



Association for Death Education and Counseling®  
The Thanatology Association®

# Connects

## President's Message



Janet McCord, PhD, FT

Here it is, early March, and the ADEC Conference in Portland is right around the corner! At the Business Meeting Saturday morning, I will hand the presidential gavel to Ramona Fernandez and this action will complete my presidential year. I will then assume the role of Immediate Past President and will serve on the board for another year.

The past few years have been transitional ones for ADEC and I have been honored – and humbled – to have played a role as a board member in 2011, then Secretary, and then elected to the Presidential “track” starting at the Baltimore conference in 2014 and ending in Pittsburgh in 2018. I have been fortunate to serve as part of ADEC’s leadership with a fine group of individuals, all of whom are deeply committed to ADEC’s future growth and sustainability. [READ MORE](#)

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## New Keynote Speaker - Okello Kelo Sam



ADEC is pleased to announce a new International Ira Nerken keynote speaker for the 2017 ADEC Annual Conference in Portland, OR.

Okello Kelo Sam has experienced death and loss first-hand as a former child soldier who witnessed the massacre of his family and community. He will speak about the grief and loss experiences of formerly abducted children from Northern Uganda, and the school he established to facilitate the healing of over 3,000 Acholi youth, many of whom have gone on to become teachers, lawyers, and businesspeople. [READ MORE](#)

## See You in Portland



We are only four weeks away from the 2017 Annual Conference in Portland, OR, a perfect setting to catch up with and learn from your peers from around the

world.

The early cutoff date for [registration](#) is March 17. After that you'll still be able to register on site.

All conference activities will take place at the [Portland Downtown Marriott Waterfront Hotel](#), steps from the Willamette River and downtown Portland, not to mention nearby Washington Park, Portland Japanese Garden, the Oregon Zoo, Marquam Nature Park and much more! Come explore Portland with 500+ of your closest friends.

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## ADEC Leadership Election Results

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent ADEC leadership election. Below are the election

results.

## Office of Vice President

*Louis Gamino, PhD, ABPP, FT*

## Board Member at Large

*Mary Alice Varga, PhD  
Michelle Ramirez, MS, CT, CLYL*

## Treasurer

*William Hoy, DMin, FT*

## LRDC Member

*Carla Sofka, PhD, MSW*

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## Financial Update



G. Hoy, DMin, FT

As a new year begins, I am excited about the future for ADEC. In spite of the financial challenges of the last couple of years, we ended 2016 in an enviable financial position. Though our audit report is still a few months away, I can tell you that the unaudited financial statements state our checking account balance at a little less than \$ 120,000, our unrestricted reserves at about \$ 275,000, and our designated accounts (like the Nerken estate) at about \$ 124,000. With more than \$ 399,000 in the bank and invested and total accounts payable of only \$ 13,313, that is a pretty pristine position to be in for any organization. [READ MORE](#)

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## Student Member Profile - Xi Tian, MS



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

### Xi Tian, MS

I am a doctoral student in Communication Arts and Sciences at

Pennsylvania State University. My research focuses on supportive communication in the context of bereavement. I became interested in thanatology shortly after my mother passed away when I was in college. My family and I struggled to come to terms with her death for a long time, and I wanted to learn more about how families engage in conversations about loss to help alleviate emotional distress. [READ MORE](#)

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## Board Member Profile - Dr. Peggy Whiting



**Dr. Whiting is Professor and Coordinator of Counselor Education at North Carolina Central University,** former faculty of

Winthrop and Vanderbilt Universities, and is a CT, Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, and a Licensed School Counselor. Peggy is the recipient of the 2016 University of North Carolina Board of Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2013 NC Outstanding Counseling Tenured Professor Award. Peggy serves as board liaison to the Conference Planning Committee and as a member of the Leadership Recruitment & Development Committee. She has previously served on the Body of Knowledge Committee, the Test Committee, chaired the Item Writing Committee, and as a conference proposal reviewer and evaluator of the Student Scholarship Awards. [READ MORE](#)

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## What's New From ADEC Members

**Denny, Terry.** *Being With the Dying. Memories of A Grateful Hospice Volunteer.* Mahomet, IL: Mayhaven Publishing, Inc., 2016. ISBN: 978-1-93969-58-02. Softcover, 128 pages.



The Rev. Paul A. Metzler,  
D.Min.

**Denny** has been a hospice volunteer for over 21 years, training and serving in five different hospices in several different states. His book details his deep experiences with just a handful of the patients he had served by the time of the book's publication. His writing about these persons is warm, realistic about the challenges his patients' faced, and shows the engaging way that Denny joined with them as they lived their last days. The National Hospice and Palliative Care organization reports there are near to one-half million volunteers with hospice programs across the USA. Denny is certainly a great example of their dedicated service and his book a thoughtful account of how volunteer service matters in the midst of living and dying. [READ MORE](#)

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## Job Bank

**ADEC members can add postings to the ADEC job board for free. Email any listings to [ADEC Headquarters](#). Two new jobs this month:**

### **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW - Columbia University Center for Complicated Grief**

ADEC Student affiliates, training directors, and clinical supervisors-

The Center for Complicated Grief, under the supervision of center director Dr. Katherine Shear, is currently accepting applications for a full-time postdoctoral fellow for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The position offers advanced training in Complicated Grief Treatment, while working alongside Dr. Shear and the Center staff on a wide range of initiatives. This is a fully funded fellowship that meets all New York state requirements towards licensure.

If you or a doctoral candidate you work with are interested in a postdoctoral position in the field of grief and bereavement, please see the full position description and application instructions at the link below.

[academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=63916](http://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=63916)

### **FAMILY SUPPORT COUNSELOR - Gift of Life Donor Program**

The Family Support Counselor participates in all aspects of Gift of Life's Family Support Services program, the after-care support services program of the area's Organ and Tissue Transplant Network.

The Family Support Counselor provides bereavement support aimed at assisting the families of organ and tissue donors after the death of a loved one. You will provide follow-up services, including bereavement and grief counseling and referrals to appropriate community organizations, primarily by phone.

To investigate joining the nation's leading procurement organization, please submit cover letter and resume at [APPLY NOW](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### **March Webinar**

["Well, Ain't This a Fine Howdy-do!" Helping Care-givers Navigate Postmortem Discoveries](#)

Harold Ivan Smith, DMin, FT  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST

## Contact Connects

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

### **CONTACT US**

Editor [Amanda Brace](#), EdS  
Managing Editor [Justin Dreyfuss](#)

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