

KNOX COLLEGE

Q+A

Your LGBTQIA+ Guide
to life @ Knox

INTRODUCTION

Cheers, Queers & WELCOME TO KNOX!

Here at Knox College we try to cultivate a sense of belonging and community for a diverse student body made up of folks from all different walks of life.

This zine's purpose is to serve as a resource for LGBTQIA+ students navigating life on campus. Held within these pages are on-campus and outside resources that will come in handy while you figure yourself out, find community, and discover joy at Knox College.

If you are an ally, questioning, or just beginning your queer journey, the [2022 LGBTQIA+ Resource Guide](#) may be a better starting place! Check it out on the Knox website!

The following page is a table of contents that will let you skip ahead to the important parts if you are in a rush – but I encourage you browse with intention, as you may discover things you didn't even know you wanted or needed within these pages and within the hallowed halls of Knox College!



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ToC

HOUSING @ KNOX

The housing selection process at Knox is gender neutral and all of our living spaces are gender inclusive.

Incoming students have the option to self-identify their gender and sexuality. Then, they can select if they have roommate preferences - if they want to live with a roommate of the same gender or not, or if they don't have a preference.

Our residence life team is as intentional as possible with how they do housing placement -- don't be alarmed if you get a call from them before you arrive on campus to get a more in depth idea of how you want to be housed! And don't be afraid to reach out if you have questions or are uncomfortable with your housing situation, they are here to help!

After their first year on campus, students go through the housing selection process in the Spring, where they pick their roommates and select where they would like to live together. Spend intentional time leading up to housing selection thinking about who you want to live with, the choice is yours! Once you know WHO, it is time to chose WHERE: you are not guaranteed your first choice, so make sure that you have a backup plan and that you and your suitemates are ready when selection time comes! Resident Assistants are your first point of contact when it comes to residential life. RAs receive training on conflict mediation, LGBTQ+ equity, and advocacy every year -- they are there to help you with whatever you need!

If you want to know more about the specifics of housing at Knox College, visit <https://www.knox.edu/campus-life/living-at-knox/residences> to learn more!



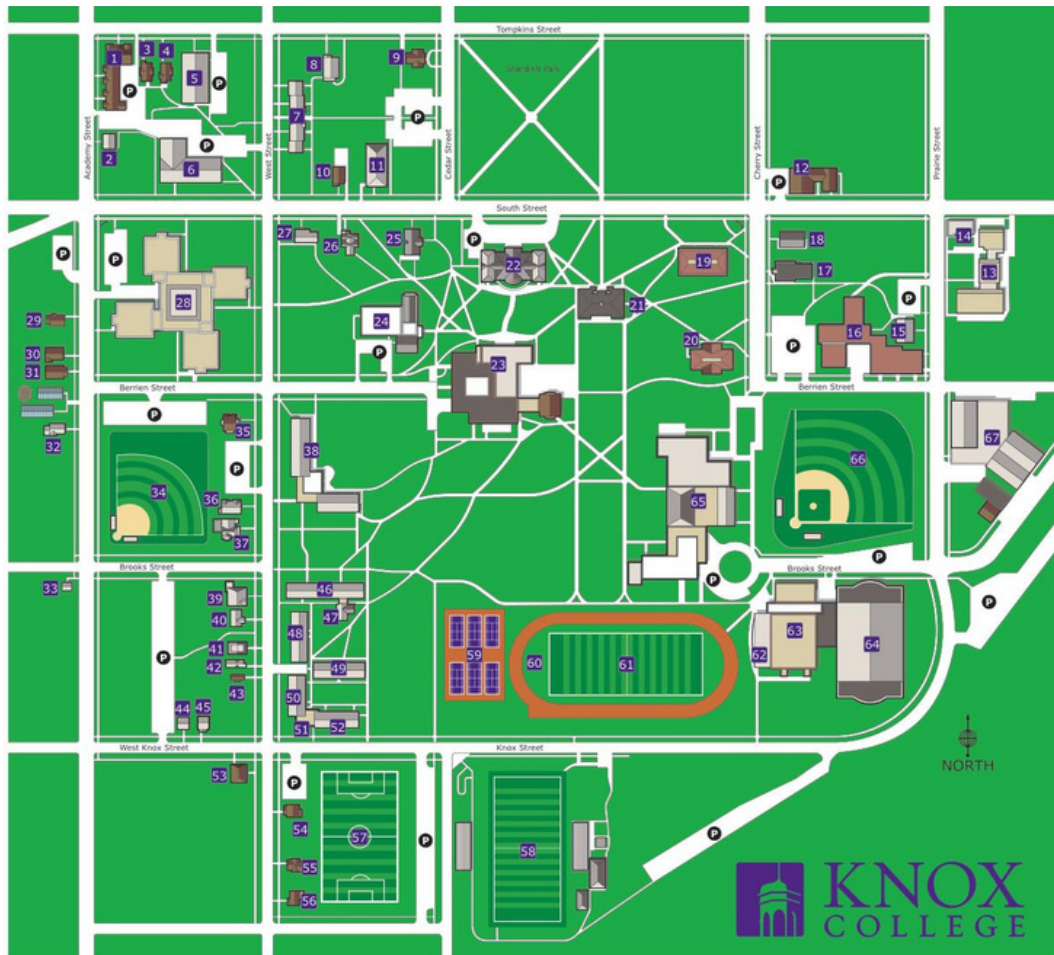
Q&A House

KNOX HOSTS A VARIETY OF CULTURAL HOUSES, THEME HOUSES, AND FRATERNITIES AS LIVE-IN SPACES. QUEER AND ALLY HOUSE IS A SPACE WHERE LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AND ALLIES CAN LIVE AND LEARN TOGETHER. TO LEARN MORE, JUMP TO [Q&A HOUSE](#)

