



June+  
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.*

## Graduation Notes from the ADFA



The stage is set. On Sunday, the students who have become a part of us will walk across that stage and off into the next phase of their lives. This time of the year is bittersweet like chocolate. It is a time to celebrate their accomplishments. It is a time to reflect on how they have helped us grow as faculty members at Knox.

We are also about to walk across our own stages. What we do over summer is very different from what we do during the other 10 months of the year. We have our projects but aren't bound by a daily schedule. We can travel to Berlin or Paris or Idaho to pursue our research agenda. And we are.

One of the greatest parts of this job is that I get to see what y'all are doing over summer. From library research in Greece to workshops in Donostia, from radon monitoring on the moon (or the Craters of the Moon) to writing in Maine, we seem to be spreading to the four corners and doing it all.

While you are away, please remember us here. The first event of the academic year is the New Faculty Orientation, followed closely with the Advising Workshop and the Fall Faculty Conversation. Given all we'll experience over the next year, these introductory events will be even more important than ever before!

But before then, you'll set the world on fire. You'll make your mark. And you'll bring fresh passion back to the classroom.

And for that, I thank you.

~ Ole

## The Fac Dev Calendar

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### In this issue:



Summer Events



New Faculty Orientation



Advising Workshop



Faculty Conversation



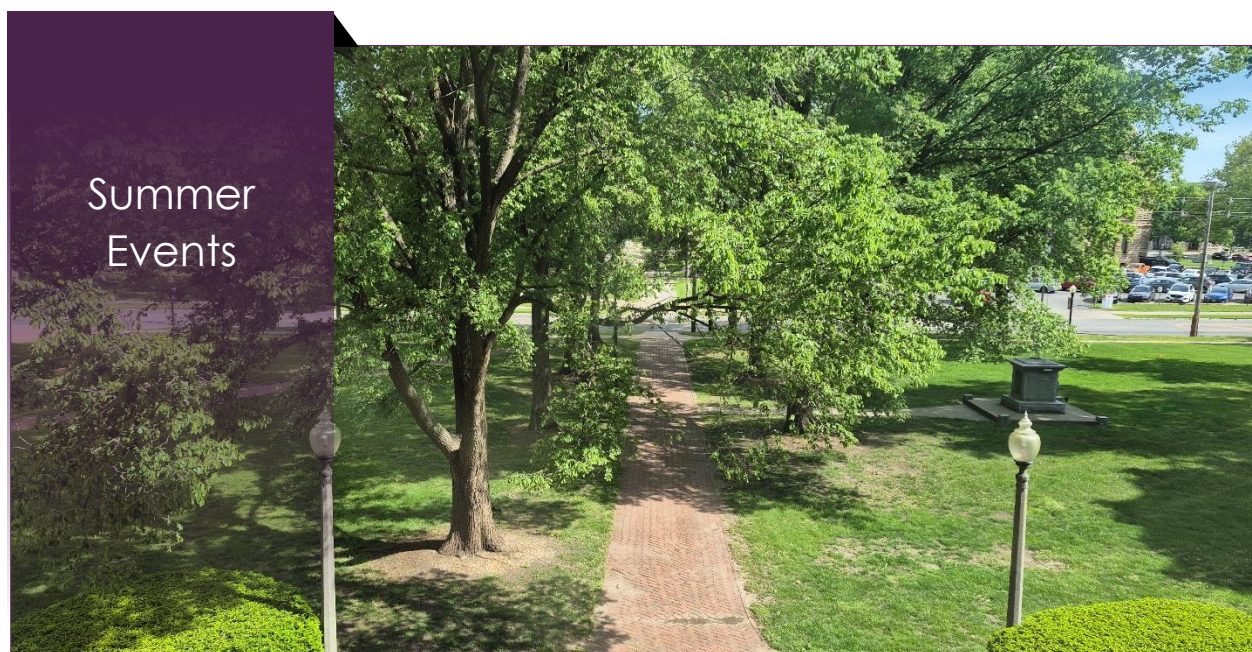
The Book Corner



New Funding!!



