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Association for Death Education and Counseling®
The Thanatology Association®

Connects

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President's Message August 2018

Louis A. Gamino, PhD, ABPP, FT



In case you did not see the announcement, ADEC has concluded its search for a new Executive Director. On July 9th, Management HQ hired Mr. Isaiah Allen for this role. Your Board of Directors (BOD) had the opportunity to interview Isaiah on two occasions and enthusiastically endorsed his hire. So ends the final step in our year-long transition to a new management firm and so begins the next era in our association's history.

Isaiah has degrees from both the University of Minnesota and North Park University in Chicago. He has worked in ministry and in non-profit management prior to taking this position. Isaiah has already participated in onboarding "meet and greet" meetings, joined several committee calls, and

met with the BOD last week during our July meeting. *Seamless* would be the best word to describe Isaiah's arrival on the scene and assumption of duties, spelling great relief for all of us.

It will be my privilege to introduce Isaiah in person to you at ADEC's 2019 annual conference in Atlanta. I believe that you will be likewise impressed with his passion and capabilities. With Isaiah at the helm as ADEC's Executive Director, I believe our future is bright indeed.

I would be remiss not to publicly thank Steve Thomas who served as ADEC's Interim Executive Director and kept things steady as we switched management firms. The BOD affectionately referred to Steve as ADEC's "foster father" during those months and his wisdom and guidance were much appreciated. We wish the very best to Steve in his future endeavors.

Speaking of the future, your ADEC Board is already busy preparing for its mid-year meeting in Minneapolis this coming October. We expect to conduct strategic planning in regard to our proximal goals for this governance year which include strengthening and empowering all ADEC committees/task forces, building membership value, and revisiting important professional development issues like the Body of Knowledge (BOK), a future Handbook of Thanatology, and best practices/competencies. More details forthcoming later in the year.

Finally, it's not too early to begin thinking about next year's annual conference in Atlanta on April 9-13. We hope to receive a record number of submissions for presentations during the concurrent sessions. We have lots of awards to give and scholarships to grant, so watch your email notifications about submission deadlines and nomination/application details. Lots of buzz is happening. You won't want to miss it.

August Webinar

Making Memories through Ceremony: Integrating Grief through Funerals and Memorial Services

Presented By: William G. Hoy, DMin, FT



W • E • B • I • N • A • R

Join us on **Wednesday, August 8** for ADEC's next webinar from **12:00 - 1:30 pm Central time**.

In William Hoy's experience, commemorative events like funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life serve to "jump start" the grief process for mourning families and communities. In both his clinical practice and his academic research, he has found great benefit to utilizing what he has come to call the five "anchors" of funeral ceremonies that unite humans across millennia and cross-culturally. In this webinar, Dr. Bill Hoy will demonstrate how memorial events draw people together in the midst of profound sorrow to help them begin the process of integrating the loss into the rest of their lives.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe common elements in death-related commemorative events
- Explain the value of commemorative events in helping individuals grieve
- Communicate with clients and patients about important funeral purchase options

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

Student Profile

So that the ADEC community can get to know its students, Connects will continue to feature stories on ADEC students as well as scholarship recipients.

Anna Sarkissova

Anna Sarkissova holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Calgary. She has been working in the special needs field for over four years. Anna works with adults who need assistance in acquiring employment and creating community connections. She is involved in volunteer work as well, presently helping out as a research assistant at the University of Calgary in the counseling department. The laboratory that Anna volunteers in looks at grief perceptions across cultures. Due to her volunteer involvement, she has recently developed research interest in thanatology and grief studies. Anna's future goal is to complete a Master of Science degree in Counselling. Her aim is to help others achieve success with their mental health and acquire skills to assist them in life.



Do you have a mentor/role model who has significantly affected your career path in thanatology? Tell us why you chose this career path.

