



Hello, I'm Beth Taylor-Schott. A few fun things about my name: Schott is my maiden name, and a certain Pat Benetar song was popular when I was in Junior High, so pretty much every one of the many people who came up with "Hit Me with Your Beth Schott" thought they were the cleverest person ever. A lot of people also enjoy my married name, especially in a context where my official first name, Elizabeth, appears, and the field is so short that the second last name gets cut off. Let's just say that I know for a fact that a few

people with caller id have picked up their phones when I called thinking that they were going to get to talk to the ghost of a violet-eyed movie star. Oh, well.



I grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota, which is a suburb of Minneapolis. Here is a picture that probably tells you everything you need to know about that. This is our Christmas card in 1980. I am the oldest child. It's the last portrait my mom had taken before she died of breast cancer.

I know I didn't have the most common pathway to being a dean at a community college. I went to a small liberal arts college in Minnesota and then to UC Berkeley for a Ph.D. in the History of Art (Rembrandt's nudes) with the intention of becoming research faculty, probably at an R4, all of which was going great—until I realized that I hated it (being an academic—I actually still really love art).

After some wandering around, which included teaching in the Writing Program at UCSB, being a Poet in the School, freelance writing for the local weekly and so on, I found myself as a Classified staff coordinator-type person in the Writing Center at SBCC, which I really enjoyed doing for about ten years. From there, I became the Tutor Center Coordinator and then briefly worked as the Supervisor for our Learning Resource Center before being appointed to my current position as an Academic Dean at SBCC last January. I joke that I am the dean of alphabet soup. My areas include the Library, the LRC (Learning Resource Center), the FRC (Faculty Resource Center), DE (Distance Education), ESL, SoML (School of Modern Languages), the Catalog, and the Career Center.



I have one child, a son, who just finished his first year at Cal Poly in Landscape Architecture. Here's a recent only slightly tongue-in-cheek picture of him. I feel like I learn a lot from having a 19 year-old. One of the things we do together is watch TV and movies, so I pretty much have the entire LOTR series memorized. We just got done watching season 2 of Shadow and Bone. The last season of His Dark Materials is next, followed by Season 3 of the Witcher. Basically, if it has swords and/or magic, we will watch it.



I also happen to be the owner of the best dog in the world, Hugo, who I am fairly certain is a Dachshund/Basenji mix. That thing that is wrapped around him in the picture on the left is a velour weighted dog blanket. It was supposed to be a Christmas present, but I am always giving him his Christmas presents as soon as I get them and not waiting for the actual holiday. The same thing happened with this black turtleneck sweater on the right. I like to think he looks like a beatnik in it.



I am a pretty serious introvert, so I tend to need to recharge at the end of the day with some solitude. I enjoy reading and doing crafts and going for walks. I am a fairly serious Janeite, but I also enjoy the Brontës, both fandoms, and retellings of their works and works written in those universes, among others. A recent book I enjoyed was Jane Slayer, a retelling of Jane Eyre, but with the protagonist as a feminist serial killer. On the weekends, I often join a local group to do English Country Dancing, which is NOT line dancing and does NOT involve cowboy boots. It's more like what you would see in an accurate portrayal of an Austen adaptation. Of course, I like it because of that, but it also seems to hit the sweet spot between being a partner dance and being a communal dance. For vacations, I like to travel, and I've become very fond of road trips around the Southwest since COVID started. I love the landscape, but I also love opportunities to visit art and architecture, like being able to see Ghost Ranch, where Georgia O'Keeffe lived, but then also the museum of her work in Santa Fe.