Gender-Inclusive Bathroom Map

GN - Gender neutral or gender inclusive

ADA - compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act; Accessible bathrooms

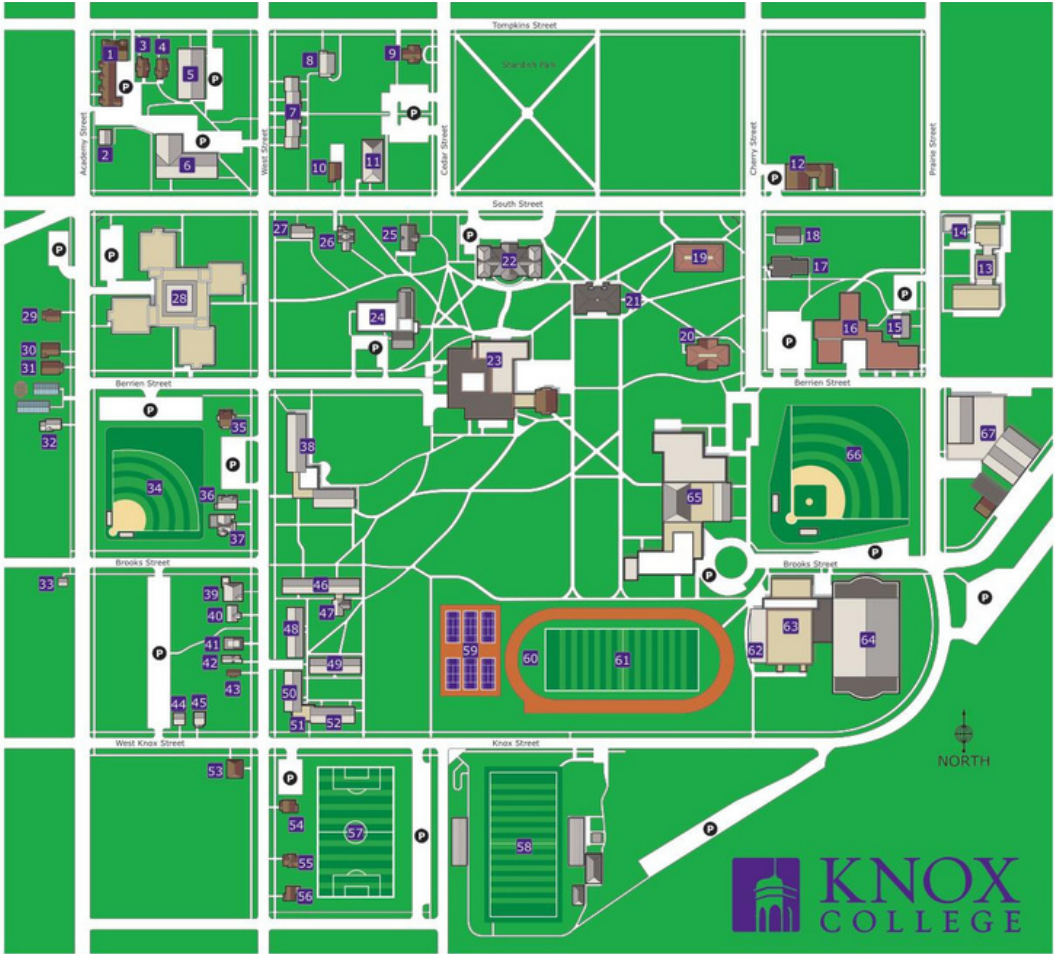


Academic & Administrative Buildings, Open during Business Hours

- 15. Admin Services Building**2 single stalls, gender marked
- 22. Alumni Hall**1st and 3rd floor, 4 GN single stalls, ADA
- 12. Borzello Hall**East side, single stall
- 65. Center for the Fine Arts**1st floor, GN single stall, next to Kresge, ADA
- 36. Center for Teaching and Learning**1st floor, GN single stall, ADA
- 14. Communications Office**2 single stalls, gender marked
- 19. George Davis Hall**1st floor, GN single stall
- 10. Gender & Sexuality Center**1st floor, GN single stall
- 51. Health and Counseling Center**1st floor, GN single stall, ADA
- 18. HOPE Center**Basement, 2 multi-stall GN bathrooms, ADA



