



Library Links

vol.4 no.8

- A Link to Lifelong -
Learning

“The librarians may seem like just librarians, but once you get to see the pet-loving side of them...”

pg. 6



Library & Learning Services Newsletter

INSIDE ISSUE

Pg. 3

“The Library Learning and Services is full of dog owners, and one, in particular, wants to share her story.”

Pg. 4

“The COVID-19 pandemic changed the teaching and learning style in school drastically...”

Pg. 6

“Every semester when finals week approaches ..”

DIXIE STATE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The background image shows a library environment with several people. A woman in the upper left is smiling, and a man in the lower left is looking at a book. A woman in the upper right is also smiling. The text is overlaid on this image.

We've got you!

www.library.dixie.edu

435-652-7714.

text: 435-244-3781

library@dixie.edu

Librarian's Best Friend

By: Kristi Sheilds

The Library Learning and Services is full of dog owners, and one, in particular, wants to share her story.

Kelly Peterson-Fairchild, Dean of Library and Learning Services, owns a rambunctious 2-year-old Belgian Mellonwah/Lab mix named Ruby whom she describes as a wild child, athletic, center of attention, photogenic dog.



She says that life without a dog to come home to would be extremely lonely because the dog gives you a reason to go home. **“Dogs are just part of your life,”** she noted. **“They keep you grounded ... they always love you no matter what.”**

Peterson-Fairchild says the best part about having an adoptive dog is watching their personality slowly grow and become more visible over time. Ruby's personality is what makes her unique. She adds, “Ruby has more personality than any dog I've ever seen.”

Peterson-Fairchild shared a story about how Ruby can climb their 6-foot tall fence, which is where she got her nickname “ninja warrior.”



Peterson-Fairchild said dogs put a human face on people. **The librarians may seem like just librarians, but once you get to see the pet-loving side of them, you can relate to them on more of a human level.**



The other Library & Learning Services staff who own dogs are: Di-
anne Aldrich whose service dog is named Lucy, Kathleen Broeder whose standard poodle is named

Rusty, Rob Gray whose standard poodle is called Havana, Linda Jones whose dogs are poodle Shih Tzu mix siblings named Rocky and Rosie, and Emma Lanners whose poodle puppy is named Pippin.



Left: Ruby

Center: (TOP) Peterson-Fairchild and Ruby
(BOTTOM) Havana

Right: (TOP) Rusty & Lucy
(MIDDLE) Rocky & Rosie
(BOTTOM) Pippin

Adapting to Remote Learning

By: Kristi Sheilds

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the teaching and learning style in school drastically, but Rhiannon Bent, Assistant Professor of Media Studies, has adjusted to the new dynamic.

As far as teaching completely remote in spring 2020, Bent was pleasantly surprised at how smoothly it went. It was far enough into the semester that she was able to maintain her class schedules because they were already set.



“The hybrid version in the fall was so much more exhausting than I ever anticipated,” Bent comments. “The sheer amount of multitasking that had to happen ... Just having students on two different platforms was taking so much of my focus.”

Class preparation takes much longer when setting up the technology and ensuring she provides digital access for everything in class. “I would get home those first few weeks of class and just feel exhausted and drained,” Bent added.

There is also more guilt that comes along with the hybrid teaching for professors because they worry about treating everyone fairly and giving everyone the attention they need.

Other downsides to teaching through Zoom for Bent are not being able to see everyone on the screen all the time and seeing students zoning out or multitasking. It’s also distracting for her to see what’s going on in the background of students’ screens, she noted.

“That’s worse than just having students distracted by their phones in the classroom Bent said. “That good ol’ fashion distraction seems so much easier to deal with.” On the contrary, **it’s just as bad when students don’t turn their cameras on at all because the professor is then left to teach to black screens unsure if anyone is even paying attention.**

Bent has had to adjust her teaching style due to the hybrid nature of her classes. She normally steers away from pure lecturing and incorporates more activities and discussions in her lessons, but it has become more difficult to do so when she has students in person and remote.

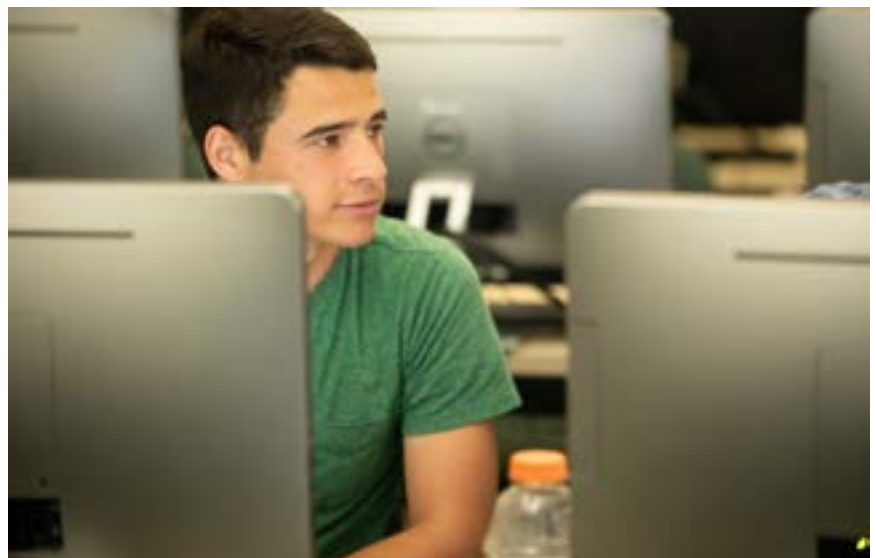
She has done much more lecturing than she

than she usually likes to, which has led to less engaging lessons and falling short of the university's "active learning, active life" motto.

The upside to teaching through Zoom, however, is the convenience and flexibility it allows students and professors. Bent remarked one day she didn't have a babysitter, but instead of canceling the class altogether, she was able to teach the class on Zoom.

As the university shifts back to traditional in-person teaching, Bent is looking forward to regaining the energy in her classrooms.

"I want to feel that synergy again, just having a good conversation with my students and feeling like I left my class like 'ah that was awesome,'" Bent concludes.



A Relaxing Escape

By: Kristi Sheilds

Every semester when finals week approaches, students can decompress by joining the Booth Wellness Center in their Decompress and Stress Less events to unwind.

The underlying theme of the events is that in order to be successful, you have to find ways to decompress, according to Jamy Dahle, Assistant Director of the Booth Wellness

Center. The therapy dogs provided at one event are a way to do this because they offer a casual and relaxing atmosphere for students.

“Students love dogs. They love the dogs more than our other [activities] by themselves,” Dahle jokes. The dogs draw in students because they look cute and snuggly and provide a relaxing escape from all other

stressors that come with college.

“We love having the therapy dogs because it allows students to have a space where they can just be, they can just exist and get into a calm state, a calm zone without even recognizing that they’re doing it,” Dahle explains.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the therapy dogs will not be available this semester.

