



February
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.

Sunny Notes from the ADFA



March comes in as a lion and leaves as a lamb... or is it the other way around? Whichever it is, March provides our first lengthy taste of the promises of spring. This is something we ache for, especially after the snow and frigid weather of February.

In this month's FacDev Chatter, there are the usual items. There is just the Friday at Four this month (election testing!!). The 411 corner examines the importance of advising in the lives of our students, because it is a high-impact practice (HIP). The faculty development book gives some "Tricks of the Trade" to help us see our curriculum in different lights. Finally, there is the usual notes on faculty funding. (Go CoFR!)

This FacDev Chatter includes a new feature: **Senior Shout Outs**. The senior class officers approached me and asked if there was a way for them to let faculty know how much they mean to the students. This led to seniors sending them "Shout Outs," which are now a part of the Chatter for as long as they send them. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the shouts, because it reminded me of all that we do for the students. Even when it does not seem like they care, we now have evidence that they do.

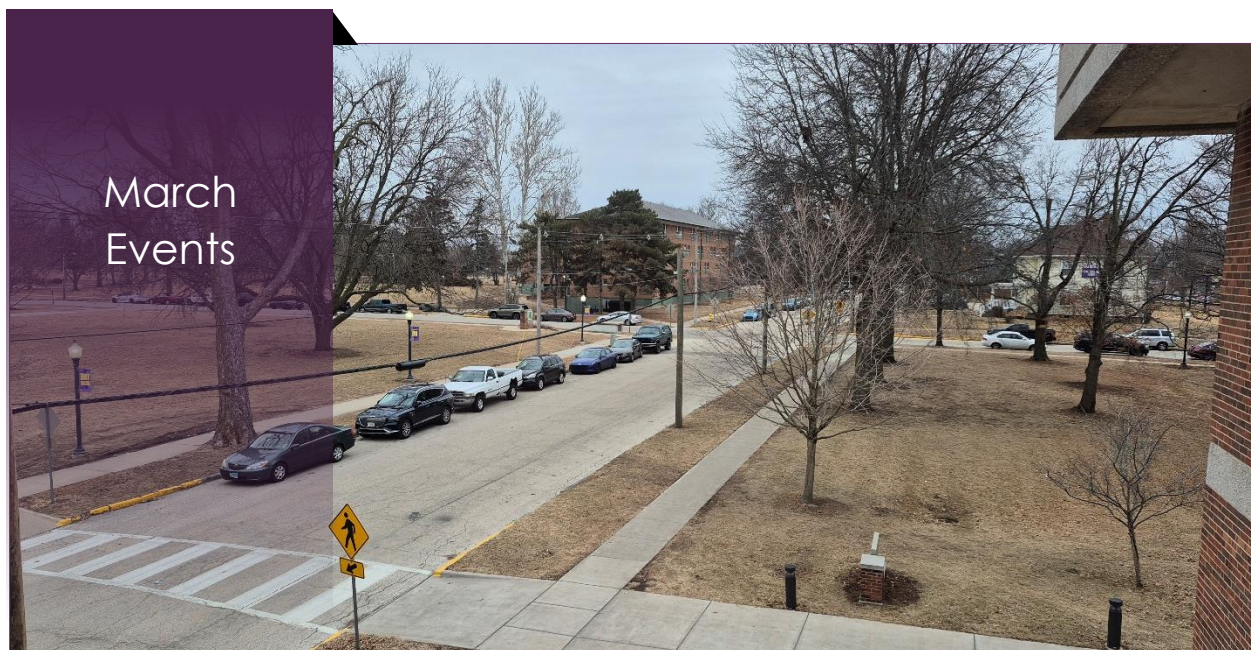
~ Ole

The Fac Dev Calendar

Subscribe by clicking here →

In this issue:

- March Events
- Senior Shout Outs
- The 411 Corner
- The Book Corner
- Faculty Funding



🦁 or 🐕 ? Upcoming March Happenings

As we continue the academic year, Faculty Development events do seem to be a bit scarce in March. This is only because of all the things going on in the background. We are finishing our recommendation for Knox's next Learning Management System, we are continuing to ensure that J1 meets expectations for advising, and plans are being laid for the First-Year Preceptorial courses in Fall. Apparently, still waters run *very* deep.

🕒 Friday at Four

When: March 6 at 4:00pm

Where: Trustees Room (ALUM 302)

Winter Term is almost over. Celebrate a successful term with our March Friday at Four. This event has Ole Forsberg discussing the arc of his research agenda and how it ties into remote testing for unfairness (and fraud) in elections outcomes. He promises to keep the numbers to a minimum... for what his promises are worth. 😊

IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LOSING EVERYTHING, REMEMBER, TREES
LOSE THEIR LEAVES EVERY YEAR, YET THEY STILL STAND TALL AND
WAIT FOR BETTER DAYS TO COME.