CoFR Funding



## Summer Happenings

One of the major pieces of feedback I received during the previous academic year was that we really need our time away to do research and to “touch grass,” and, to quote one colleague, “Stop doing things in the summer!” And so, with that in mind, there are no major faculty development events this summer... by some definition of “major.”



With that in mind, let us look forward to our return on **September 1**.

## New Faculty Orientation

When: August 25 – August 28

Where: TBD

The newest members of our faculty community will join us on August 25 to begin four days of orientation to Knox and life here. This is a change from last year, where this only took three, long, grueling days. The schedule for these days are yet to be set in stone, but the plan is to spread out the same amount of orienting, hopefully to reduce the stress and increase the amount of retained material.



## 🍷 New (and Refreshing) Advising Workshop

When: September 2

Where: SMC A-201/202

Make sure to clear your calendar so that you can attend the new advisor workshop. While this is designed for our new advisors (usually those who are entering their second year at Knox), returning advisors may find value in attending this workshop.

This workshop covers the theory of advising, *not* the specifics of how to advise in the new J1 system. The new processes will be covered in the Fall Faculty Meeting and Conversation on the next day (see below).

More information about this event, including a sign-up sheet, will be forthcoming in early August. So, please be on the lookout for that in your email inbox. 📧

## 🍷 Fall Faculty Meeting and Conversation

When: September 3

Where: TBD

Mark your calendars! Our first faculty meeting of the year is set for September 3. While the agenda's still coming together, two big highlights await:

1. Meet our new Dean — let's give her a warm welcome.
2. Hands-on training with our shiny new SIS, J1 — because who doesn't love a tech adventure?

Yes, we'll have two new systems to learn: the Student Information System (SIS) and a Learning Management System (LMS). Change? Absolutely. A few headaches at first? Absolutely. But here's the good news: this upgrade will save us time (and sanity) down the road—I promise!

Plus, the new LMS isn't just a change; it's a game-changer. Imagine redesigning courses in ways we couldn't before, all to give our students an even better experience.

So come ready to learn, laugh, and maybe even high-five a colleague over surviving the demo. Let's tackle this transition together—see you there!





## Fridays at Four


When: Six times next year!

As I head off into the summer, I will be contacting several of you to be the guest speakers at next year's Fridays at Four. To increase the emphasis on faculty celebration, I hope to slightly modify some of the events. Specifics are forthcoming!

The **first** Friday at Four will be on September 26, from 4:00 until 5:00. Stay tuned for who will speak and what will be said.



## List of Upcoming Events

The 180 <sup>th</sup> Commencement of Knox College	June 8
Juneteenth	June 19
Birthday of Peter Lorre 	June 26, 1904
New Faculty Orientation	August 25 – 28
Start of Academic Year	September 1
New Student Orientation	September 10 – 14
All-School Pumphandle	September 14
September Friday at Four	September 26







## The Book Corner

This month in the **Seymour Library Faculty Development Collection**, and thanks to Jessa Dahl for this recommendation, let me draw your attention to

Jensen, J. (2017). *Write No Matter What: Advice for Academics*. University of Chicago Press.

