

This Week in Eden History

April 2 | Anna Astroth, first woman called to the Eden faculty



Anna Astroth | Photo: Eden Seminary Archives

Anna Astroth, the first woman on the faculty at Eden, died on **April 2, 1976** (born August 1, 1889 in St. Louis). She received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Washington University and continued with studies in Christian Education at Boston University. She started her career as a science teacher at Wellston High School and was later the Field Secretary for the Y.W.C.A. in Mississippi for four years, Director of Religious Education at First Presbyterian Church in East St. Louis and worked as a social worker at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi from 1931 to 1936. She returned to St. Louis to join the staff of Caroline Mission (now Neighborhood Houses) from 1936 to 1960. From 1960 to 1968, she was a social worker at the Good Samaritan Home for the

Aged and part-time Executive Secretary of the St. Louis Area Division, Missouri Association of Social Workers from 1962 to 1969.

Astroth was called to the faculty of Eden Seminary as Supervisor of Field Work in 1946 when a two-year Master of Religious Education was established. She supervised the field work of 89 women before retiring from the faculty in 1957. Eden honored Astroth with a Doctor of Humane Letters in 1966. Her portrait was added to the Eden chapel windows in the early 1990s.

[Read more about Anna Astroth in UCC Roots.](#)