Library Links

Library and Learning Services Newsletter
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

People may think they know what the library and tutoring services have to offer, but many might be surprised at everything we do for student success and achievement. Impacting and helping students across all disciplines is unique to working in our area. We are focused on supporting and promoting the learning and intellectual engagement of everyone on campus. Because of this broad focus, you will find people committed to access, lifelong learning, and service. In this newsletter, you will meet some of these dynamic individuals.

Many of the staff and faculty in Library & Learning Services started as student employees who discovered that they loved helping people and exploring thoughts and ideas. In our day-to-day work life, we are constantly learning from what others are researching or working on. One day is never exactly like the next, and that is what makes our experiences rich and varied.

Another distinct aspect of the Library & Learning Services staff is our willingness to constantly improve. We share a core commitment to critical thinking and self-analysis, and it influences everything we do. Recently, we explored as a group Linda Adams’ book, “The Loyalist Team: How Trust, Candor, and Authenticity Create Great Organizations.” As the author states, “The best teams make it look easy. They perform together so well and so consistently that it appears as if they are one single organism instead of a group of disparate personalities with varied backgrounds. It can look, from the outside, as if skilled and talented people came together and blended their skills and talents effortlessly” (p. 16). Instead, being a great team means trusting each other unconditionally, assuming positive intent, and pushing each other to do their best work. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to strengthen, celebrate, and encourage a highly committed team like we have in Library & Learning Services. If you look at other books recommended in Dixie Reads (http://library.dixie.edu/dixie-reads.html) by our department, I guarantee you will be challenged, intrigued and entertained.
The Writing Center at Dixie State University is a much-appreciated service that helps instruct students in their writing processes. Kaitlyn Ehlers, a peer tutor for the WC, has aided several students who have sought help. Kaitlyn, who is a senior English Education major, applied to become a peer tutor at the recommendation of one of her professors. She has always thought that the Writing Center is a great opportunity for students to receive help. Kaitlyn believes that writing is necessary for every student—not just English majors. One of Kaitlyn’s most rewarding tutoring sessions included the reorganization of a ten-page paper. After summarizing what each paragraph was about, Kaitlyn and the writer moved the pages of the essay around so that the writer’s arguments were in order. Through her tutoring experiences, Kaitlyn is gaining experience with working one-on-one with people about writing. She is also learning how to explain grammar concepts. These skills will assist Kaitlyn in her efforts to become a high school English teacher. Brittany Bennett, the Writing Center Coordinator, described Kaitlyn as personable, kind, and very humble: “She’s always on top of everything,… [and] I have full confidence in her capabilities to help other students…. She’s great at making writing accessible to people, like making it approachable.”
Eva Sanchez is a Circulation Supervisor for Dixie State University’s Library. Eva graduated from Dixie in 2017 with a Bachelor’s in Spanish. She chose to return to work for the University because she grew fond of the professors and the atmosphere of the school. “I’ll defend it ‘til the day I die,” Eva commented. When asked how this experience as Circulation Supervisor will help her in the future, Eva responded that she is learning how to become a leader.

While Eva was a student at Dixie, she was involved in different clubs. She gained experience working with people and becoming assertive. These skills shaped her into a dependable employee. Dianne Aldrich, Head of Library Public Services, describes Eva as “…an integral part of [the] circulation team in the library…. She is always wanting to learn more about the way the library functions and is interested in making sure that we maximize the positive customer service model when dealing with our campus and community needs.” Dianne has also mentioned how she adores having a student who graduated from Dixie return to work for the University. She can trust Eva to know exactly how to help students correctly.
When people first walk into the Holland Building, they see a couple of things: the library, the information desk, and clouds. Now when they say clouds, they mean a huge wall that consists of a bookshelf that is twenty-eight feet wide and twenty-two feet high called *Cloud*. The bookshelf holds about twelve thousand empty sketchbooks that are bound in custom dyed linen. The spines of the books are arranged in an abstract form of color when viewed from up close, but from far away the image of a desert cloud becomes visible. Students and faculty can use cloud books located at the Help Desk to leave personal notes or messages. This way, students can engage with the artwork and leave a piece of themselves at Dixie.

