



April
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.

Flowery Notes from the ADFA



And just like that, March is gone and April is here. The weather is the typical Midwest Spring, with heat followed by snow followed by thunderstorms followed by heat — in the same day.

In this month's FacDev Chatter, there are the usual items. In addition to the usual Friday at Four, we have Michal Ran-Rubin holding a session on Civic Engagement, the last part of the "new new Knox" curriculum started back in the far time of Laura Behling.

The 411 Corner reminds us about the importance of letting our online bookstore, Akadémos, know our book adoptions. The faculty development book looks at how we can better support — and challenge — our first-year students to help them make the transition from high school to college. Finally, there are the usual notes on faculty funding. (Go CoFR!)

Spring seems to be the season of rebirth. When life get difficult and we wilt, we know that there will be April, breathing new life into our spent bodies and wearied souls. That we share this renewal and hope with our students helps them through the darkest winters. And for that, I thank you.

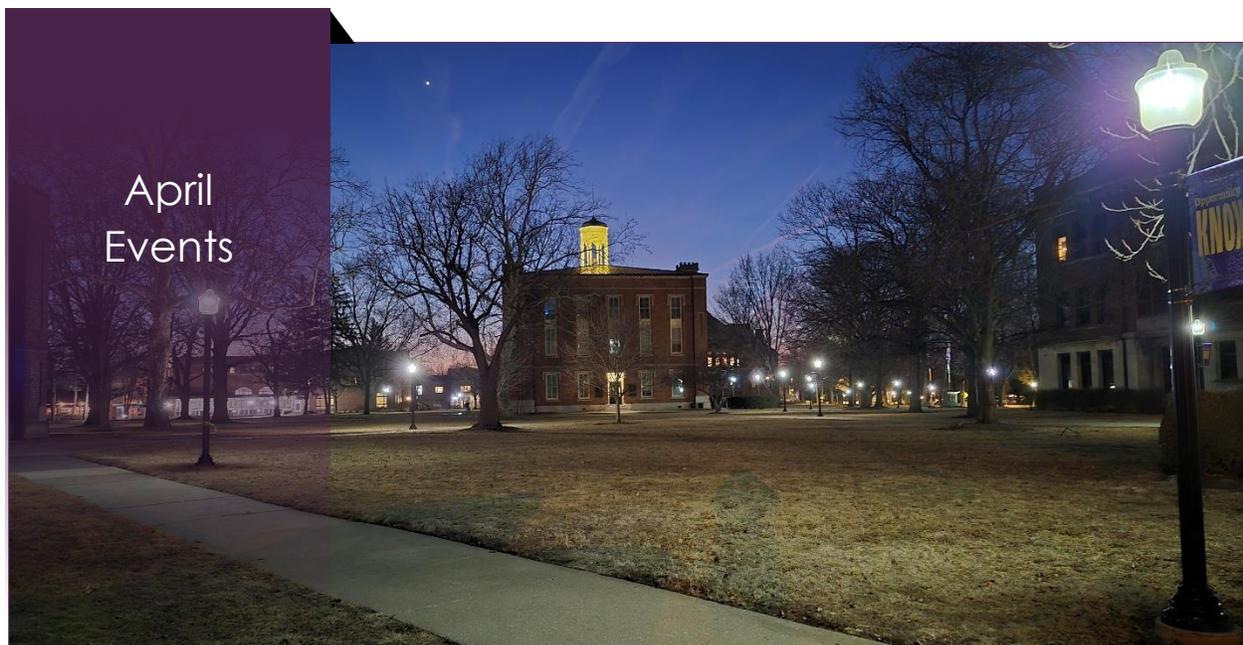
~ Ole

The Fac Dev Calendar

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April
Events

Upcoming April Happenings

I'm still trying to remember March. I think it came in like a lion and left like a lamb... but it went by so quickly that I do not remember. I do remember that Spring Break was quite a bit shorter than last year's. Thus, this was a bit of a disappointment.

This month offers two main events. The first is a discussion of Civic Engagement at Knox and the curriculum. The second is Stuart Allison's Friday at Four talk on ecological restoration.

Civic Engagement Q&A

When: April 18 at 4:00pm

Where: Abolition Lab (Seymour Library)

Due to scheduling conflicts, this was rescheduled from March. Come join us to find out about Civic Engagement, the last part of the "new new Knox" to be implemented. What is it? What should it be? Why do we need one more graduation requirement? What have other faculty said about this? What do other schools do? These, and more, questions should be asked and answered in this meeting.

THE VALUE OF LIGHT IS NOTICED WHEN NIGHT FALLS.

