ECM STAFF GROWS

ECM has added three new staff members in recent months!

David Wood is the new Director of Vocational Exploration and Outreach at ECM. In this role he oversees most of the new initiatives made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. of Indianapolis, about which you can read more elsewhere in this newsletter. He is husband to Caela Simmons Wood, the new pastor of the First Congregational Church UCC in Manhattan and father to two young sons, Maitland and Ogden. He is also serving in an adjunct capacity on the music faculty at K-State, and brings a wealth of experience in music and worship ministry, social media and managing non-profit programming.

Sawyer Borror is the new student office assistant for communications. He is a senior from Ellinwood majoring in psychology and sociology. Sawyer is a “people person,” with two years of experience as a resident assistant in Goodnow Hall and passions for helping others and international mission work. The child of missionaries, he’s already seen three of the seven continents!

Devan Brown is the new student office assistant for database management. She is a junior transfer from Chicago State University and originally from St. Louis, Missouri. She is studying psychology, with a minor in music. Her three top career choices at the moment are music therapy, child psychology or industrial psychology. Both of her parents are ministers, too!

Meet Tyler Schissel

The Presbyterian congregations of Fairview and Riley recently selected Tyler Schissel as the first intern in the Lilly-sponsored Vocational Initiative. He will receive a $3,000 scholarship over the course of the next year to work in all dimensions of the congregations’ ministries with the children and youth of the Riley community. Hailing from Olathe, Ty brings significant experience working with youth in his home church, summer camping programs and in the inner city. He is currently a sophomore at K-State majoring in Secondary Education and a Pre-Physician’s Assistant program.

New ECM Campus Center

After a long summer of delays and slow progress, work recently resumed on the new ECM building at 904 Sunset Avenue. Plans now call for the project to be completed and the building to be occupied by February 26, 2015. The architectural firm for the project is Action Pact Design and Braley Construction is in charge of construction. Once completed, the 5,823 square-foot building will contain two four-bedroom apartments to house ECM students, one in the basement and one on the second floor, with a main floor dedicated to ministry activities and offices. For up-to-the-minute news and pictures, visit www.ksu.edu/ecm!
Save The Date

Stephanie Paulsell, Houghton Professor of the Practice of Ministry Studies at Harvard Divinity School, will serve as the inaugural lecturer for the Theology of Vocation Lecture Series at Kansas State University, hosted by ECM. Dr. Paulsell will be in Manhattan from February 28-March 3, 2015. Much of her work revolves around spirituality and vocation, while exploring the intersection between the academic study of religion and spiritual practice and ministry. She will speak at First Christian Church, Manhattan, on the morning of March 1 and conduct a public lecture on the K-State campus on the evening of March 2. In between, she will meet with a number of ECM student groups and address one or more K-State classes. Her appearance in Manhattan is made possible through grants provided by the Lilly Endowment Inc. and the Kansas Bible Chair of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ).

Vocational Discernment Initiative

Thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., ECM launched its five-year vocation initiative this fall to create opportunities for K-State students to discover and reflect more fully upon their vocation, regardless of whether that involves a call to religious or non-religious careers. Key activities include a worship outreach team, student internships in area congregations, the establishment of an annual theological lecture series, a mentoring program and vocation-themed spiritual retreats. Jason Willits, an adult convert to Orthodoxy who is making the transition this year to a career as a financial advisor after several tours of duty as a member of the U.S. Army, is organizing the mentoring program, which matches interested students with selected mentors recruited from within the Manhattan community with extensive career experience and a willingness to work with young adults in discernment about their vocation. David Wood oversees all other Lilly activities.

Real Food Lunch

This is currently our most popular ministry through ECM and offers students a new way to build community while have a wonderful, fresh meal. The mission of ECM’s Real Food Lunch is to promote the development of healthier lifestyles and more sustainable relationships among members of the university and Manhattan communities by educating students and others about the importance of producing, preparing, serving, sharing and disposing of food in ways that allow our bodies, our social relationships and our planet to flourish. If you want to come and join us, it is every Friday from 11:30am-1pm at the Baptist Student Center at the corner of Denison/Anderson Ave. $2 suggested donation. Everyone is welcome!

A Quick Thanks!

This fall Trinity Presbyterian Church has been a very big help in our fundraising efforts for different ECM programs and mission trips. They have allowed us to use their parking lot to receive donations during home football games. If you are around for the remaining games you can park at the church for only $10 and you will get a free water and ride to the game!

If you are interested in making an online donation to ECM, please visit our website at www.ksu.edu/ecm for more information.