My biggest mentor in the field of Thanatology is Dr. Kaori Wada who is a member of the Counselling Psychology department at the University of Calgary. I have been volunteering in her laboratory for over a year and she has provided immense guidance in pursuing my goals. She has directed me toward a variety of educational resources in thanatology. Due to personal experiences, I am pursuing further studies and research in thanatology to help others and gain more awareness about the field.

What advice would you offer a more junior professional in the field on growing their career or keeping their work fresh?

Some advice I would give to junior professionals in the field would be to read relevant literature and to connect with more experienced peers in order to gain more knowledge. Attending conferences is another way to interact with others who are researching the field; it is also a good way to garner new ideas for personal research. Another piece of advice I would give would be to get involved in volunteer opportunities in thanatology. One good example is through getting involved in grief therapy groups. This will help develop real world skills and allow the individual to see how grief is experienced in individuals.

What do you think the future holds for your work and that of others like you? How will that impact what you do?

In the future I aim to study thanatology on a graduate level and to contribute to the growing research body. Because of the recent interest in grief as a condition needing clinical intervention, this will open many doors for different research avenues. This would create more opportunities for others in a similar position as myself to explore their professional interests in thanatology. My aim is to become a counsellor one day and to utilize the skills I have acquired along the way to help others build skills. Pursuing studies in thanatology on a professional level has not only helped me toward achieving my career goals but also continues to give me resolution on a personal level.

ADEC's 41st Annual Conference



Join us in Atlanta, GA USA

April 9 - 13, 2019 Hilton Atlanta



Keynote Presentation

Title: *Creating a Relational Home for a 7 Year-Old Choctaw Cancer Patient*

Presenter: Rocky Robbins, PhD

Presentation Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Presentation Time: 8:40 – 9:40 am

Keynote Presentation

Title: *No Fear No Death*

Presenter: Venerable Barry Kerzin, MD

Presentation Date: Friday, April 12, 2019

Presentation Time: 8:40 – 9:40 am



Keynote Presentation

Title: *“Oh, I Could Never Do What You Do!!!” Quilting Stories of Tragedy, Grief and Resiliency*

Presenter: Harold Ivan Smith, D Min, FT

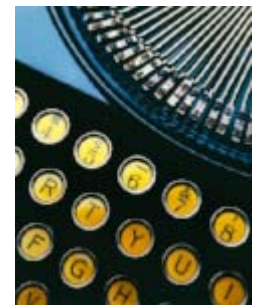
Presentation Date: Saturday, April 13, 2019

Presentation Time: 4:24 – 5:25pm

Now Accepting 41st Annual Conference Abstract Submissions

ADEC is now accepting abstract submissions for concurrent sessions and poster presentations for the [41st Annual Conference](#), taking place April 9-13, 2019, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. ADEC is seeking proposals on a breadth of topics related to death, dying and bereavement.

[Visit the abstract submission page](#) online for more on the specific requirements and instructions for concurrent sessions and posters.



All submissions must be completed by September 10, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Please share this message with your colleagues and professional networks to encourage as many great submissions as possible.

Proposal Submission Platform Training - Wednesday, August 15, 12:00 p.m. CDT

Join us for this webinar to receive an overview of the proposal submission process and get your questions answered. [Register online today!](#)

Questions? Contact ADEC at education@adec.org

The Labyrinth: Exploring an Ancient Path for New Insights

Christine Scott, LISW-S, FT, Grief Counselor Aultman Hospice and Palliative Care

Judy Smith, LSW, LPCC-S, Grief Counselor Aultman Hospice and Palliative Care



At our hospice care center, like many others, we have an outdoor labyrinth. Unfortunately, few of our staff knew what it was or how to use it. We set out to find out more and incorporate it into our practice as grief counselors.

