



January
2025

FacDev Chatter

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

Notes from the ADFA



Knox College is still closed, at least until tomorrow morning. The entire December Break went by far too quickly... probably because so many things happened. There were workshops — both major and minor — offered. Program retreats were aplenty. FEC continued exploring different LMSs for us to implement next year, ensuring that the important features you wanted are included, including automatic moving of grades to the student information system, thus eliminating us needing to manually transfer grades ourselves.

This December also had me prepare for teaching a course in the Winter Term. As I prepared, I thought about the words of my mentor about the need to be an amateur in the profession. The course planning gave me a peaceful time to think through what I want to the students to get from the course — both measurably and not.

I think that is one major benefit of these “quiet” times. We get to pause, take a deep breath, and recenter ourselves and what we want to achieve in our teaching. This leads us to being better in the classroom and loving our jobs even more. This helps you work hard to make education accessible to all our students.

For that, I thank you.

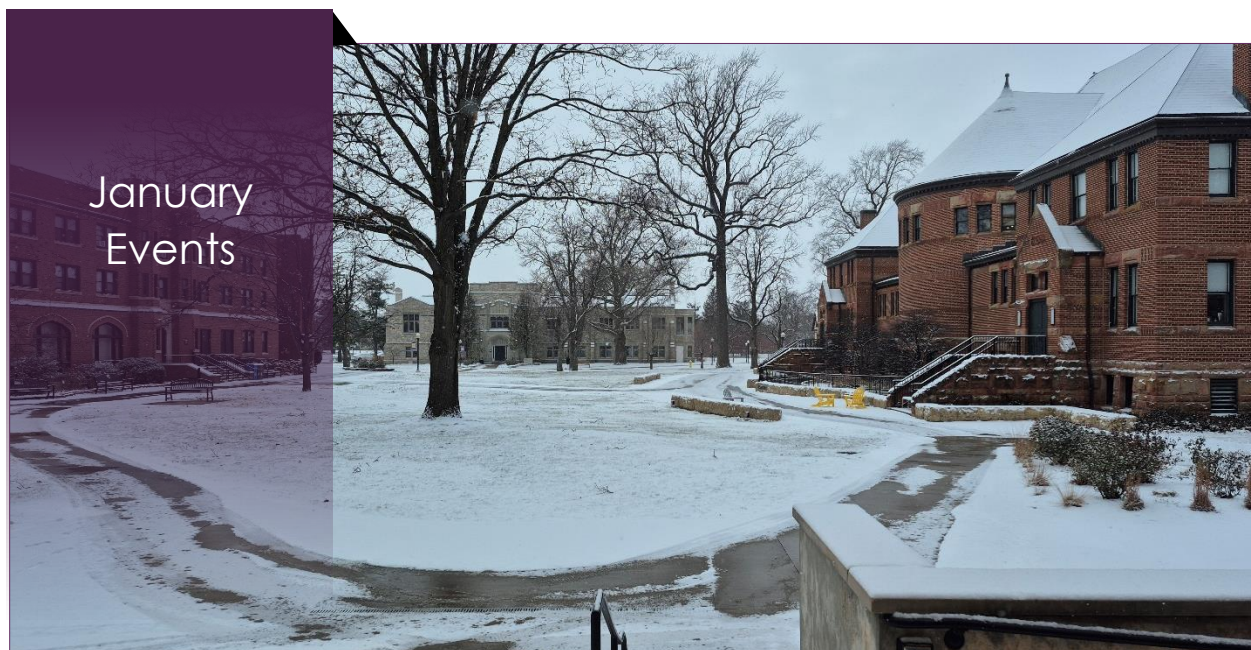
~ Ole

The Fac Dev Calendar

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Upcoming January Happenings

In Galesburg, January tends to be much colder than December. With that being said, the outlook for January is that the temps will be slightly above normal. This all depends on boundaries of the positive phase of the Pacific-North American pattern. If the plunge happens east of us (most likely), then it will be warmer than usual. However, if it happens west of us, then be prepared for a polar plunge!

Martin Luther King, Jr.

When: January 20

The Knox community always celebrates the birthday of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. On the 20th, there will be shortened classes (45 minutes long) and a celebration starting at 11:00. Expect another email from the Provost with specifics on what form that celebration will take.



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.



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 problematic. No discussions of the cafeteria food! This is pure Faculty Development gravy to help our students.



Brown Bag Tuesdays

Have questions? Want to build connections? Bring your lunch and join us. While each week has a topic, the fundamental purpose is just to build fellowship and community. Here are the dates and planned topics for this term:

Making Efficient Use of Google Suite	January 14
CoFR and Faculty Funding	January 21
Designing Engaging Assessments	January 28
Advising Updates	February 4
Fink's Taxonomy, I	February 11
Fink's Taxonomy, II	February 18
Universal Course Design	February 25

Other Upcoming Events

Knox College Re-Opens	January 2
First Day of Classes 🎉	January 6
Haruki Murakami's Birthday	January 12
January Faculty Meeting	January 13
Program Review Kickoff	February 6



The Learning Management System (Digital Transformation)

The Faculty Experience Committee (FEC) continues its exploration of a new LMS for Knox. 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.

