

# UCA Student Research Report

Student's Name  UCA ID #  Date

Faculty Mentor  Dept.

Title of Research

Briefly describe the results of your study:

This Conference was immensely beneficial to the beginning of my career as a grief and loss counselor. There were over 550 attendees. I met practitioners from all across the United States and Canada and was able to attend sessions given by professors, students, and clinicians from Australia, London, and Hong Kong, as well as a keynote speaker from Uganda. Each day (3 days total) I was able to attend 6-8 sessions, including a keynote and yoga for grief relief every day. I also had 4 meals with practitioners across the country who specialize in areas of interest to me. Many of them offered to continue to mentor me following the conference and we were able to exchange contact information. I also connected with a professor at the University of Memphis who is doing research in Uganda and is interested in using grief counseling students from across the nation. Additionally, I joined the Student Association Committee of ADEC and became co-chair of next years silent auction for the 2018 conference in Pittsburgh. The auction pays for the student scholarships so I can pay my debt forward. I was able to volunteer for 4 hours in the exhibit hall at the silent auction and met many of the students and vendors. Many of the vendors are authors so I was able to hear about their books and get a few signed copies. On the last day, Saturday, I had coffee with Dr. Howard Winokuer, one of the past presidents of ADEC and leading clinician in the field. He recently released the 2nd edition of his book "Principles of Grief Counseling" which I will be using in my grief independent study in the fall. He was very kind and offered me many words of encouragement and wisdom. I also connected with Greg Adams, director of Bereavement at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. He has already helped me with many connections this week and invited me to events at Children's.

What did you learn from this experience?

Overall, I feel that at ADEC and with ADEC I have found my professional home. This has been a springboard into the last 3 semesters of my program. Membership in the organization and the connections from the conference will continue to serve me for many years to come and for that I am deeply grateful.