Grief & Loss Conference— 10/25/23- 5 CEU's

In-Person sessions are located at:
Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science
645 W. North Bend Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Questions?
Please contact us at coned@ccms.edu

Click here for information:  https://www.ccms.edu/continuing-education/

All Continuing Education sessions are available for in-person and via webinar.
The month of April was an exciting month for CCMS! Students and staff attended the OFDA Convention on April 26th. The 2023 OFDA Convention was a great experience!
Commencement for the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science Spring Class of 2023 took place on April 13th at the Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville Ohio. Degrees were conferred upon 16 graduates. The Commencement keynote speaker was delivered by Justin Weber who is a United States Marine Veteran, who now currently works as a Chief Investigator at the Hamilton County Coroner’s office. Thanks to everyone who attended and congratulations to all of our graduates!

**Summa Cum Laude (GPA 4.0-3.85)**
Alexis Corbin
Jordan Marie Geise
Nicolette Marie Maimone
Britt McWilliams
Sara Jane Offensend

**Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.84-3.70)**
Olivia Eileen Bauer
Molly Anne Smith

**Cum Laude (GPA 3.69-3.5)**
Aubren Dale Endres
Alexandria Whitley
Sept. 15, 2023
Grand Opening!
Education Cremation Center

Sept. 20, 2023
3rd Annual
CCMS Charity Golf Classic & Silent Auction Dinner
Presented by

Dignity

@ The Mill Course in Cincinnati, Ohio

Click here to register:
Register
Full information
Save the Date:

14th Annual Conference on Grief and Loss

RECOGNIZING LAYERS OF LOSS AND
REIMAGING THE POWER OF RITUAL

Presented by: Heather Servaty–Seib, PhD

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science
645 W.North Bend Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Registration begins at 8:00am
5 CEU hours

Co-sponsored by:

VITAS Healthcare and CCMS

For more information or to register, contact:

Tausha Ross
513-866-4084
coned@ccms.edu

www.ccms.edu/events
Hall Of Fame Wall

Mr. Lynwood Battle an alumnus, Fall 1963 of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science was inducted into the Hall of Fame on December 14, 2022!

The Hall of Fame includes a plaque placed on the Hall of Fame wall at the CCMS campus. He was a great pillar in the Cincinnati Community and he was deserving of his place in the Hall of Fame!
As a CCMS alumnus, you know how seriously we take our mission of educating the next generation of funeral service professionals.

We're leading the way in deathcare education through the construction of the nation's only Educational Crematory Center (ECC).

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 build this important facility, right here on our Cincinnati campus.

Click here to learn more and join!
CCMS thanks these valued alumni for their support in 2023

Gregory Zechar
Jake Johnson
Cincinnati Friends Meeting
David S. Liu
Julie A. Neff
Anthony R. Previte
Doug Wise
Michael Schoedinger—President of OFDA
Lloyd Rankin
Support CCMS Through ACN

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science is beginning a project to support a fundraising campaign to support the new Educational Cremation Center opening in September of 2023.

As consumers, we are always looking for ways to make our dollars go further. We would like the opportunity to help save you money on your gas and electric, cell phone, home security, satellite/cable services, identity theft protection and healthcare along with other essential services for your home or business. Please log onto the following website and follow the instructions below to see if you are getting the best value for your essential services.

Log on to: ccms.acnibo.com
Click “Services” in the upper left corner.
Choose “Business” or “Residential”. click on the service that you are interested in.
Contact information listed at the top right of the webpage.

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.

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!
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.

If so, why not donate your recyclables revenue to CCMS? It’s a great way to give back and help ensure the future of the profession. Simply send a check to the attention of Development Director Ken Coggeshall, or make your donation online. All donations are tax deductible.

Click here to donate!
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 Summer is here and what better way to show your CCMS pride and display to the world that you have a unique personality. Choose from casual options and even more professional wear, such as our awesome t-shirts and baseball caps. We have hoodies too! Shop our online store for authentic CCMS trade-mark products! Get your CCMS swag here: Shop the CCMS online store!

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