



December  
2024

# FacDev Chatter

The FacDev Chatter is the monthly (or so) newsletter about faculty development opportunities at Knox College. These include planned workshops and funding opportunities, both internal and external to Knox College.

## Notes from the ADFA



Whew! My first term in this position has come and gone. It was an adventure. By that, I mean it may have been a lot of work, but I loved (almost) every minute of it. That's thanks to all of you.

From this office, I've been able to see so much of the interesting research and creative work you've done. Whether it is Ming's work with students trying to understand how to better include queer students in international education or Andy's project into emotional manipulation in politics. It is clear to me that the world is becoming a better-known place thanks to you.

In addition to keeping active on research, you are sharing those results with academics across the globe. This past term, CoFR has approved funding for conference travel from Chicago to New Orleans and from Montreal to Tallinn. Imagine how the passports are looking.

Your activity makes this job worthwhile. Every morning, I come to work and am excited for how I may help someone better explore the world and its relationships.

For that, I thank you.

~ Ole

## The Fac Dev Calendar

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## December 2024 Events

December turns the weather chilly, but the Faculty Development office is heating up with these events.



### The December Workshop

When: December 4 and 5 from 8:30am until 3:30pm

Where: SMC A-201/201 (and elsewhere in SMC)

Every year, we put together a two-day workshop in early December. The purpose of this workshop is to build skills as an educator and to build conversations across campus. The first day features a guest who will discuss how we may be able to ensure our students are able to use first-rate books without paying for them. The second day is split between civic engagement and applying the themes of abolition to our lives in the classroom.



### The Learning Management System (Digital Transformation)

**Update:** The Faculty Experience Committee (FEC) continues its exploration of LMSs. The Digital Transformation group charged FEC with selecting an LMS to help faculty, staff, and students more easily navigate their time at Knox and to allow us to gain a better understanding of our students and our curriculum, while reducing the amount of time we spend on getting that useful information.





## The Knox Holiday Party

You should have received an invitation to the annual Knox Holiday Party. This year, it will be at the Vault on December 6, starting at 6:00pm. Please check your email from the Office of the President for your chance to RSVP and join us for holiday cheer.



## Upcoming January Happenings



### Martin Luther King, Jr.

When: January 20  
Where: Knox College

The Knox community always celebrates the birthday of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Expect an email in January giving more specifics, shortened classes, and a celebration just before noon.



### Friday at Four

When: January 24 at 4:00pm  
Where: Trustees Room (ALUM 302)

Katie Stewart will inaugurate the Winter Fridays at Four with a talk on Russia. Expect more information as January arrives.



### The International Student Experience in the Classroom

When: January 27 at 4:00pm  
Where: Trustees Room (ALUM 302)

Come join us as we listen to a panel of international students talk about their experiences at Knox. They will explore what worked best for them and what was quite problematic. No discussions of the cafeteria food! This is pure FacDev gravy to help our students.

## Program Reviews

Program reviews are continuing. The Math Department held there and gained a lot in examining and re-examining the major. The Data Sciences and the Biochemistry programs are moving forward. Both are planning for their retreat this month.

I have contacted several non-academic programs to give one-on-one discussions on the process and schedule. I have also emailed those programs going up for review in this current cycle. The kick-off event will be on **February 6**.

### Assessment

For general information about assessing your academic program, as a part of regular ongoing assessment activities or part of a program review, please visit the Departmental Assessment Tools page.

- <https://www.knox.edu/offices/faculty-affairs/departmental-assessment-tools>

## The 411 Corner

A fellow faculty member requested some information on FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. So, let me address FERPA in this month's **411 Corner**.

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. To oversimplify this complex topic: If something is an educational record, then it must be kept confidential. For faculty, it is an educational record if you wrote on it. So, if you graded an





assignment and tacked it to the bulletin board for a student to pick up later, you violated FERPA. If you handed a graded assignment to one student to take to another who is not there, you violated FERPA. If you posted a list of student names in order of highest to lowest grade in the class... you violated FERPA.

So very many of my teachers over the years violated FERPA repeatedly. Yikes!

If, on the other hand, if you have your students peer-assess and grade each other, you did *not* violate FERPA. This clarification on what constitutes an “educational record” only happened in 2002. So, the case law continues to change and (hopefully) grow more specific.

As you can guess, there is a lot more to it. For more information on FERPA, please visit this page:

- <https://www.knox.edu/offices/faculty-affairs/ferpa>

The Faculty Development Office is planning to hold an event dedicated to FERPA and how it affects us. Stay tuned for more information.

## The Book Corner

This month in the **Seymour Library Faculty Development Collection**, let me draw your attention to

Bertram Gallant, T. (2011). *Creating the Ethical Academy: A systems approach to understanding misconduct and empowering change in higher education*. Routledge.

Beyond the striking cover illustration, this edited volume (LB3609 .C74 2011) tackles ethical misconduct, exploring both why it is happening more now and what can be done about it. This book strongly argues that ethics needs to be foundational to a college, an institutional priority.

Knox’s Faculty Development Collection is located to the right of the circulation desk. This book, along with many others, can be found there.

DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE  
HARVEST YOU REAP BUT BY THE SEEDS  
THAT YOU PLANT.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*



## Faculty Funding Opportunities

### ACM Academic Leadership Fellows

If you are a tenured humanities faculty, then the ACM is delighted to be entrusted with a [grant of \\$1.16m from the Mellon Foundation](#) to support the next cohort of ACM Academic Leadership Fellows. If you are interested, please contact Ole; he has the necessary information.

### Financial Support for Your Research and Creative Work

Whether you are looking for seed money for a new project or just need a bit of help finishing something already under way, the Committee on Faculty Resources (CoFR) can help. We support your professional work at all stages of development.

#### Support for Research, Creative Work, and Conference Travel

- Upcoming Research and Creative Work (R/CW) deadlines:
  - January 24, 2025  
(first call for Summer 2025 and last call for Spring Term 2025 projects)
  - April 18, 2025  
(last call for Summer 2025 projects)

Other sources of funding are decided on a rolling deadline. These include

- For Conference Travel Allotment (CTA), use this form:
  - [https://knox.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_dpzxil6xLgPspPo](https://knox.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dpzxil6xLgPspPo)
- For External Grants and assistance, visit our grants office:
  - <https://www.knox.edu/support-knox/grants-office>
- For the Cultural Events Committee, visit this site:
  - <https://sites.google.com/a/knox.edu/cultural-events-committee/>