Creative and Helpful! Developing Student Peer Staff Skills

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The student staff at Daniel Library, The Citadel are an invaluable resource. Not only do they bring knowledge and a willingness to work, they bring a great sense of fun, adventure, and camaraderie to our library operations. Our goal has been to provide student staff with creative experiences and opportunities beyond traditional uses of student staff, especially since they come from diverse academic backgrounds. Our students do share necessary reference desk duties, shelve books, and help patrons. Our students go above and beyond with their creative impulses. In fact, without them staffing the Makerspace, preparing Museum exhibits, and researching Archival requests, we would not be able to deliver the variety of services we have in the Library, Museum, Archives, and Makerspace.

We believe creative projects challenge and engage our student staff, while providing valuable experience. At the same time, our student staff provides needed assistance to the library. Our anecdotal proof is in our retention rate, our student staff leave only at graduation and one has even recruited his twin brother!

Fun Stuff

On their own initiative, our student staff has combined fun, food, and makerspace training. During the summer, our graduate assistants started baking contests, complete with food, and makerspace training. During the summer, our student staff has prepared summer hurricane preparedness exhibit.

GAs and staff preparing summer hurricane preparedness exhibit.

GA preparing 3D exhibit illustrating time/quantity of filament for printing.

GAs installing travel-themed exhibit in library.

GAs and staff preparing summer hurricane preparedness exhibit.

GA working on book display

GA designed, planned, and installed Cybersecurity Month book display.

Volunteer first, then work/study student helping with museum opening.

Summer students preparing museum exhibit.

Intern helping with hurricane preparations.

Work/study student and Museum Club preparing Cyanotype workshop.

Students and cyanotype workshop.

GAs as Trainers

Opened on March 1, 2017, The Citadel Makerspace is an innovative, emerging technologies lab run by Daniel Library. The Makerspace is open to all Citadel students, faculty, and staff. Our collaborative environment fosters formal and informal learning with hands-on learning, regardless of level of expertise.

Our graduate assistants, Work/Study students, and more recently, our student-led Makerspace Club have proven invaluable by learning about the equipment and leading staff and student training sessions. Training sessions covered GoPro cameras, Sony camcorder, 3D printers, and Cameo Silhouette cutter.

Our GA trainers typically practice with the equipment, prepare and present a PowerPoint session to staff. The presentation is saved to our internal network and the students are available for individual consultations. Our GA is now learning how to create and play holograms on an iPhone and planning to present a workshop open to our campus community. Our new Makerspace Club members are now beginning to present trainings as well, for example, Blender and iMovie.

Makerspace

Two graduate assistants leading our first staff training in The Citadel Makerspace. They prepared a PowerPoint program, demonstrated how to use a GoPro, how to download the GoPro app, and how to circulate the equipment in Springshare’s LibCal Equipment booking module and Millennium’s circulation module.

GAs training and operating a 3D printer with cadet in The Citadel Makerspace.

GA learning how to make a hologram, in preparation for a campus workshop.

Our training calendar, subject to change!