

Congratulations to the 2022 ADEC Award Recipients!

Every year, ADEC presents awards to individuals that have done an outstanding job proving their commitment to the field of thanatology and advancing the overall study of dying, death and bereavement. ADEC also presents awards to undergraduate and graduate papers dealing with a thanatology topic.

The following award recipients were recognized at the 2022 Annual Conference.

2022 ADEC Award Recipients

- Community Educator Award: *Kelly Grosklags, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC.*
- Research Recognition Award: *Lauren Jennifer Breen Ph.D.*
- ADEC Life Achievement Award: *Betty Davies, BScN, MN, Ph.D. & Thomas Attig, Ph.D.*
- Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Early Achievement Award: *Oindrila Dutta, MA, Ph.D.*
- Ronald Barrett Award: *Pastor Lisa Connors, LCPC, NCC, CT, CGP.*

2022 Student Award Recipients

- Mary E. Brown Undergraduate Student Paper Award: *Madelyn Harris*
- Richard Kalish Graduate Student Paper Award: *Jordan Reuter*

Continue reading to learn more about each award and the recipients:

Community Educator Award: Kelly Grosklags, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC

The community educator award honors an individual with expertise in the field of dying, death, and bereavement as demonstrated by advanced academic degrees, professional honors, awards, and other contributions. The individual demonstrates excellence in community-focused teaching in thanatology by judgment of peers, development of workshops, presentations, or teaching materials.

Kelly Grosklags, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC is the founder and CEO of Conversations with Kelly which is involved in educating the public about grief and loss through blogs, media appearances, and podcasts. She brings a past history of a private psychotherapy and 30 years of supporting families and others cope with grief, loss, and traumatic illness through her work in palliative care, hospice, and emergency rooms. One of her references spoke of her “deep compassion and dedication to these patients and families. More than that she seemed to have an intuition that facilitated a deeper connection to the suffering of these patients and their families. Another wrote of the power of her training programs for the staff that positioned the staff to truly support grieving individuals. “Kelly has trained us, consulted for us, advised us and cared for us simply because she believes deeply in creating a loving community to surround dying individuals and their families.” The production of the documentary, “Dying is Not Giving Up” is another example of her use of media to educate about and normalize the field of thanatology. “It features conversations between Grosklags and her patient, Judy Erdahl, who was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Erdahl describes the very human experience of dying, Together along with Erdahl’s family, friends and oncologist, new perspectives are shared in hopes of making a patient’s care more personal and meaningful. “Our hope is that we can teach medical providers to approach difficult conversations about patient care with more empathy, respect, and compassion.” says Grosklags. The winner of numerous awards from around the world the documentary expresses much of the heart of ADEC: care for the dying, the bereaved, and teaching that to a global audience. For these and other presentations to the community ADEC awards the 2022 Community Educator Award to Kelly Grosklags.

Research Recognition Award: Lauren Jennifer Breen Ph.D

The research recognition award honors an individual with expertise in the field of dying, death, and bereavement who is actively conducting or who has conducted research in the last 25 years that adds and contributes significantly to the ADEC Body of Knowledge in studies concerning death and loss.

The recipient must demonstrate an ongoing and consistent record of research and publication. Important indicators of a recipient's merit is that the work has been subjected to stringent peer review, has been cited by fellow researchers and authors, and has become a foundation upon which theories and practices are constructed. These indicators build a framework upon which continued growth and understanding in thanatology is dynamic.

Lauren Jennifer Breen Ph.D is Permanent Professor of Psychology at the School of Population Health, Curtin University in Perth, Australia. She is a researcher and communicator of outstanding depth and breadth. Her research touches on significant concerns across a wide spectrum of issues in thanatology. A partial list from her CV includes:

chronic disease management, the impact of caregiving on bereavement, psychotherapies for prolonged grief disorder/complicated grief, understanding grieving children and families, gaps in the social support grieving persons receive from their social networks; theorizing and testing community-based approaches to building community capacity in grief support; assisted dying; and identifying cultural and community norms of grief.

Bearer of a very high H-score, Dr. Breen is looked to by her peers for her opinion and her understanding of issues and concerns, evidenced by how often she is cited in scholarly works. In October of 2021 she was recognized as the top bereavement expert in Australia and in the top 1% of bereavement scholars in the world for the past decade (Expertscape).

ADEC Life Achievement Award: Betty Davies, BScN, MN, Ph.D.& Thomas Attig, Ph.D

The lifetime achievement award is designed to honor an outstanding individual in the area of death, dying, grief and loss who has had a national or international impact on the field and has dedicated one's professional life to the development and improvement of death education, caring for the dying person, and grief counseling. The criteria include making significant contributions to the development and or understanding of thanatology that historically has and will continue to distinguish their work. They must also have a minimum of 25 years of service in the field of thanatology and during that time has provided a significant contribution with a definable body of work through theory development, presentations at professional conferences, teaching and or training, research, publications, and professional practice.

Betty Davies, BScN, MN, Ph.D.& Thomas Attig, Ph.D, were nominated together. Their nomination was determined by their individual work and efforts in their respective fields within thanatology. They were considered together for the cumulative benefit that they have brought to our field.