Gender-Inclusive Bathroom Map

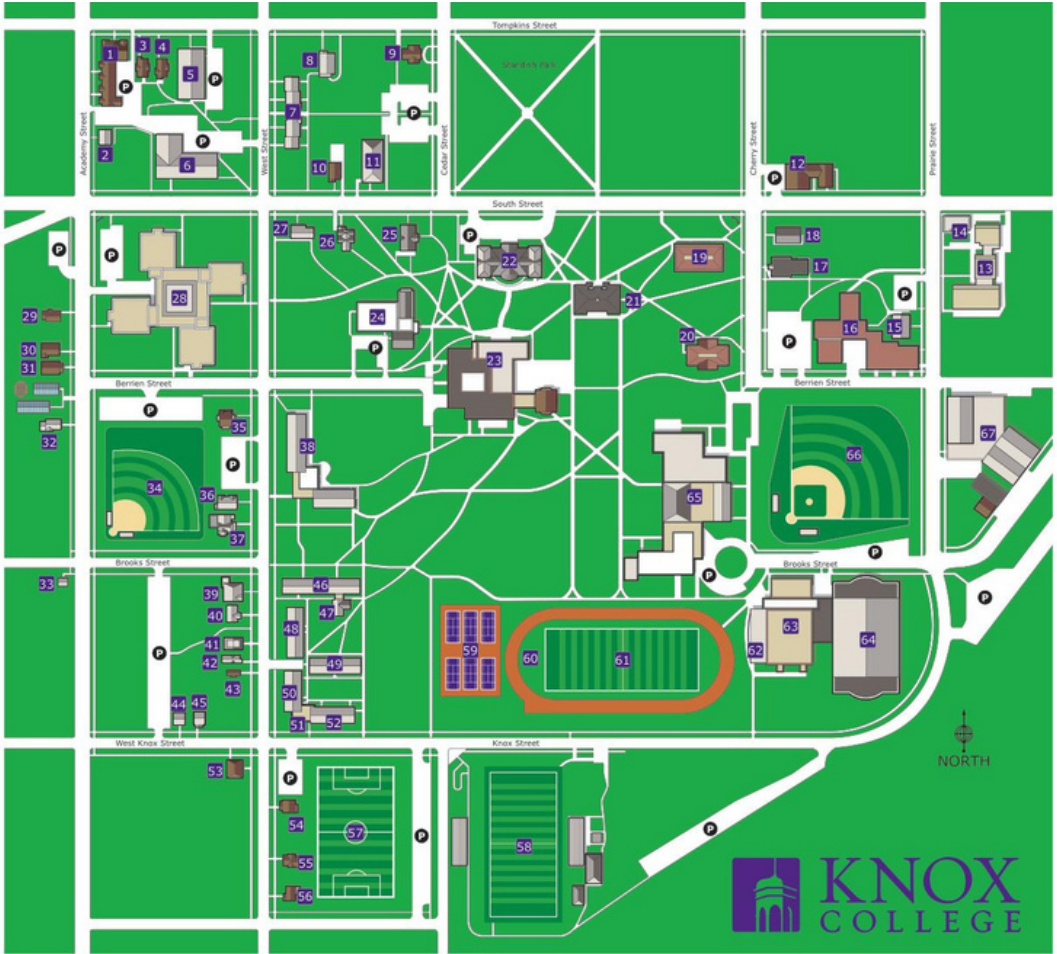


Academic & Administrative Buildings [Continued] Open during Business Hours

- 27. Howard Wilson House.....2 GN single stalls, *open for events or by request*
- 17. Old Jail.....1st floor, unmarked single stall
- 21. Old Main2nd Floor, 2 GN single stalls on the east and west sides of building
- 38. Post Lobby.....1 single stall
- 24. Seymour Library 1st floor, 2 GN single stalls
- 23. Seymour Union.....1st floor, GN single stall, ADA, *open 24/7*
- 48. Share Shop (Conger-Neal Basement)1 single stall
- 47. Sustainability CottageGN single stall, ADA
- 28. Umbeck Science-Mathematics Center.....1st floor - B wing, GN multi-stall, ADA
- 67. Warehousesingle stall, ADA
- 13. Whitcomb Art Center2 GN single stall on each floor, ADA



Gender-Inclusive Bathroom Map



Fraternity & Sorority Houses, Cultural Centers, etc.

- 8. ABLÉ Center for Black Culture** 1st & 2nd floor GN bathrooms
- 56. Asian Cultural House** 2nd floor GN bathroom
- 54. Casa Latina** 2nd floor GN bathroom
- 30. Delta Delta Delta Sorority Meeting House** all bathrooms
- 44. Harambee House** 2nd floor GN bathroom
- 32. Human Rights Center** all restrooms single stall – unmarked, ADA
- 35. International House** 1st & 2nd floor GN bathrooms
- 33. Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Meeting House** all restrooms
- 31. Pi Beta Phi Sorority Meeting House** all restrooms
- 45. Q&A House** 2nd floor, GN single stall

Most, if not all, residential spaces have single stall or gender inclusive bathrooms. These living spaces are not open to the public. To ensure bathrooms in your residential space will meet your needs, please contact Campus Life (campuslife@knox.edu)

Cultural Houses host open hours during the day, but operate as living spaces with access for residents and by request. Only members and invitees can access Greek houses.



CHANGING YOUR NAME

Name Change

In support of an inclusive community, Knox has established a process whereby a current student may use a chosen name that is reflective of their gender identity. This change does not require a legal name change -- only the completion of an online form.

By filling out this form, your chosen name will appear on the online campus directory, class rosters, and your Knox ID. Please be aware that your chosen name will also appear on communications from the college to you and your family including Dean's List letters, academic standing letters, and communications from Financial Aid. If this is a concern for you please think critically before filling out the form and deciding on a name change.

Your legal name is necessary in a few areas of the college, including but not limited to: official financial aid documents, payroll, medical records, tax forms, student transcripts, and any other place where the College is mandated to do so by law.

You will get a new Knox College ID card printed with your chosen/preferred name. You also have the option of getting a new picture taken. The replacement card fee will be waived. You may get a new card one time only. Student Development will facilitate the request on your behalf and notify you when you can pick up your new card.

CHANGING YOUR NAME



**TO REQUEST A NAME
CHANGE CLICK HERE!** >

Knox College E-mail Display Name

To change the name that appears on your Knox e-mail, please follow the steps outlined on the page linked below.

**TO CHANGE YOUR EMAIL
DISPLAY NAME, CLICK HERE!** >

Legal Name/Gender Change

Students seeking to change their legal name/gender marker with the College should report to the Registrar's office with legal documents supporting a name/gender change. Please expect a waiting period before these changes are reflected across our system. Questions about legal name or gender marker changes with the College can be directed to Registrar@knox.edu.

GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER (GSC)

161 W. SOUTH STREET, GALESBURG, IL

Monday: 3:50pm-8pm

Tuesday: 3:50pm-9pm

Wednesday: 3:50pm-8pm

Thursday: 3:50pm-8pm

Friday: 9am-8pm

Weekends: by request/as needed

The Gender & Sexuality Center is an on-campus space for LGBTQ+ students to gather, meet, and spend time in community. The space can be reserved for student group meetings and events. If you would like to reserve the GSC please reach out to Tianna Cervantez, tcervant@knox.edu



[CLICK HERE to learn more about the student groups that use the GSC](#)



GENDER AFFIRMING CLOTHING CLOSET

161 W. SOUTH STREET, GALESBURG, IL

The Gender Affirming Clothing Closet is a student-run space within the GSC where students can donate their used clothing items and take whatever they need.

The closet helps to make gender affirming clothing accessible to students regardless of financial status.

You can expect to find clothes of various styles and sizes, shoes, jewelry, accessories, unopened/new makeup, and more.

This includes binders, body-tape, and gaffs for tucking and binding provided by [Common Ground](#).

[CLICK HERE for Safety Tips & How-to for Tucking](#)

[CLICK HERE for Safety Tips & How-to for Chest Binding](#)



ToC

LGBTQ+ HEALTH

SEXUAL, REPRODUCTIVE, AND GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

Knox College offers [Health and Counseling Services](#): an office where you can access mental and physical healthcare.

Here are some of the sexual and reproductive healthcare services provided on-campus that may be relevant to you:

HEALTH SERVICES: ON CAMPUS

- **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Testing for:** Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, HIV, and Syphilis
- **On site treatment for** Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Herpes
- **Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Treatment**
- **Yeast Infection & Bacterial Vaginosis Treatment**
- **Contraceptive consultation and prescriptions for:** Vaginal ring (Nuvaring), Patch, and Pill
- **Free Contraceptives:** Condoms, Dental Dams, Female Condoms, etc.
- **Pregnancy Tests**
- **Emergency Contraception**

Location

Furrow Hall, 175 West Knox Street

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone

309-341-7559

To schedule an appointment in Health Services, please call (309)341-7559 or email health@knox.edu.

FAMILY PLANNING OF WESTERN ILLINOIS

311 East Main Street, Suite 409, Galesburg, IL 61401
309-343-6162

Mondays & Tuesdays, 8am - 4pm
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9am - 5pm
Fridays, 8am - 12 pm
(visits by appointment only)

- Testing & Treatment for STI/STDs
- Pregnancy Testing
- Breast Health Care
- Birth Control
- Treatment and Testing for Vaginal Infections
- Annual Exams (by appointment)
- Free contraceptives (condoms, lube, etc.)

FRIENDS OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

120 NE Glen Oaks Avenue, Suite 201, Peoria, IL 61603
(309)671-2144 **outreach@centralillinoisfriends.org**

Tuesday: 10 am - 5 pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm

All services from Friends are free and confidential – you do not need ID or insurance to be serviced at one of their locations or mobile clinic service

- Free STI/STD/HIV Testing
- HPV Vaccinations
- Prescriptions for PEP/PrEP
- Safe Sex Kits (Condoms, Lube, etc.)
- Support for People living with HIV
- Hormone Replacement Therapy & Other Gender Affirming Care

Health Services at Knox College works closely with [Family Planning of Western Illinois](#) to expand our reproductive/sexual healthcare offerings.

Family Planning works in partnership with [Friends of Central Illinois](#) to offer more comprehensive LGBTQ+ focused healthcare, namely **HRT access and PEP/PrEP**, in the city of Galesburg. Students can call FRIENDS directly at **(309)671-2144** and FRIENDS staff will start to schedule students to be seen in-person at Family Planning of Western Illinois starting October 2023.

To learn more about what LGBTQ+ focused care is available in our region, [CLICK HERE.](#)

LGBTQ+ HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELING

At Knox we have a counseling team dedicated to educating themselves in order to better serve our LGBTQ+ student population, along with all students on our campus seeking counseling services. We have counseling professionals trained in LGBTQ+ issues. Here at Knox we offer:

- **Individual Counseling:** We offer short term individual counseling. The counselor and student will work together to determine the best method of care for the student's concerns.
- **Group Counseling:** Every term we offer a variety of group options for our students. These groups change as interests change, and have included an LGBTQ+ group in the past.
- **Crisis Counseling:** There are times when a student is in crisis and needs immediate assistance. Students are encouraged to call Counseling Services during office hours during times of crisis. See [Crisis Sessions](#) for more information.
- **Outreach:** Our staff is available to provide outreach programs on a wide variety of topics to the Knox community. See the [Upcoming Events](#) page for more info. To request an outreach event, please complete the online [Outreach Request Form](#). Please submit requests a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event date.
- **Consultations:** We are available to faculty, staff, and students for consultations regarding how to best assist a student. On or off campus referrals are also available.
- **Advocacy Session:** We offer students who have questions regarding the Title IX process or are a survivor of sexual assault, the opportunity to speak to a trained sexual assault advocate, in a confidential setting.

Knox now offers TimelyCare - a virtual health and well-being platform. TimelyCare provides 24/7 access to virtual care from anywhere in the United States at no additional cost to you.

Visit timelycare.com/knox or download the TimelyCare app from your app store and register with your Knox email address.

