The Knowledge Building Summer Institute is an annual international conference in which researchers and educators meet to collaborate on advancing knowledge building pedagogy. The three of us who attended the conference are faculty fellows on Smith’s Davis Educational Foundation grant that supports the application of knowledge building pedagogy in undergraduate education. Each of us has been experimenting with the application of knowledge building in our classes. This conference offered us the opportunity to share our findings with other teachers and researchers; learn more about the application of knowledge building in a variety of contexts; learn about the latest advancements in developing the next generation of Knowledge Forum software; and develop new collaborations with knowledge building organizations throughout the world.

At the conference we attended a variety of sessions including:

- Plenary talks by Carl Bereiter on transliteracy and Marlene Scardamalia on knowledge building initiatives around the world.
- Research presentations on knowledge building applications in various settings. At one session we presented our paper, “Taking a Knowledge Building Approach to Teaching College Undergraduates.” We also chaired a session on knowledge building analytic tools.
- Workshops on knowledge building pedagogy and improving the next generation of Knowledge Forum software—particularly the rise-above feature.
- Think tanks focused on developing knowledge building hubs of innovation. In these sessions we explored and shared possible roles for involving Smith College in regional and international hubs.
- Knowledge Building International members meeting in which the future of the organization and meetings were discussed and debated.

Our presentation was well-received and resulted in an invitation for us to write an article about knowledge building at Smith College. This article will be published in Leading Student Achievement: Networks for Learning about Knowledge Building. Also a variety of other collaborations were initiated at the institute. These included inviting Katerine Bielaczyc, Director of the Hiatt Center for Urban Education at Clark University, to collaborate on our Davis Educational Foundation grant. Dr. Bielaczyc will be visiting Smith in December, 2014 to further explore the possibility.