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol, occurring in many cultures, and used as a tool for meditation, centering, and healing. While the labyrinth was used during the Middle Ages in the Catholic church as a form of spiritual pilgrimage, it dropped from human awareness about 350 years ago. The labyrinth has been recently reintroduced as a spiritual tool by Dr. Lauren Artress from Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

We have learned to use it with individual clients and in group settings. A common way is to walk a “Three Fold Path”:

1. Release: While walking into the center and letting go and quieting one’s thoughts.
2. Receiving in the center, insight or clarity.
3. Returning or walking out feeling grounded or empowered, integrating new insight.

There are endless possibilities for use. We wanted to have portable labyrinths available for our own use indoors. We found resources for purchase or rental through our research on the Worldwide Labyrinth locator but also found labyrinth enthusiasts who encouraged us to make our own. Using an overhead projected and canvas paint drop cloth, primed with white latex paint, we drew the outline, and hand painted the labyrinths. We were surprised to see that they looked pretty good!

We also branched out to make finger labyrinths. We found patterns and directions online. While there are also many possible mediums we used Crayola Model Magic.

Worldwide Labyrinth Locator: <https://labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth>

Artress, L. 2006. The Sacred Path Companion: A Guide to Walking the Labyrinth to Heal and Transform. New York: Riverhead.

Labyrinth Walking: A Journey of the Body, Mind and Soul, by Mary Monroe, March 2008, Fitness Journal. <http://www.ideafit.com/fitness-library/labyrinth-walking-path-heart-0> 4/25/17

Ng, Diana. 2015. Walking the Labyrinth: Your Path to Peace and Possibilities. Canada: KaDa Publishing.

Contact

[Christine L. Scott](#)

[Judith L Smith](#)

Earn your Certification or Fellow in Thanatology



So, you've discovered that you are really into thanatology. You heard about "thanatology" in a college course, or you learned the term long after you were already "in" the field.

Thanatology, as in death, dying and bereavement, draws you in a powerful way. While heartbreaking, death teaches you about life as do the dying and those who have been up close and personal with loss. Whether a professor, counselor, nurse, chaplain or you name it, thanatology—its study and practice—has become your home. **If this sounds like you then the CT or FT is for you!**

Certification in Thanatology (CT®) is a foundation certification that is designed to enhance professional knowledge and promote excellence in the field of thanatology. It recognizes a specific educational background in dying, death and bereavement, combined with experience in the field.

The Fellow in Thanatology (FT®) is an advanced professional certification for thanatology professionals. It recognizes practitioners and educators in the discipline of death, dying, and bereavement who have met specified knowledge requirements measured through a standardized testing process and who demonstrate advanced levels of competency in teaching, research and/or clinical practice through a professional portfolio.

To learn more about these programs or to download the Candidate Information Bulletins for each program, please visit the [ADEC website](#) and click on “Earn Certification”.