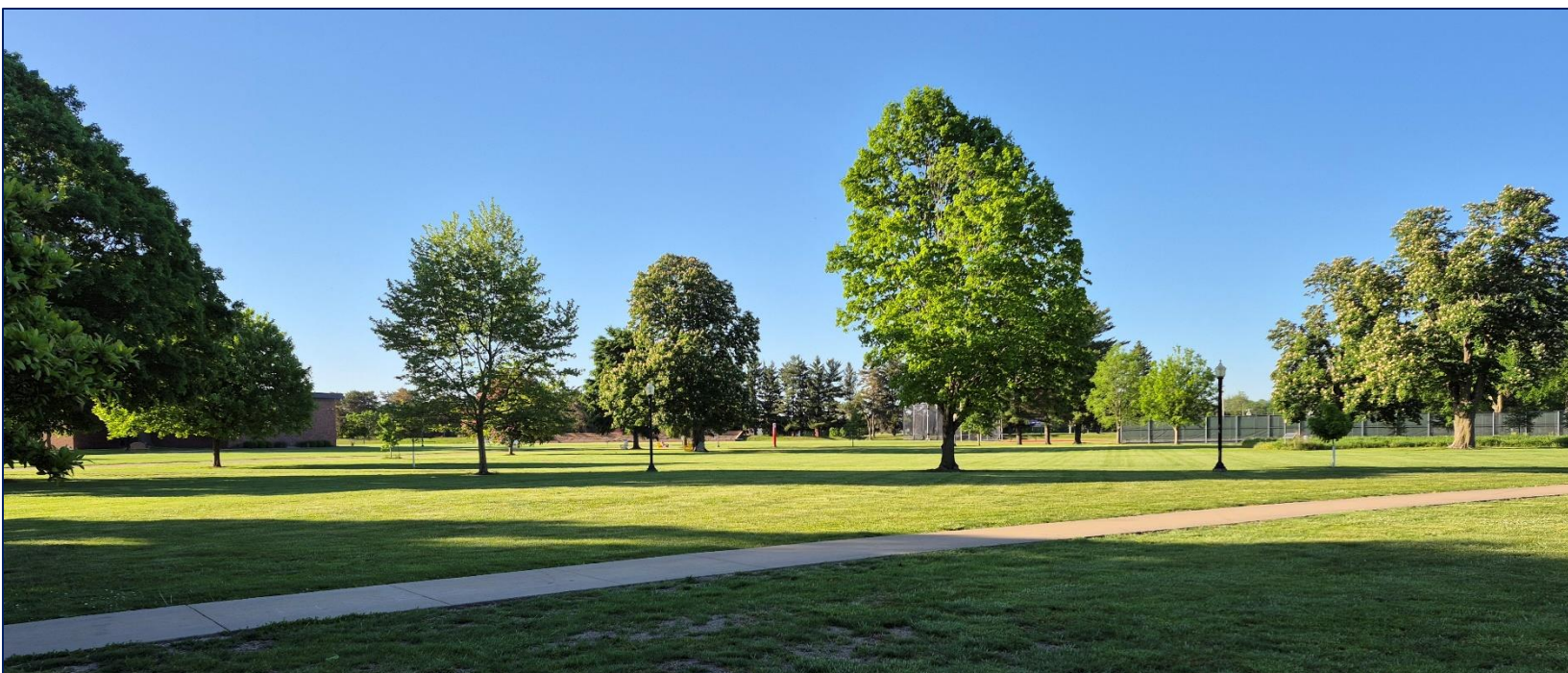
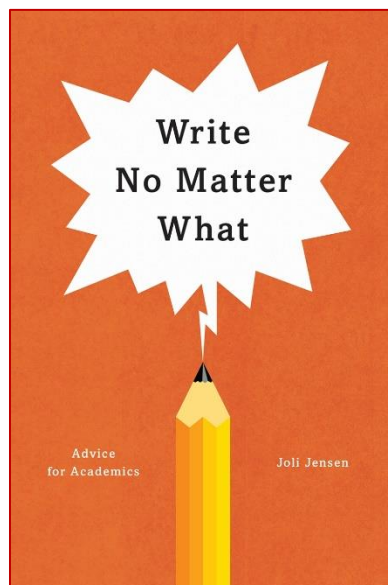
This month's book explores how to start writing... especially with all the competition for our time. I remember as a first-year faculty member here pleading for some insight into getting started on research and writing with all the other things I had to do. I wish I had this book back then.