Location

Furrow Hall, 175 West Knox Street

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone

309-341-7492

Make an appointment by calling or emailing Counseling Services
at counseling@knox.edu

ToC


Student Organizations

Q.T.P.O.C.C. QUEER & TRANS PEOPLE OF COLOR COLLECTIVE

QTPOCC is a space for students to educate themselves, show support of, and share experiences of being a queer and/or trans person of color on campus. QTPOCC provides a space for Queer and Trans People of Color to feel safe to talk about and address their experiences as it pertains to being a Queer and/or Trans person of color at Knox College. By facilitating and discussing a variety of topics, identities, and backgrounds, QTPOCC encourages challenging oppressive systems and spaces, and creates ways for supporters of the community to become allies and engage in activism.

COMMON GROUND

Common Ground is an LGBTQ+ activism club on campus. The club's main goal is to create a safe environment for students to express their identity freely and to make positive change through open dialogue between students, faculty and the administration. Common Ground practices intersectionality, and celebrates all romantic, sexual, and gender identities.



Q&A HOUSE

Q&A House provides a safe environment for LGBTQIA+ students to express their identity freely. This center honors intersectionality and celebrates all romantic, sexual, and gender identities including those who are exploring their sexual and gender identity/expression. Q&A Center welcomes members of the campus community who are LGBTQIA+ identified and allies.

This cultural center is not only a space for students to gather during open hours, it is also a live in community where you can find belonging, acceptance, and opportunities for growth!

If you would be interested in living in Q&A House, reach out to Associate Dean and Director of Intercultural Life, [Tianna Cervantez](#) to learn more about our cultural centers!

Learn about the experience of joining a fraternity or sorority on campus from some of our college's LGBTQ+ members and leaders.

LGBTQ+ FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE STUDENT PROFILES

featuring Izzy Oliver, Hayden Fay, Corgan Ball,
Sage Isenhardt, Li Wang, & Avery Leigh

ToC

HAYDEN FAY

HE/HIM

Hayden is the current president of the Delta Theta chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity and comes to Knox from Colorado Springs. He is a senior pursuing a degree in Creative Writing with a minor in Film Studies. Hayden is a trans person who is also aromantic and asexual.

How did you get into FSL?

"I did not plan to join a fraternity when I came to Knox. I was identified as nonbinary then and I didn't really know my identity or anything -- I was just kind of there. I just had a really bad day and I ended up at a recruiting event for Sigma Nu. One of the brothers said I looked like I wasn't okay and we went upstairs and watched a movie instead of participating in the event. I didn't find out it was a recruitment event until afterwards. They asked if I wanted to join and I said 'I guess', haha."

What parts of Fraternity life have surprised you?

"The brothers were very welcoming and supportive while I figured myself out. What really surprised me was the support I got from the brothers with what I was going through. If I didn't join SNU I wouldn't have the community that I have. Over the past year I have noticed a bond forming -- stronger than its been before."

Why did you end up joining?

"People join FSL for the community but I joined for other reasons. I saw the opportunity for leadership and the history of no hazing -- I said that if I was going to join Greek life this is most likely the organization I would do it with."

What is it like to be an LGBTQ member of your organization?

"We do have a lot of queer members and all of the members support each other regardless of their identities and I think that is the most important part."



ΣΝ

IZZY OLIVER

SHE/HER

Izzy is a Gender & Women's Studies major from Boulder, Colorado. She is the current president of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, the Public Relations Chair for Knox College Choir, and has been involved with the Outdoor Adventure Club!



What has your Sorority experience been like?

“I identify as bisexual or queer kind of interchangeably, and have been out since I was 14. For the most part it’s just been part of my life and I really didn’t think twice when I joined a sorority. I knew queer people in sororities already and I think that helped a lot. I always knew going through it that my identity would be accepted”

How would you compare the FSL culture at Knox to other places?

“Knox is a very specific place. If I didn’t see myself represented in sorority life I would have thought twice about joining. At the national level pretty much every sorority and fraternity is still using gendered language and we are very unique because we don’t. It is so important to us that people feel supported and welcomed. If I really think about it I can think of more queer people in FSL than straight people, and maybe that’s because that’s who I am closest with.”

How do our practices at Knox differ from the National Organization?

“I don’t think they typically care about being cisgender or not but there is a lot of use of gendered language at the National level. None of the sororities use gendered language here; going through recruitment we emphasize it. There are nonbinary members going through recruitment and already part of the organization. We do what we need to do on the national level but we don’t do that here. When we have visitors and speakers from nationals we let them know that we don’t use gendered language and we emphasize that to our members when we have to do trainings with gendered language and stuff like that. Luckily, almost all of our alums have been incredibly supportive.”

What would you tell incoming students about FSL?

“Everybody wants you to be there, no matter who you are. We are building a family, and even though we don’t agree with everything our national chapter does we are doing the best we can to listen to our new members. The chapter is made up of the great people who join -- we are here to fight for you.”

LI WANG

HE/THEY

Li is the Lt. Commander or Vice President of the Delta Theta Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He is a Creative Writing Major and Chinese Minor, planning to also pursue a minor in Computer Science. They also serve as the current President of the InterFraternal Council. Li is from Bloomington-Normal, Illinois.

What surprised you the most about being in a Fraternity?

“Growing up I was never into social gatherings or going out. My perception of FSL was a lot of partying and hanging out, being on the social scene constantly. One thing that really surprised me was that there are a lot of responsibilities and opportunities to do things for the chapter that aren’t going out and having parties all the time -- running the discord, responsibilities in the house, going to meetings, putting up flyers -- opportunities for me to get involved that don’t put me outside of my comfort zone all the time, which is nice.”

What do you like about being an LGBTQ member of SNU?