- Kenyan Proverb

Friday at Four

When: April 25 at 4:00pm

Where: Trustees Room (ALUM 302)

The first of two Spring Term Fridays at Four will be held near the end of the month. Come and celebrate Stuart Allison and his research. We will enjoy good food, good company, and a talk about successful ecological restoration. 😊

Other Upcoming Events

AbLab Spring Conference	April 4 – 6
April Faculty Meeting	April 7
Civic Engagement Q&A	April 18
 Earth Day	April 22
April Friday and Four	April 25
Annual Writing Workshop	May 17

The May Writing Workshop

Save the Date! Given the feedback, we are holding the annual writing workshop in May this year. Given the encroachments on your summer schedule, we decided that having the workshop in May, during the term, would give everyone the opportunity to attend, as well as give them some important things to think about over the summer.

With that being said, please save the date: **Saturday, May 17**. It will be an “all-day” event held in the Trustees Room. While this is designed for FP instructors and other teachers of first-years, I encourage all to attend. I will be there because I teach two courses with paper requirements, and I would like to discover ways to make it easier for the students (and on *me*).

The guest speaker is Jaclyn (Jaci) Wells, who gave a writing workshop a few years back. Given how well she did, I am very happy that she is joining us again. By the way, Jaci is a local. Her family is in Macomb. So, she knows all about us. In fact, she provided a fantastic workshop a few years back.

The 411 Corner

This month, let us look at **book orders**.

Being a student is expensive. Students frequently need to save up money to afford the books and equipment assigned for classes. To help our students plan, Knox has an online bookstore. This bookstore, Akadémos, brings all required (and suggested) books into one place for the students. While it is a federal guideline, think of this as a way to support our students.

To specify the book requirements for your course, go to the Akadémos website

<https://knox.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>

and log in. The home page shows your missing adoptions, as well as the timeline for the term (graphic at the top). Personally, I just click on “Courses” on the left to see what adoptions I am missing. Clicking on the course allows me to specify the required book(s), the recommended book(s) and whether or not there are books available.

I find that the easiest way to select books is through using the ISBN number. This means that you can use physical books and/or online books. Note that Akadémos may be out of the book for whatever reason. If they are out, you will want to contact them to determine why they are out and when they will have the book back in stock.

Two final items of note. First, many of our students are not aware of this bookstore or that the required books are posted in a central location. **Advisors**, please remind them that this is available and that they should take advantage of this for their own good.

Second, while many of our students will purchase the book through Amazon (or elsewhere), if they wish to use book vouchers from Knox, they will need to use Akadémos. Thus, it is very important for you to submit your book adoptions.

If you have any questions, please email me and I will either know the answer or find the answer for you.

Together, we can help our students become better at being students.



The Book Corner

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

Upcraft, M. Lee.; Gardner, John N.; Barefoot, Betsy O. (2004). *Challenging and supporting the first-year student : a handbook for improving the first year of college*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.

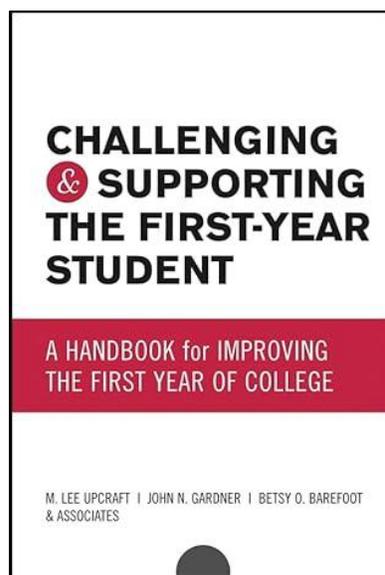
One of the core aspects of a Knox education is our “First-Year Experience.” This is more than just the FP class. It extends to all aspects of student life at a residential, liberal arts college.

So, as *non-FP* faculty, what can we do to help our students (first-year and beyond)? Making things easy for them is not the right answer. They need to be challenged. They need support. This can be done in *all* of our courses. In fact, reminders of what it means to be a “good student” are helpful for all.

As FP faculty, it is even more important to support and challenge our first-years. We are the only ones who can shape an entire generation of students, teaching them why education — genuine education — transformative education — is important to them and to our future.

The book (**LB2343.3 U63 2005**) gives insight into how we can support our students in their time at Knox while challenging them to grow as people.

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.



Faculty Funding Opportunities

The following is mostly a repeat of my previous announcements. As always, more information can be found on the “Faculty Funding” page at

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

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

- The final Research and Creative Work (R/CW) deadline for the fiscal year:
 - April 18, 2025
 - This is the last call for Summer 2025 projects.
- Applications for your first CTA award continue as before.
- For applications and information for these two resources, please visit
 - <https://www.knox.edu/offices/faculty-affairs/faculty-funding>

Note that other sources of funding are decided on a rolling deadline. These include

- For the Cultural Events Committee, visit this site:
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/knox.edu/cultural-events-committee/>
- For External Grants and assistance, visit our grants office:
 - <https://www.knox.edu/support-knox/grants-office>