According to the publisher, Jensen begins by busting the myth that colleges and universities have supportive writing environments. She points out that academia, an arena dedicated to scholarship, offers pressures that *prevent* scholarly writing. She shows how to acknowledge these less-than-ideal conditions, and how to keep these circumstances from draining writing time and energy. Jensen introduces tools and techniques that encourage frequent, low-stress writing. She points out common ways writers stall and offers workarounds that maintain productivity.

Her focus is not on content, but on how to overcome whatever stands in the way of academic writing.

This book (**LB2369 .J46 2017**) forces us to think more about our writing lives and to “cut down the academic sword of Damocles.”

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.



## New Faculty Funding Opportunities

This month, we have **two new faculty funding opportunities**.

### Mellon “Abolition for All Time” Faculty Innovation Grants

This grant program for Knox College faculty seeks to inspire further exploration of the “Abolition for All Time” Lab themes and advance innovations in Knox College’s academic program and co-curriculum. The Abolition Lab aims to inspire reflection on core principles of the College’s founding — including equal access to education and social activism — and their contemporary expression through civic engagement today.

**Eligibility:** All faculty members are invited to apply, including both previous participants in Abolition Lab projects and those who have not yet participated. We particularly welcome proposals that explore the implications of Ab Lab projects, whether directly or through new dimensions and approaches.

**Scope:** Proposed projects are not limited to humanities disciplines. We welcome discipline-based and interdisciplinary approaches that advance students’ engagement with social and ethical issues.

**Aim:** The aim of this grant opportunity is to generate innovative proposals for the future of the Knox education. Successful projects will use the grant period to identify goals, establish parameters and possibilities, outline needs and expectations, and examine the prospects for the proposed innovation. Final reports will present an actionable innovation plan.



For more information, please see Mike’s email of May 30. Our review of the applications will begin on **June 20, 2025**, and will continue until all available funds are allocated.

Submit your grant application here:

<https://forms.gle/1jzDiFdXkVCLdeyp8>



## ACM Grants Lab

This retreat-style event is designed to help faculty, staff, and institutional leaders turn promising ideas into competitive grant proposals. With expert-led workshops, dedicated writing time, and targeted peer feedback, participants will leave with tangible progress and greater confidence in their ability to make their external funding goals a reality.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) will cover costs (lodging, on-campus meals, programming, and partial travel reimbursement) for up to five participants from each member campus. Attendees can use the ACM Grants Lab to develop a wide range of proposals

### Who should attend?

Attendees need to have a general idea of a project or initiative to develop during the ACM Grants Lab. The event will guide participants through the proposal development process, but it's not a time for blank-slate brainstorming: Participants should "BYOI" (Bring Your Own Idea).

### The Application Process, Part I:

To maximize the benefit of this program to Knox College, Ole is accepting applications. The application should be an email to Ole J. Forsberg by **Friday, June 13**. In that email, provide answers to each of the following questions:

1. The ACM Grants Lab will be hosted on the Macalester College campus in St. Paul, MN, from August 12–15, 2025. Are you able to attend *all* of the days?
2. What is your current experience level seeking external grants and support? Have you done it in the past, or is this your first?
3. As you think about the proposal you want to develop, which disciplinary field at Knox best aligns with the focus?
4. Describe the project or proposal you want to develop in the ACM Grants Lab. Be sure to include central questions and likely outcomes of the project (200 words or fewer).

On the weekend of the 15th, we will go through the applications and provide the next steps in the process (a.k.a.: Application Process, Part II). So, please watch your email for an announcement on June 16.





## CoFR Funding

As we move into summer, the Committee on Faculty Resources (CoFR) is on vacation. This gives you the opportunity to think about what you want to accomplish next year. Which conferences are calling your name? What projects are crying out to be started and/or completed? While away from Knox, this may be the summer for planning your academic year.

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 has passed. However, please plan and submit them. We want to fund your research and your creative work.
- 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>