Each have been strong in their leadership having served with ADEC and the International Work Group of Death, Dying, and Bereavement, the IWG. Tom is a Past President of ADEC and Betty is a past Chairperson of the IWG. Each have enhanced their field. Betty in nursing and children's palliative care, having started the first free-standing children's hospice in North America, Canuck Children's Place is the model followed by others. And Tom in the field of practical philosophy, where he turned our thinking from grief as a stress-induced psychopathology, as one of the letters of recommendation stated, to recognizing it as an existential passage by the bereaved seeking to understand a new way of living.

They have done this work through their teaching, presentations, writings, and their presence among us as thanatologists. The list of books, journal articles, publications, and presentations and keynote addresses is long and complex in the tendrils spreading throughout thanatology. Betty lists 187 publications on her CV. Tom's list is over 20 pages long.

Betty has received over 40 prestigious awards in her career. Some of which are the Herman Feifel Award given by IWG; The Robert Fulton Founder's Award given by the Centre for Death Education and Bioethics at the

University of Wisconsin, and the Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award created to celebrate 100 exceptional nurses and their impact on the nursing profession. Tom is equally as decorated having been awarded the Robert Fulton Founder's Award for his teaching & publications; the Death Educator Award from ADEC and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Network on Personal Meaning.

Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Early Achievement Award: Oindrila Dutta, MA, Ph.D

The Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Early Career Award is presented annually to a woman in the initial years of a career in thanatology who has distinguished herself through activity in scholarship, service, research, clinical practice, or social action. The award is intended to sponsor the winner's registration fee for ADEC's annual conference and provide a limited reimbursement for some travel expenses.

Oindrila Dutta, MA, Ph.D is an exceptional person to receive this award. Her clinical work has been transformative for the local communities in Singapore where she did her Doctoral work. It is, "one of a kind and distinctive on the global stage," as one of her referrals wrote. It has "shed light on a local landscape that an often overlooked bereaved population traverse," as another wrote. She has developed the "Trauma to Transformation qualitative model, a novel Narrative E-writing intervention as well as secured funding for a Culinary Grief Intervention that brings food, culture, and the bereaved together in a supportive model.

Dutta contributes her knowledge through journal writings, book chapters, and conference presentations winning awards such as the Dr. Hannelore Wass Cross Cultural Student Paper Award. She has been an important part of the Student and New Professional Committee here in ADEC. Beginning as a volunteer with initiatives to strengthen the committee's fundraising, she continued to develop trust and leadership through a variety of sub-committees. She is now the Co-Chair of the SNAP Committee providing guidance and vision to engage our new members that will strengthen our Association for the future.

Ronald Barrett Award: Pastor Lisa Connors, LCPC, NCC, CT, CGP

The Ronald Keith Barrett, PhD. Scholarship for Diversity and Multicultural Presentations is awarded to a presenter(s) whose presentation(s) demonstrate diversity and/or multicultural sensitivity to rituals, traditions, and concerns in the field of death, dying, education and counseling.

Pastor Lisa Connors, LCPC, NCC, CT, CGP is the Associate Pastor of In His Image International Ministry, Inc. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, National Certified Counselor, Certified Clinical Trauma Professional, Certified Grief Counseling Specialist, and has her CT. She has been in the human services/social work/counseling/addiction fields for over 30 years. Pastor Connors has worked in various settings providing services to help and empower others who have been oppressed, stigmatized, marginalized, and victimized. In addition to her ministry and clinical work, Ms. Connors is a college professor.

Mary E. Brown Undergraduate Student Paper Award: Madelyn Harris

Award presented to an outstanding undergraduate paper dealing with a topic related to dying, death, loss and bereavement. Paper must be a requirement for an undergraduate course at a recognized institution of higher learning.

Madelyn Harris will be pursuing a PhD in Counseling Psychology at Boston College beginning this fall. She currently works as an Undergraduate Program Manager for the University of Maryland Psychology Department, serves as a research assistant in the Counseling Psychology Research Center, and volunteers as a crisis hotline counselor for Community Crisis Services based in Hyattsville, Maryland. Her undergraduate honors thesis titled "Black Grief Matters: Disenfranchisement, Social Support, and Coping Among Black College Students Grieving the Deaths of Black Americans by Police Brutality" investigates the degree to which grief disenfranchisement, social support, and coping predict negative mental health outcomes among Black college students who have witnessed online content regarding police brutality against Black Americans. As a counseling psychologist, she

seeks to engage with individuals, organizers, and advocates of historically excluded communities to facilitate adequate spaces for us in psychological research literature, interventions, teaching, and practice, so that more may begin to be safe, healthy, present, and at peace.

Richard Kalish Graduate Student Paper Award: Jordan Reuter

Award presented to an outstanding graduate paper dealing with a topic related to dying, death, loss and bereavement. Paper must be a requirement for a graduate course at a recognized institution of higher learning.

Jordan Reuter a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Nevada, Reno. His paper, *Coping as a Meaning Making Process for the Loss of a Child*, was submitted as a part of his graduate coursework in Death and Dying. Jordan has previously published work on child loss and death and dying in families with his doctoral advisor, Dr. Colleen Murray. His research interests in death and dying integrate theories of meaning making processes with theories often applied to the field of thanatology while incorporating contemporary avenues, such as smartphone applications, to better understand the bereavement experience and meaning-making processes following the loss of a loved one. Recently, his longitudinal research with college students during the COVID-19 pandemic also included themes of grief and loss to better understand college students' experiences with loss throughout the pandemic.