

EDEN NEWS

Eden Theological Seminary

Summer 2016

Summer Changes!

Every summer brings a change of pace at Eden. Classes are over, vacations are planned, and graduating students move out, making room for new students to arrive in the fall. While similar to other summers, this year a significant reorganization of the Eden staff added appreciably to the extent of change.

This brief newsletter features the retirement of *nine* staff people who served Eden for a cumulative total of 147 years! This major change for our community is due in part to a voluntary retirement incentive program offered by the Eden Trustees as part of an effort to reduce operating expense.

These pages also describe expansion of Eden's long-term collaboration with neighboring Webster University, through a new shared services arrangement. The goal is to reduce Eden's operational expenses further and improve services in areas where there has been redundancy of effort.

In addition, we highlight major curricular revisions that will occur this fall in the Master of Divinity program. The changes have already received enthusiastic response and resulting in an increased enrollment. While it is still early for firm numbers, we anticipate significantly larger entering classes in all programs this fall.

"Significant reorganization of the Eden staff, new operational collaboration with Webster University, revised academic programs and the expectation of increased enrollment have made this a summer of remarkable change."

- David M. Greenhaw



Children of New Students Play Together at "Pre-union" Picnic

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Shared Services: Finance, IT, Facilities and Food Service

In an ongoing effort to be the best steward of resources entrusted to us by minimizing operating costs, Eden has entered into an agreement to share services related to accounting and finance, information technology, facilities and food service with Webster University.

Like our shared library arrangement with Webster, this arrangement should reduce operational redundancies between the two institutions. Optimizing efficiency helps to achieve important elements of our respective strategic plans.

Finance and Accounting

Finance and Accounting services covered by the arrangement will include general ledger, bank reconciliations, monthly financial reporting and audit support. Working with Eden's Chief Financial Officer, Tammy Craig, Webster University's finance office will bring Eden much needed depth and staffing support. Eden's Finance and Operations Office will coordinate student accounts, payroll and staff benefits.

Facilities

Maintenance of the campus buildings and grounds has been transferred to Webster University's facility crew. Randy Ott, Eden's recently retired staff person, has been engaged to help Webster's team "learn the ropes" of Eden's facilities. A new work order system is rolling out in early August and should be fully operational by the beginning of school.

Information Technology (IT)

Webster University's IT department will provide IT planning and support services for internet, desktop and classroom technology. Eventually, telephone and internet connectivity will be added. A tremendous advantage is to be found in a collaboration with the staff and expertise the University brings to bear. Soon there will be detailed instructions on how to access services.

Food Service

Eden has contracted with Sodexo Food Service to prepare and serve lunches and provide campus catering. Community lunches will be served Monday through Thursday in the Schroer Commons. Lunches will cost \$7 and include meal options and a drink. Tickets for lunches will be available for purchase in the Eden Bookstore.

Fall Faculty Retreat

The Eden Faculty will gather for a retreat in late August to prepare for the beginning of the school year. Sabbatical scheduling results in no Eden faculty member being on sabbatical during the Fall Term.

Attending the retreat this Fall will be professors:

- ◇ Kristin Leslie
- ◇ Damayanthi Niles
- ◇ Geoffrey Black
- ◇ Clint McCann
- ◇ Deborah Krause
- ◇ Mai-Anh Tran
- ◇ Christopher Grundy
- ◇ Laurel Taylor
- ◇ Ben Sanders
- ◇ Adam Ployd
- ◇ David Greenhaw
- ◇ Director of Contextual Education Carol Shanks
- ◇ Director of Music Paul Vassile,
- ◇ Director of the Walker Leadership Institute Steve Lawler

147 Years of Service!!

In May 2016, nine seminary employees took advantage of a voluntary retirement incentive program. Together, these dedicated people represent a total of 147 years of faithful service to Eden's mission.

We had a chance to recognize them in Chapel and to celebrate them in a bitter-sweet reception. The retirees are:

- ◇ Donita Bauer
- ◇ Michael Boddy
- ◇ Chris Davis
- ◇ Stephanie DeLong
- ◇ Randy Ott
- ◇ Bev Scanlon
- ◇ Caron Strother
- ◇ Christa Trayanoff
- ◇ Theon Miller

In addition, Bryce Krug, Eden's Vice President for Advancement, has accepted a major gifts fundraising position at Washington University in St. Louis.

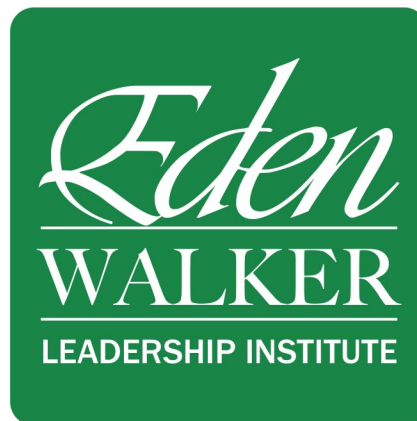


Donita Bauer directed a "KAZOO" band at the retirement party for Eden employees. Also pictured are Michael Boddy, Stephanie DeLong, Caron Strother, Chris Davis and Bev Scanlon

The Walker Leadership Institute: Leadership for the Common Good

Enriching church, community and business leadership for the common good is the aim of the new Walker Leadership Institute, a partnership of Eden and Webster University's George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology. The Institute was made possible by a generous gift from George H. and Carol B. Walker.

The Institute is planning a Master of Community Leadership degree program in Fall 2017 as well as incorporating business and leadership courses into Eden's Master of Divinity curriculum. It will also sponsor programs for religious leaders and church administrators to address the fiscal and business-related challenges they face in their churches and communities.