Update: It appears that we have narrowed the choice down to three options: Blackboard, Brightspace (a.k.a. D2L), and Canvas. Our duty for January is to experiment with the three and make a recommendation. The comments left in the survey that FEC sent in November will be used to evaluate them.



Program Reviews

I have emailed the eight programs going up for review in this current cycle. The kick-off event will be on **February 6** at 4:00pm in the Trustees Room (ALUM 302). A Google Calendar eVite has been sent to all programs coming up for review this cycle. If you did not receive this invitation, and you think you should have, then please email me.

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. This page is growing.

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

The 411 Corner

There have been some questions about **the “Math Proficiency” requirement** recently. Note that there is no math proficiency requirement for graduation, only as a pre-requisite for certain courses. How a student meets that requirement is given in the catalog, but the catalog is large. While its structure makes perfect sense, it takes a while to learn that sense. So, in the most recent iteration, this can be found on page 26.

Proficiency in elementary mathematics is demonstrated by satisfying one of the following:

1. Obtaining a score of 24 or above on the ACT math component.
2. Obtaining a score of 590 or above on the SAT Level 1 math component. For students taking the SAT prior to 2016, a score of 570 is required.
3. Receiving credit for CTL 120 or a course in the mathematics department at the level of MATH 121 or above, or receiving transfer credit for a course at the level of MATH 121 or above.
4. Receiving a score of 3 or higher on the Knox College Mathematics Placement Examination (KCMPE).

For the fourth option, the student *should have* taken the placement examination prior to their initial advising. You should be able to see their score on their advising page (“Advisee Details”) by clicking on “Academic History.” Their placement is the number to the right of “PLACE.”

If your advisee needs to take the KCMPE, please contact the current administrator of the exam, Ole Forsberg.





The Book Corner

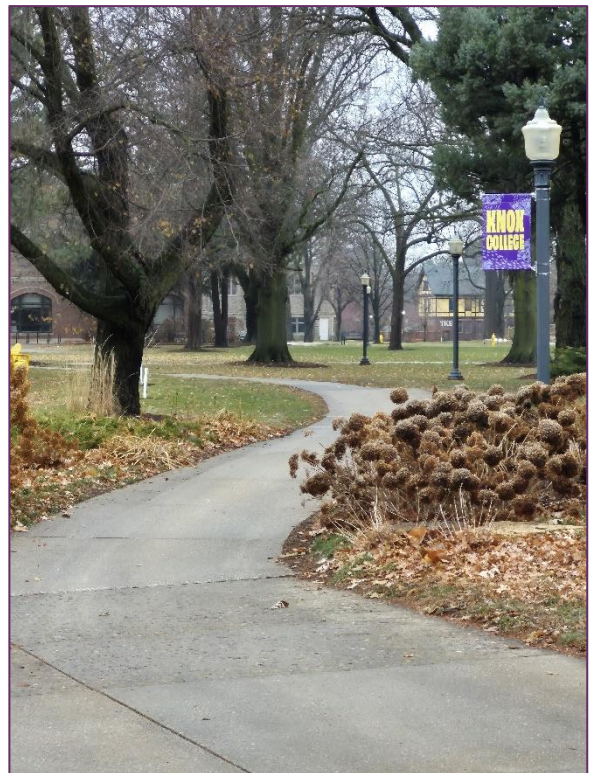
This month in the **Seymour Library Faculty Development Collection**, let me draw your attention to

Zimmerman, J. (2020). *The Amateur Hour: A History of College Teaching in America*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

When taking my teacher classes in the early 1990s, I was taught to always be an amateur in the classroom for two reasons. First, because an amateur understands they are a novice and must continue learning to become better. Second, because the word “amateur” comes from the Latin “to love” and we should be in love with teaching. But, perhaps this should *not* be the correct mindset?

This book (**LB2331 .Z56 2020**) provides a lengthy history of teaching at the college level and explores the common complaints throughout that time. Zimmerman then examines the roots of these complaints and comes to an interesting conclusion about teaching in the academy. I would give that conclusion, but Zimmerman’s book is well worth the read. So, please do.

Knox’s Faculty Development Collection is located to the right of the circulation desk. This book, along with many others, can be found there. I encourage you to visit the collection and see what else we have available.



KNOWING IS NOT ENOUGH; WE MUST APPLY.
WILLING IS NOT ENOUGH; WE MUST DO.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Faculty Funding Opportunities

There are no new funding opportunities. The following is a repeat of December's announcement. More information can be found on the "Faculty Funding" page at

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



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 its 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
- 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/>