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## Interview with Daniel Hilton, Mt. Hood Community College, 2009 (audio)

Daniel Hilton

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**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT**  
**INTERVIEW INDEX**

INTERVIEWEE: Daniel Hilton

Interviewer: Cory Minick

Date: March 05, 2009

Location of Interview: Mt. Hood Community College

Research Assistant: Greg Close

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN  
EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time	Notes
0:01	Intro
0:20	Why he started in the funeral industry
0:50	Personal history of getting into the industry
1:20	Overcoming non familial ties and getting into the industry
1:50	Educational requirements
3:10	Advice for students entering the field
4:00	Entering on a whim
4:30	Specific personality types best suited for industry
6:00	Most rewarding aspect of teaching
6:50	Grasp of explaining
7:04	Most difficult aspect of teaching
7:30	Youngest student 17, Oldest in 50's
8:53	Trend towards part time faculty on how he got into teaching
9:23	Typical day in classroom
11:50	Strangest classroom experience
13:00	Dealing with own loss
14:07	Would you prefer to handle death care yourself

15:05	Benefit of using corpses over simulations or dummies
Time	Notes
16:20	Are bodies ever re-embalmed?
17:22	Different approach taken for cadavers
17:40	Embalming for funerals
19:50	What is a trocar used for?
20:40	Critiques on embalming (Mark Harris connection)
21:09	Reasons to embalm
22:43	Is the increase in cremation the reason for decrease in embalming?
23:48	Using dry ice and refrigeration to preserve the a body
24:53	Increase in green burial
25:40	Green burial practices
27:13	The use of alkaline hydrolysis
29:20	Alkaline hydrolysis availability
30:58	Comparative costs to cremation
31:50	Industry changes for alkaline hydrolysis
32:45	Role of promession or human composting
33:40	Long term trends to green burials
35:00	What about these has long term viability?
35:45	Perfect disposition
37:20	Three methods of green burial
38:37	How has the business changed
39:45	Creative ways for cremation disposal
40:40	Coral reefs with cremated ashes/ ashes into space
42:15	Final disposition for Daniel
44:00	General recommendations for families unsure what to do?
46:40	Direction of the industry
48:58	Where would you direct the industry?
49:55	Impact of the economic crisis?
51:20	Influx of low price caskets/ urns (Costco)

53:51	Steps to plan for death (save money)
55:50	Favorite story working in funeral home