*Cloud* was completed in 2012 by an artist named Christian Moeller. Moeller started out in Frankfurt, Germany studying architecture at the College of Applied Sciences. After working in the office of architect Gunther Behnisch in Stuttgart, Germany, he went on as a guest artist in the Institute for New Media in the Stadelschule, Frankfurt under Peter Weible. In 1990, Moeller founded his first art studio and media lab in Frankfurt. He later moved on to teaching as a professor at the State College of Design in Karlsruhe, Germany until he moved to the United States in 2001.

Moeller is currently a professor in the department of Design Media Arts at UCLA and has a studio in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles, California. Moeller loves to include architecture, sound, technology, and moving images in his artwork. He works mostly with contemporary media to create amazing works of art. By taking architectural installations and hand-held objects, he creates something new. His artwork, including *Cloud*, is an attempt to reach people and make an impact on their lives. *Cloud* is one of the important features of the Holland Building because it is a way to remember past students and welcome future students.
The Dixie State University Library offers students a chance to win $70 in credit for textbooks at the DSU campus bookstore by checking out books that have been recommended by their peers and professors. Each year, faculty and students have the opportunity to submit recommendations for their favorite books. Recommended books are labeled with a sticker indicating that they are included in Dixie Reads. In order to enter the drawing to win the grand prize, students check out one of these books at the campus library. This year’s winner was Alan Campbell, who read Animal Farm by George Orwell. The next drawing will be in January 2020, so make sure to pick up a book and start reading! To recommend a book, go to https://bulletin.dixie.edu/2018/09/04/dixie-reads
Out of all Dixie State University’s helpful resources, Special Collections & Archives might be the most fascinating among them. In Holland Centennial Commons room 330, you can find almost anything, from the 1913 yearbook of Dixie State's first graduating class to oral histories of early and current St George residents. This resource can aid students in their research, help locals find documents from their family’s history, give insight into the university, or provide information about this city the university calls home.

When students do research, it can be difficult to find a starting point. Seeing what Special Collections & Archives has to offer can be a great place to start. DSU student Emma Lee stated, “Two other students and I wrote and filmed a documentary about the Utah Downwinders. We visited the archives to look for first-hand accounts and information on the impact that the tragedy had on St. George. We found a map created by Mary Dickson that pictured her neighborhood with notes about which of her friends and family of diseases like leukemia and lupus. Seeing these artifacts with real, imperfect handwriting and dripping with raw emotion allowed us to immerse ourselves into the project and glimpse into the experience of Utahns during this time.” The Archives were a valuable tool in these students’ research, and it enhanced their experience while working on a school project.
Many people in the community use the Special Collections & Archives to guide them in learning about their family history. In the archives, there are annals and journals from the first leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to settle in Saint George, there are newspapers from the late 1800’s, and there are photographs that citizens of Saint George have donated. If a person has ancestors who lived in Saint George before them, they can use DSU’s Special Collections & Archives to learn more about their family and enrich their own life. Special Collections & Archives is a great place to go to satisfy curiosity about the growth and development of Saint George. Clinton and Joan Murdock were citizens of Saint George who donated aerial photographs of the city from a bird's eye view. These are a helpful tool to see how much the city has grown over the years. Special Collections & Archives can show us not only how much the city has physically grown, but how it has grown as a society. For example, the archives include a book of laws published in 1894 titled *Revised Ordinances of the City of St. George.*

The head of Special Collections, Kathleen Broader, and her team work very hard to preserve and record these valuable artifacts. They do so in order that students and members of the community are able to learn from and enjoy these hidden gems. Visit Special Collections and Archives to see the rich history this team has gathered and preserved.