President's Message

Hello ADEC Members!

As I sit here on the patio of a coffee shop warmed in the summer sunshine, I reach out to you wherever you are and hope that you are finding your summer bliss. I send a thought up to the universe wishing for you – that somewhere you are finding your 3R’s (relaxing, refreshing and rejuvenating) for yourselves and your families. ADEC members tend to be GIVERS, filled with generosity and compassion and often the first to be there for others in need. I hope that sometime in these beautiful days of summer, you are finding your tank refilled, meaning found in the perspective and retrospective to keep you fulfilled in the work you do.

Ramona Fernandez, PhD, MEd

Student Profile - Denise Hall Brown Rollins

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.

Denise’s life first shattered in 1995 when a drunk driver killed her mother. While feeling sorry for herself, Denise heard her mother’s voice telling her to stop being a victim. That’s when she changed her perspective and approach. Despite later enduring the sudden losses of her son, aunt, and husband, Denise became a Survivor who honors her loved ones by helping others heal. She’s also a Supporter whose book, 2Grieve 2Gether, and non-profit, The Whole Heart Grief & Life

Certification in Thanatology? Here’s the Deal

So, you’ve discovered that you really are into this thanatology thing. You heard about “thanatology” in some 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. The Robert Kastenbaum quote, “Thanatology is the study of life—with death left in,” makes you hum and you consider posting it on the refrigerator or your office door or maybe tattooing “death left in” inside your wrist. Even if you haven’t gone quite
Resource Center, allow her to assist others by sharing her story and grief strategies using a powerful combination of personal experience with loss and life, 20+ years as a financial services professional, and educational experience from pursuing a Master’s in thanatology and a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy.

But there’s a problem.

ADEC is seeking submissions on a breadth of topics related to death, dying and bereavement. Share your expertise and your work with thanatology professionals at the ADEC 2018 Annual Conference.

Here are some helpful documents when Submitting and Preparing an Abstract:

- Guidance for People Submitting an Abstract
- Guidance for People Preparing a Presentation
- Guidance for People Preparing a Poster

Choose from a list of submission types varying from poster presentation to a 60 minute research report.

New Books From ADEC Members


Jordan and Baugher have joined their considerable expertise in death education and bereavement counseling, particularly as it is traumatically experienced in suicide death. Their updated, second edition book, designed to “offer information and inspiration” to survivors, is organized into five major sections (“Impact;” “Absorbing the Blow,” “Surviving,” “Survivor Narratives” and “Appendices”). Their approach is personal and practical, yet with clear professional perspectives. The “Narratives” section includes twelve poignant but encouraging personal stories. The Appendices add six very helpful summaries of suicide-focused resources. A particular strength of this book is its long-view perspective, helping survivors be realistic yet hopeful about the inevitable life-long journey of suicide bereavement journey. This book will help those coping with a suicide death to ultimately recommit to life and the unfolding future.
ADEC Webinar Recordings

ADEC members, don't forget to take advantage of your two free ADEC webinar recordings, a new member benefit for 2017. Enter the code ADEC2FREE at checkout and catch up on what you've missed with some of the great educators in the field of thanatology.

Light at the Dark Side of the Street
Greg Adams, LCSW, ACSW, FT
Originally recorded: July, 2017
Preview recording

Loss in the Lives of LGBTQ+ People
Laura S. Wheat, PhD, LPC, NCC
Originally recorded: June, 2017
Preview recording

Practical Strategies for Helping Grieving Clients Cope
Bob Baugher, Ph.D., FT
Originally recorded: May, 2017
Preview recording

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