Hello, my name is Welles, and most people know that I look after my dad, Michael Rutledge who takes care of the student veterans on campus. But when the pandemic first began and everyone was sent home to work, my dad couldn’t work from home, so we came in every day to a very empty Hedgcock building. We weren’t completely alone though; Mary Brundage, the Associate Dean of Students, and Andrew Mady, Graduate Assistant were the only other people in the office, and I knew I had to watch out for them also.

The first six months were very long with no one else around and I would visit Mary and Andrew during the day to help cheer them up. Mary also said it was okay for me to lay on the couch as long as my dad put a blanket on it, and it was in the best spot to be halfway between my dad on one side of the Dean of Students suite, and Mary and Andrew on the other. I was able to keep an eye on everyone and if I ever sensed someone needed a “pick-me-up,” I was on the case!

It’s a lot better now that more people and students are around, but I still make sure everyone in the suite is doing okay. I hope there is never another pandemic, but if there is, I will be doing my job watching out for my dad and all my favorite humans!