“That there are members who are and aren’t queer. It is nice having people as part of the organization who have some of the same struggles -- but it also means it doesn’t matter so much. Having queer and non-queer members means we get to have deeper conversations about being queer, and all of our identities and how that influences our lives. Joining a fraternity was a huge help for me in finding myself -- having a community investing in me and my skills and showing me examples of how other men were living their lives and being able to pull from their experiences was really nice.”

What advice would you give to students interested in joining FSL?

“I was under the impression that FSL wasn’t an option for me because of my identity. But a lot of alums have paved the way for queer and trans people in FSL at Knox. There were so many people who were a huge help and paved the way. They told me that this isn’t a community you need to hide yourself in.

This community is existing and growing and we are all just a much a part of it as your other brothers.”



ΣΝ

CORGAN BALL

THEY/THEM

Corgan is in their fifth year at Knox, pursuing a dual degree in Vocal Music and Education, focusing on arts administration. They are the current Vice President of Operations and DEI for Pi Beta Phi, the President of the Panhellenic Council, and the Vice President of the Order of Omega Greek Honors Society. Corgan is involved in Knox College Choir, where they serve as the President, and Tersichore dance collective. Corgan is from Iowa and lives in Galesburg full time now.

What surprised you about FSL as an LGBTQ person?

"I had this skewed perspective of sororities because of media -- a very mean, toxic environment that I never wanted to be part of. I went to recruitment with some friends because I figured it would be a good way to meet people and everyone was so welcoming and accommodating. Every house felt safe and like I was genuinely making friendships and making connections -- not being quizzed to see if I was good enough to join. I liked everyone a lot more than I thought I would, so I ended up going through with it and I am still here!"

What do you think led you towards so many leadership positions?

"I want to see more people who don't fit the typical look and standard of sorority leadership in these roles, I think that's very exciting. Down the road at another Illinois Chapter, their president is nonbinary and that is a big deal for our sorority -- it doesn't happen that often. To know that there are leaders all around us who are nonbinary, transgender, LGBTQ is so exciting. I want to create more events and show that there is space for people to feel included in our organizations. Also I just love being a leader -- working with other people, making cool things happen, and seeing progress. Being a part of growing this community in a positive way, obviously I want to be part of that."

What advice do you have for LGBTQ+ recruits?

"Don't come in with any specific ideas -- be open minded. Think of it like you are joining a club rather than a traditional sorority. Be yourself and get to know everyone without stigma in your mind -- let us know how we can accommodate you and make you feel welcome. We love every single person who comes through recruitment and we want you to be here."



IBBP



SAGE ISENHART

THEY/HE

Sage is an International Studies major, with minors in Japanese and Psychology. They are a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, and served as the House Manager before going abroad. He identifies as nonbinary and transmasculine. Sage has spent the last year studying abroad in Japan and working with the Diversity club at his Japanese college; he is the first International Student to serve as the Vice President!

When you joined your organization, what parts of FSL surprised you?

“Sigma Nu is different from how I pictured fraternities. They seemed very welcoming for someone who is not a cis male. One of my friends encouraged me to go to one of their parties, Sigma-Boo. A lot of the brothers there were really welcoming and really open and a lot of them were queer, which was kind of the reason why I got involved.

Joining a fraternity kind of scared me I didn’t know if I wanted to do it because of money and all the stereotypes and rumors but how open they were really made me feel welcome.”

How do you navigate Sigma Nu as a nonbinary/trans member? What was it like to come onto campus, come into your queerness, then join a fraternity?

“I didn’t know what nonbinary or trans was before I got to college. For a long time I identified as Butch. For a while in middle school and high school no one wanted to interact with me because I never bothered to be feminine. And then I got to Knox and I was just generally happy to see other people like me and feel seen. Suddenly all the people I was surrounded by were either nonbinary or trans -- all of the people I was hanging out with were queer and transmasculine and they all became SNU members. They were very affirming of me asserting, ‘Hey, I’m masculine, please treat me as such’ and they did.”

How would you describe the Delta Theta Chapter?

“The National organization is very Christian- based and very military-based, which is not how Delta Theta operates. Delta Theta is our specific little group of gremlins. Most of us play DND, most of us play video games -- we’re nerds.”

What advice would you have for new students looking to join?

“Be friends before you become a member. It can be terrifying to not be able to say certain things or do certain things to be a member. But friends of the house have access and that way you can get to know people and how things work before jumping into something more permanent.”



AVERY LEIGH



Avery is the Director of Operations for Delta Delta Delta Sorority. She is a soccer player and participates in activities with the campus' printing press. She is an Environmental Science Major with a Minor in Statistics from Wisconsin.

What about FSL surprised you the most?

"I was an informal recruit, and I was surprised that one of our required meetings centered on learning about ourselves and respecting other people. We had a session about gender identity, sexuality, race, interests, and more. It felt really inclusive. The other thing that really surprised me a lot was that we use gender neutral terms to describe other people in our sorority -- we just call everyone Deltas. I didn't think I was going to join a sorority so I didn't think about how hard they try to include people."

Why didn't you think you were going to join a sorority?

I always figured sororities were like Bama Rush -- big and competitive and you have to wear white dresses. But, I was just looking for some people to hang out with and one of my friends on my soccer team joined and she thought I would really like it. So, I met with some of the other people in Delta and I talked to and really liked them. The people are why I chose Knox so it makes sense that I would like the people in the sororities here.

What is it like to be an LGBTQ member of your organization?

It feels normal and casual. There are plenty of people who identify the same way and others who don't, but it's fun either way.

What would you tell incoming students about FSL for queer members?

"Talking to the people in my chapter is what made me want to join. They are so fun and so open and so nice and they care about everyone. Just talk to people and if you don't like it or want to join that is okay."