DON'T FORGET --- Opening Convocation and Picnic
Tuesday, September 6th, 10:30 AM in Wehrli Chapel

Eden Welcomes New Staff

Senior Accountant

Trina (pronounced "Tranay") Owens has joined the Eden staff as Senior Accountant. She has worked at the Parents as Teachers National Center for five years as Senior Accountant, as well as at the Urban League, where she was the Financial Reporting Accountant.

Advancement Officer

Interviews are underway for an advancement officer to assist in contacting and managing donor relations.

Three Part-time positions to be filled.

Final interviews are underway for 2 new members of the Dean's team. Serving both the faculty and academic administration support, one person will work work days and another will work evenings. In addition, a Library Liaison is being selected for Eden.

Staff Changes

Director of Contextual Education

Carol Shanks has served as Dean of Students and Director of the Denominational Houses of Study at Eden since 2014. She will continue these responsibilities in her new position, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Contextual Education. Her office is located in the Dean's Office, across from the Chapel.

Director of Academic Programs

Denise Stauffer has been appointed Director of Academic Programs. In this newly created position, she will coordinate administration of all degree programs, working as a part of the "Dean's team." Denise will continue her work as Secretary to Eden's Board of Trustees, while giving up her Human Resources responsibilities.

Director of LIFE

Jill Schantz, who has been coordinating the LIFE program (a lay education program), will add to her duties the coordination of a network of congregational support for international students.

Admissions Counselor

Dana Salyer will continue as part-time Admissions Counselor. Dana, who graduated in May 2016, has done this work previously as a "work study" student.



Chapel Services Fit Class Schedule

Eden will begin a new Chapel schedule in the fall of 2016, which will include one evening chapel service per week in addition to the two morning services.

Chapel schedule for the fall term is:

- ◇ Monday, 11:40 am – 12:00 pm (service of the word)
- ◇ Tuesday, 6:15 – 6:45 pm (varying formats)
- ◇ Wednesday, 11:40 am – 12:15 pm (service of word & sacrament)

Multi-religious Room in Schultz Hall

A gathering space for prayer, meditation and spiritual reflection for persons of all religions in the surrounding community is opening this fall. The newly remodeled space is located in the lower level of Schultz Hall.



Paul Vasile, Eden's new Director of Music

Paul Vasile Appointed Eden Director of Music

Paul Vasile will join the Eden staff this fall as Director of Music. No stranger to Eden, having been an adjunct professor and guest lecturer, Paul brings over twenty years of ministry experience to this work.

Paul is enthusiastic about helping congregations and their leaders to **broaden their repertoire of sung prayer and praise** and to **energize and unify worshippers** from varied backgrounds, cultures, and traditions through participatory music and liturgy. In addition to his new role at Eden, he will continue to serve as the Executive Director of Music that Makes Community.

New Master of Divinity Curriculum Goals

Eden Seminary's academic programs have long been oriented toward the formation of leaders for the church who understand their vocation to be aligned with God's mission of justice, redemption, and love in this world.

- ***Inspired Theological Imagination***

The capacity to see God's creative and redemptive purposes at work in the world informed by deep knowledge of the scriptures, traditions and practices of the faith.

- ***Grounded in Spiritual Formation***

The capacity to nurture one's walk of faith while critically engaging one's faith tradition in its particularity, and to forge relationships of collegiality and accountability with others to collaborate more fully with God's redemptive work in the world.

- ***Empowered for Social Transformation***

The capacity to engage one's theological imagination and spiritual formation toward social justice action and Institutional reformation in order to lead communities to collaborate in God's redemptive work in the world.

A "Pre-union" Picnic

If graduates gather for a picnic it is called a "reunion" picnic. What do you call a picnic for students who haven't even begun studying? A "pre-union" picnic!

Over 60 people attended a "pre-union" picnic in the Schroer Commons on a very hot Saturday this July. Members of the entering class of Fall 2016 and their families were welcomed for an afternoon of socializing. Thanks to everyone who helped and who attended.

Here are samples of what they said about their time together:

The picnic was an amazing first experience at Eden! I'm so excited to start classes with the amazing people I met! I'm really looking forward to growing and learning with this wonderful group!

Hope Gunderson

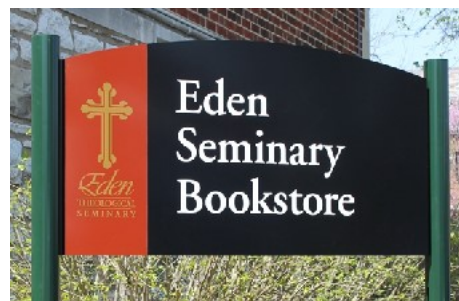
"Eden already feels like home for me and for my family. What a beautiful place with such beautiful people and great environment to explore who God has made me to be." Seriously so grateful for you and the welcome we received at the picnic! Hope to see you soon!

Lindsey Apple

I knew the picnic would be a wonderful opportunity to show my sons around campus, to help them understand this next chapter in our lives. But what I wasn't expecting was how meaningful it would be to introduce the Eden staff and faculty to my sons, to help them understand me more fully as a parent.

Kelly Archer

Homemade, from scratch food, families embarking on the first new step of their journey with Christ, and the loving support of Spiritual Directors. The picnic was all this and more. It allowed my family to experience in community the feeling of excitement intermixed with apprehension about this next step with Christ that we are all taking. It allowed us to experience the loving support of Eden before I'm even attending; it was an awesome experience.



Bookstore to Press Building

The Eden Seminary Bookstore is relocating to the Press Building, Room 140, directly across from the Advancement and Admissions Office.

The new location and newly renovated space should make the store more accessible. Store hours are yet to be determined.