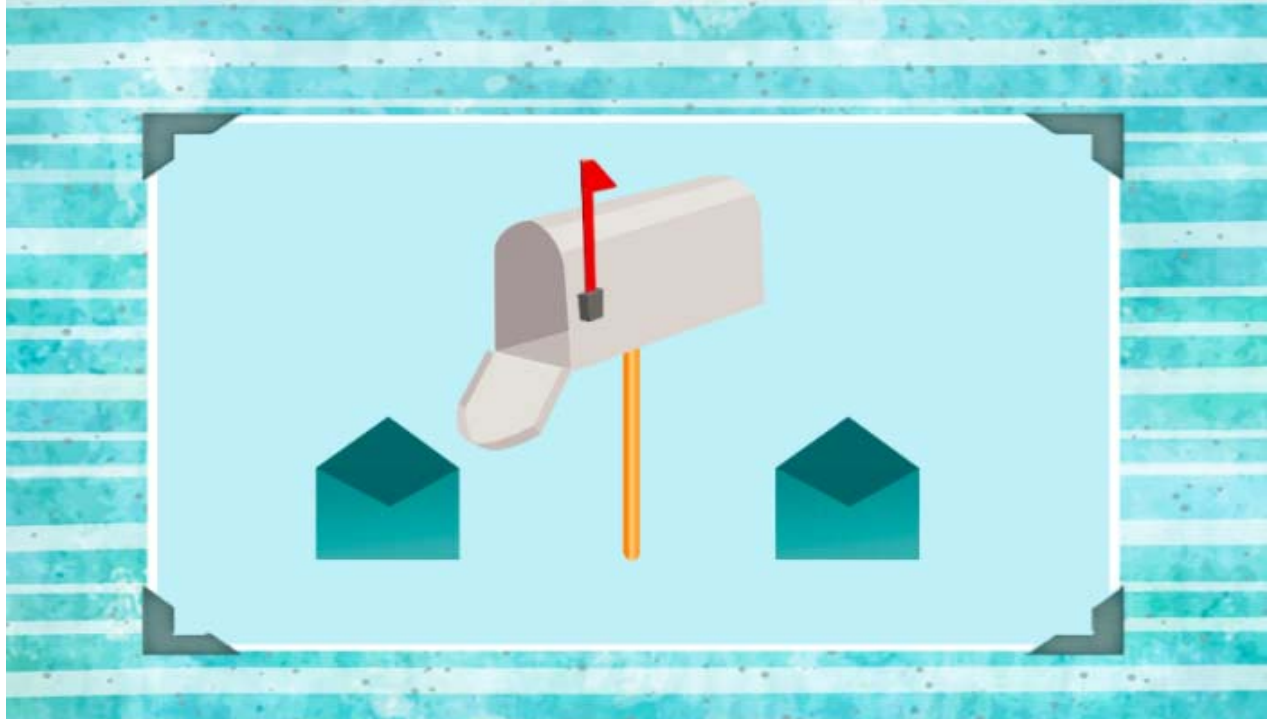
If you have any questions about the CT or FT, please contact the Credentialing Administrator at exam@adec.org.

Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Women in Thanatology Fund

ADEC’s Board of Directors has established a combined fund to honor Edie Stark and Shirley Scott, two exceptional women who were leaders within ADEC and who helped pave a pathway for women in the field of thanatology. This new endowment will keep alive Edie’s and Shirley’s vision of supporting the professional growth of women serving in the fields of grief and bereavement counseling. Although the types of programs to be funded are being finalized, the possibilities include financial support to enable more women who are students or young professionals to attend ADEC conference, support for emerging women leaders in thanatology, and webinars focused on women’s grief and bereavement.

ADEC’s Fund Development Committee is leading efforts to establish the initial value of this endowment at \$25,000. To contribute to the *“Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Women in Thanatology Fund”*, please contact Isaiah.allen@management-hq.com

Stay in Contact with ADEC: is your Contact Information up to Date?



Stay in contact with ADEC: Is your contact information up to date?

We are asking members to take a few minutes to verify that their contact information is up to date. With the amount of services that are provided with ADEC's membership on-line an updated email address is important. In addition, when paper dues statements go out in the Fall or for those who take part in the credentialing program a current mailing address is needed. Please know that your information is held in the strictest confidence and is not shared with any other organization. To check your contact information please follow the steps outlined below:

1. Sign in to [ADEC](#) in the upper right-hand corner of the site.
2. Go to the My ADEC tab and select edit your profile.
3. Once your ADEC profile populates click on the addresses tab.
4. Double check the information that is provided. If something needs to be updated click the pencil icon on the right to make the change.
5. Once your edits have been made be sure to click the **Save & Close** button so the edits are saved.

[ADEC Website](#)

Member's Corner:

The Member's Corner is a place to shine a spotlight on ADEC members and their accomplishments.

For consideration in the next edition of Connects please submit content to [Amanda Brace](#) by **Wednesday September 26, 2018**.



Contact Connects

Connects is interested in your thoughts and work. Please reach out to us with content submissions, suggestions or ideas.

For consideration in the **October 2018** issue of Connects please submit your ideas/content by **Wednesday, September 26, 2018**.

Contact Us

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