Get to know some of the LGBTQ+ staff and faculty that call Knox home.

LGBTQ+ FACULTY & STAFF FEATURE

FEATURING: KAYTI EVERETT, KARI SANTOS, PAUL STEENIS,
BRANDY E. WILCOX, AND NATALIE HAURBERG

ToC

Kayti Everette (they/she)

International Admissions Counselor



From: Franklin, TN

How long have you been working at Knox and what brought you here?

I started working at Knox this year in 2023! I was a student here, moved away to attend graduate school, and ended up returning to work at Knox.

What does LGBTQ+ history mean to you?

LGBTQ history to me is not only about resistance, but also resilience, and making visible the relatability of queer lived experiences. LGBTQ+ history means that I am not alone, I can look to others in the community for support, guidance, and validation when I feel alienated by larger society in addition to the lives of those who came before me. I love to read about the lives of queer people throughout history, and see my own feelings reflected in their experiences; our history informs who we are. The chronicling of queer lives, whether through written memoirs, art, photography, or letters, and the ability to see more of the queer 'everyday' experiences throughout history, is incredibly powerful. When there is so much alienation and fear, I am grateful that there are also spaces of joy and love that I can look to to find strength.

What are some of your hobbies or interests you engage in outside of work?

I absolutely love reading, I'm really excited for the new library! I also love dancing, paddle boarding, watching anime, and seeing as much live music as possible.

What advice do you have for young people navigating their LGBTQ+ identities right now?

You don't have to have it all figured out, you don't have to have the 'right words' to quantify the depth of your feelings and experiences, and you don't have to be out to everyone you know to be valid. You will continue growing and changing, it will be beautiful and painful and messy and imperfect, but there will always be people who love you through it. You are enough just by existing.



Kari Santos **(she/her)** **Admin. Assistant**

From: Minnesota originally, Iowa recently

How long have you been working at Knox and what brought you here?

I am new to Knox College as of this summer. It was time for a move in my life & new opportunities. Knox was appealing for multiple reasons. I appreciated how progressive the college has been in its history. Illinois was appealing to be closer to family & friends & a queer friendly state.

What does LGBTQ+ history mean to you?

LGBTQ+ history is being made every day, especially in times where legislation is heavily LGBTQ+ focused. Knowing history provides an opportunity to know the fantastic people who have been vocal, active, and made those legislative changes that have brought LGBTQ+ people the rights we have now. I personally find the history of queer cultures fascinating. There are so many aspects that are embedded into societal norms now. Ultimately, to me, LGBTQ+ history means thanking those who came before me so I can be openly outspoken about who I am - like in this article.

What are some of your hobbies or interests you engage in outside of work?

With having an educational background in recreation and leisure, this might be a long response! I am currently re-teaching myself piano and here are some of my other hobbies. Outdoors: walking, hiking, birding, kayaking, photography, camping, bon fires, star gazing, swimming, herb gathering, plant identification, walking my cats, gardening. Indoors: knitting, art (digital, drawing, painting), reading, naps, piano, video games, socializing, making food or treats, reading spooky stories, D&D, making up random songs.

What advice do you have for young people?

The advice I have for young people navigating their own identities is to be kind to yourself. It is ok to not know at this moment. It is ok for things to change. It is ok to explore. It is ok to ask questions. As long as you keep working towards what I call "your favorite self" - you are doing an amazing job. You got this more than you know!

Paul Steenis (he/him)

Director of Gift Planning

From: Neenah, Wisconsin



How long have you been working at Knox and what brought you here?

I enrolled at Knox as a first-year student weeks after graduating from high school, worked on campus every summer while a student, and then become an admission counselor soon after I graduated. I spent 37 years in the admission office, most recently as the vice president for enrollment and dean of admission. My name is on the admission letter of over half of Knox alumni! I was very active for many years as the staff advisor for our LGBTQ+ student organizations. We've had one or more active groups on campus continuously since 1988, when we also had our first big pride week and worked successfully to have "sexual orientation or affectional preference" added to the college's non-discrimination policy. Last December, I decided to try my hand at something new, becoming the director of gift planning within the advancement office. In my new role, I help people to leave a long-term legacy at Knox by including us as beneficiaries in their wills, trusts and estate plans.

When I first considered Knox as a prospective student, I knew I wanted an academically challenging, stimulating environment. Upon visiting, I also found the people to be genuinely warm and welcoming—the admission people knew my life story and called us by name as we walked in the door. What I didn't realize then was how diverse the Knox community was or how that would help me to grow over my time as a student—and especially during the many years on staff. I'm still here after all these years because of that diversity and the many ways that we continue to learn from and challenge each other—as members of a campus community—to see things from new points of view, cultural perspectives, values, and lived experiences. This is a place where everyone can find a place and find their voice.

What does LGBTQ+ history mean to you?

LGBTQ+ history is about celebrating the achievements, the resilience, and the courage of those who came before us. It's about recognizing that queer people have always been here and making extraordinary contributions in every profession and community. LGBTQ+ history—and present days events—provide a constant reminder of the challenges and injustices of our world and the need to remain ever vigilant. We are the survivors, and we must continue the fight, for ourselves and for those that come after us.

What are some of your hobbies or interests you engage in outside of work?

My husband and I love the outdoors, camping, kayaking, biking, and boating. We recently spent the weekend in Michigan at the 2023 Gay Camping Friends Midwest Regional Meetup.

What advice do you have for young people navigating their LGBTQ+ identities right now?