- Proverb

Other Upcoming Events

The March Faculty Meeting	March 3
Reading Days	March 12 and 13
Albert Einstein's Birthday	March 14, 1879
Grades Due	March 18
Spring Term Classes Begin	March 26
Civic Engagement Q&A	March 28
AbLab Spring Conference	April 4 – 6
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: **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.



Senior Class Shoutouts

I am always looking for ways to celebrate you and what you do for our students. The senior class has given me yet another opportunity. They are starting to send me “shout outs” of (or to) faculty members that mean something special. Here they are for this month (lightly edited for space):

Katie Adelsberger (ENVS)

Shout-out: Your support means so much, thank you for all you do, advising season and beyond! Thank you, Katie!

From: Alex '25

Thomas Bell (PSIR)

Shout-out: Thank you so much for all of your advice and council during this incredibly stressful law school application process. When I first met with you a year and a half ago and I was just a bundle of questions and a dream, and now I'm actually going to law school! In large part this is due to your advice and counsel.

From: Izzy '25

Jonah Rubin (ANSO)

Shout-out: You have been an incredible professor. When I needed help or assistance you always believed me and worked with me to get me what I needed. It didn't matter if it was course material, scheduling, or figuring out how the college worked. You were always there. It means the world.

From: Winter '25



The 411 Corner

This month, let us look at some **High-Impact Practices** (HIPs) and student advising. I suppose the first question is “Why should we?” This is easy to answer:

- HIPs are experiential learning initiatives that promote deep learning.
- HIPs can help increase student retention
- HIPs are based on evidence that they benefit students, especially those from groups that have historically been underserved by higher education.

According to Keup and Young (Being HIP), the usual list of HIPs includes (a) first-year seminars and experiences, (b) common intellectual experiences, (c) learning communities, (d) writing-intensive courses, (e) collaborative assignments and projects, (e) undergraduate research, (f) diversity and global learning, (g) service learning and community-based learning, (h) internships, and (i) capstone courses and projects. These all work together to ensure that the student can get the most out of their college experience... and to encourage the student to remain in college.

Knowing this gives us advisors an advantage in helping our students. In addition to us being able to steer our students into HIPs, we can also use out advising sessions as a HIP itself. Keup and Young write “advising is critical to students’ navigation through the curriculum, stewardship of personal resources, major exploration and selection, and identification of career pathways.”

And so, as we move to a new student information system (SIS) and new mechanics for advising our students, let us also think about the purpose of our advising. Here are some additional sources on how advising is a high-impact practice:

- [The Role of Advising in High-Impact Practices](#)
- [Advising as a Pathway to High-Impact Practices](#)
- [Being HIP: Advising as an Emerging High-Impact Practice](#)



The Book Corner

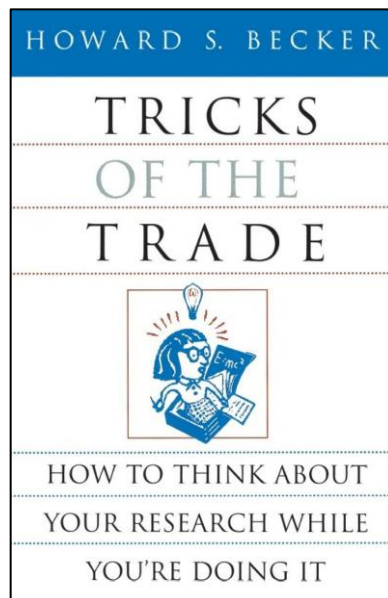
This month in the **Seymour Library Faculty Development Collection**, let me draw your attention to

Becker, Howard S. (1998). *Tricks of the Trade: How to think about your research while you’re doing it.* (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing). University of Chicago Press.

Becker designed this book to help you (and your students) think about your research projects. Using the techniques covered in this book, both you and your students can make better sense of research and simultaneously generate fresh ideas on where to look next for new data. The tricks cover four broad areas of social science: the creation of the “imagery” to guide research; methods of “sampling” to generate maximum variety in the data (go stats!); the development of “concepts” to organize findings; and the use of “logical” methods to explore systematically the implications of what is found.

The book’s advice ranges from simple tricks such as changing an interview question from “Why?” to “How?” as a way of getting people to talk without asking for a justification to more technical tricks such as how to manipulate truth tables.

The book (**H91 .B38 1998**) provides examples from a wide variety of fields, including art history, anthropology, sociology, literature, and philosophy. So, even if you are number-averse there is something in this book for you.



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>

To subscribe to the Faculty Development calendar, click here:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y185YTgyNDcyNjA0Y2ExMTFmODU3YWMyYzVjNGRiM2VhNjZhYmY2ZWU3MTMzNjlkNzM1Y2Y1OTdkNTA0NTQyNTI0QGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>