Whether you grew up in a supportive environment or one that caused you to keep your identity to yourself, we all face coming out in our own way and hopefully on our own timeline. Coming out is not a one-time thing—it's a process and it's a decision that we make over and over again in each new setting and new interaction. Take advantage of this unique time in your life—when you're surrounded 24/7 by your peers—to explore and discover yourself. Embrace who you are, be generous with those who don't quite understand you, and find ways to build bridges to everyone you meet.

Anything else you would like to say?

Knox is a unique and special place—one that's generally supportive and tries to do the right thing. But Knox is also a work in progress. It's an ideal. As a member of this community, you help to shape who we are and who we become. If we work together, we can make Knox a better, more inclusive place, and we can change the world.

Brandy E. Wilcox

(she/her/they is fine!)

Visiting Professor of German

From: Originally northern Illinois, but most recently Madison, WI

How long have you been working at Knox and what brought you here?

I've been at Knox for a year. For me, the students and faculty are a good fit with my personality and the level of involvement I want to have beyond the classroom.

What does LGBTQ+ history mean to you?

It's a way of remembering the battles and victories our foreparents had before us. We've done so much work to get to surviving and thriving and it's important we do not forget.

What are some of your hobbies or interests you engage in outside of work?

I play trumpet with an activist street band in Madison called Forward! Marching Band.

What advice do you have for young people navigating their LGBTQ+ identities right now?

It's ok to not know where you land in your identity right now. It will likely always be growing and changing, whether those changes be large and visible or small and personal. You are valid, right as you are right now and as you will be.

Anything else you would like to say?

I was nervous about sharing my identity in my professional life, but it's been incredibly rewarding and I've had such amazing friends, students, and colleagues that I cannot imagine not being as vocal as I am about it.





Nathalie Haurberg

Associate Professor of Physics
she/they

From: Originally? Walnut, IL
(a very small town between here and Chicago)
**How long have you been working at Knox
and what brought you here?**

I have been working at Knox about 10 years. I am a Knox alum and was drawn back to Knox because I really love the unique and diverse student body at Knox. I love working with the student body as a faculty member and it is what continually gives me energy to do my work. I also really appreciate the power of the close relationships that students are able to build with faculty at a school like Knox. I feel like as a faculty member you can get to truly know your students and often learn from them as you teach and mentor them as well.

What does LGBTQ+ history mean to you?

I find this question hard to answer, but broadly speaking, I think LGBTQ+ history embodies the importance and power of resistance. For many individuals, this resistance has manifested simply by living authentically. Although it may seem like a small act, this courage has had a transformative impact on the world, making it safer space for everyone to express their true selves.

What are some of your hobbies or interests you engage in outside of work?

I like to play guitar, collect vinyl records and cassette tapes, play video games, skateboard poorly, and build guitar effects pedals.

What advice do you have for young people navigating their LGBTQ+ identities right now?

The only advice I can really think of is to be confident in who you are and leave negative people behind; you will find people that will affirm you as you are. But also make sure you give people a chance to know who you are!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Bisexuality Awareness Week

Every year we celebrate Bisexuality Awareness in September with Bi-cream, Bi-Dye, and more fun puns about bisexuality!

Asexuality Week

Traditionally we hold an "Asexuali-TEA" party to celebrate Ace Week on campus.



OCTOBER: LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH

Each October the campus comes alive to celebrate the resilience and brilliance of the LGBTQ community. The month hosts a plethora of activities, like:

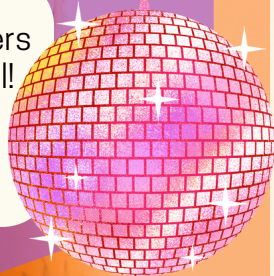
- National Coming Out Day
- International Pronoun Day
- Annual STI Testing Drive
- Sex Ed. Science Fair
- LGBTQ History Month Book Display
- "Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the Orpheum
- Much, much more!



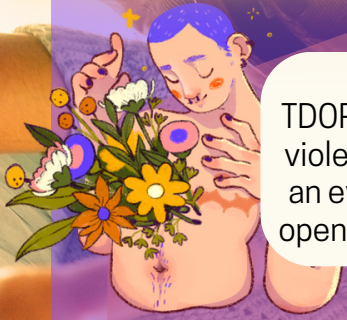
Kiki Ball

In past winter terms, QTPOCC invited performers to campus to participate in the annual Kiki ball!

A space where student performers and professionals honor ballroom culture with a dazzling show to warm up the campus!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Transgender Day of Remembrance

TDOR is a day to honor the trans people we have lost to violence this year and in years past. Knox always hosts an event to honor the lives lost, and in 2022 we began opening an altar to honor our loved ones and ourselves.

LGBTQ+ Career Conversations

This past winter 2023, in collaboration with the Career Center, we invited LGBTQ+ alumni & friends of the college to a panel on LGBTQ+ professionalism and how to make life after Knox WERQ for you!



Trashion Fashion Show

QTPOCC and Students 4 Sustainability collaborate each Spring on a sustainable fashion show featuring thrifted, second-hand, and self-made couture for Earth Month.



LESBIAN *

Lesbian Visibility Week

In 2023 the campus celebrated Lesbian Visibility Week with a rousing night of Lesbian trivia held in Taylor Lounge!

Queer Prom

Every Spring Common Ground puts on a Queer prom for students & friends. Last year's theme was Live Your Fantasy: Fairy Tales, Renaissance, Cottage Core, and Mythical Creatures



LEARN MORE
LEARN MORE
LEARN MORE

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE KNOX COLLEGE WEBSITE](#)

To learn more about LGBTQ+ life at Knox and the resources available to students, check out the LGBTQ+ page on the Knox Website!

ToC

created by
Aries Powell, LGBTQ+ Advisor
September 2023

