

NEW BLANKETS



*The following is a summary of the New Blankets Intern Program for the 2015-2016 school year. This summary is a first hand account of a first year intern, and will discuss not only the events and accomplishments of the first intern year, but will highlight the expectations and involvement one should expect when considering an internship with New Blankets.



I. Skills

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I. Skills

a. Prior knowledge

1) When I was approached with this internship I had already been exposed to some of the machines that New Blankets and its affiliates work with.

I had been 3D Printing since I was about 8, and begun working with embroidery since age 15 or so.

2) When considering this position for possible future interns, prior knowledge is, in my eyes, unnecessary. While I had skills prior to being granted an internship, the majority of what I learned came through working in the position.

3) When looking at prior knowledge, I believe the only "Prior Knowledge" that should be assessed is the person's ability to work

well with other people, and to learn new things quickly (if that can even be assessed.)

b. Learned Knowledge

1) When it comes to what someone can learn, I can only account for what I have learned thus far in my first year, but what I can guarantee one will learn with New Blankets.

* Throughout my first year I have learned (and possible future interns will learn) how to work with various creative machines - 3D Printers, Embroidery machines, 2D cutters, and printers. I have learned to use these machines in ways that promote creativity (ie creating one's own designs and producing them in the various forms, as well as how to teach others to use the machines in that way as well.) Mostly when working with New Blankets you will learn how to learn from many different types of people as well as to teach them.

2) When considering a position with New Blankets, be mostly prepared to learn more than anything else.

c. Prospective Knowledge

1) Looking forward towards my second year as an intern I have some hopes and expectations regarding what I would like to learn and what I think I will learn over the course of the next year.

* Over the course of the next year I expect and intend to learn how to scan 3D objects and convert them into 3D printable files. I intend to learn how to create 3D printable files from scratch on the computer. I hope to work more with the embroidery machine using different types of stitching. I expect to use the Curio cutter on more materials, such as glass, fabric, and metal. In the coming year I hope to use the printers to create books and other non conventional home uses.

2) I cannot prospectively account for the amount of knowledge I will gain from the future people and events I will encounter, but I fully expect that it will exceed any expectation I could have.

II. Technology

a. used and available technology

* This section consists of the machines and technology I have in my home studio on a regular basis.

1) The Flashforge creator pro; a dual extruder medium sized 3D printer

* The Flashforge is decently user friendly as far as the 3D printers I've experienced go. Its dual extruder allows for multi-colored prints, and it has performed

Extremely well in all of its prints. Its extruders occasionally become clogged, but this can be expected from most all 3D printers. The Flashforge does not require much upkeep, and, in my opinion, is fun and simple to use.

** this is probably my 2nd most used machine, but is my favorite to use. A lot of people are intrigued by 3D Printing and its products are the most fun to look at and find uses for.

2.) The Brother Embroidery Machine

* The Brother Embroidery Machine is also very user friendly. With fonts and pictures already programed onto the machine, it is very simple for beginners to learn to use it and personalize their designs with colors and words. This seems to be a crowd favorite because it makes products quickly, and its uses are very common and practical.

*** this is my most used machine, and is mostly what I teach classes on. people love personalizing their own clothes and bags and what not. I have managed to manipulate it to use for regular sewing, which has almost doubled my use of it.

3.) The Silhouette Curio Cutter

* The Silhouette Curio Cutter has a variety of potential uses with the ability to cut, engrave, and emboss a multitude of

materials. I personally have only used it for writing on paper and cutting vinyl. This is another machine that is good for time. Since it produces things quickly, for open houses it can make giveaways and keepsakes easily. The Curio is not as user friendly as the embroidery machine or the 3D printer, there are a lot of small steps involved in cutting a given design, and it's easy to mess up without a little practice. The Curio takes a little time to get used to, but is worth learning.

** I've recently started warming up more to the Curio, it can be frustrating when you forget a step, especially when you can't pinpoint where exactly you went wrong. Recently I've been using the Curio more, and I'm finding more fun uses for the vinyl, and looking forward, I'm excited to see what other capabilities the Curio has that I can find fun and useful.

4) The Giant Printer

* I've only really used the giant printer for printing regular colored pages, double sided etc. I know that this printer has a lot of capabilities that I have yet to discover, but I am interested in learning more about it.

** This is by far my least used machine

and while I haven't used it in any real innovative way, I fully plan to in the coming year.

b.) Non studio available technology

1.) 3D scanner

* I have not used this technology and it is no longer in the home studio. I also have never seen it successfully used, so I cannot account for the 3D scanner.

** I like the possibility that the 3D scanner can be used successfully, and if someone could get its use down pat, (someone that could possibly be me), I think the scanner could be one of the best additions yet, especially for me. I love working in 3D, and the ability to scan and be able to 3D print my own designs is an exciting concept.

2.) Your own hands

* I've found that in the past year the most creative piece of equipment are the people I get to work with's own hands. Every person involved with New Blankets uses their own abilities to create a variety of amazing things, and I think the people are the creators, not the machines.

** I always consider myself to be an artist above all else. That's what makes me fit with all of the people I've met through New Blankets, we are

all artists working together to discover and assist new artists in discovering their own creativity.

III. Locations

a.) St. Louis, Missouri

- 1.) This is where I live and operate from. My home is a sort of storage / office / studio / hotel / half-way house.
- 2.) There is no current maker space in St. Louis affiliated with New Blankets (yet).
- 3.) Mostly samples and testing with the machines are made in St. Louis. I get to work with and learn more about the machines from my home, and it better equips me not only to teach classes, but to work within the New Blankets circle as a whole.

b.) Springfield, Illinois

- 1.) In Springfield there is a makerspace run by Karli and Mona.
 - * This was the first makerspace I visited, as well as the first two New Blankets affiliates I met.
- 2.) This space looks a lot like the studio I have in my home, and the space is enough to hold classes or meetings. What I liked most about this space was that everything was out in the open, able for display.
- 3.) We had an event at the Barnes and Noble in Springfield, (my first event) and it was a great introductory event for me.

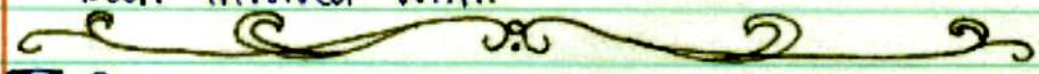
it was lowkey enough that I wasn't overwhelmed, and I was able to get a taste of what the New Blankets Community was like.

* This was my first lesson in the power of the New Blankets Community. Bob and Mary (Bobbin Mary) were making these beautiful ornaments with the embroidery machine, and that (the use of the machine in a non conventional way) was the eventual inspiration for the quilt I created almost six months later. A lesson I continue to learn with every new event.

c.) Carbondale, Illinois (Murphysboro)

- 1.) In Carbondale there is a Makerspace. The space itself is great, multiple rooms, various machines, a good area.
- 2.) This space is very similar to the one in Springfield.
- 3.) I have been a part of multiple successful workshops at this space, and Brandon, the one who runs this particular space, is great at getting the community involved.

** These are only the spaces I have visited and been involved with.



IV. People

a.) In St. Louis

1.) The Pipitone Family

* I am a member! We mostly hold equipment

and house my crazy uncle Joe when he is in town ☺

2) Crazy uncle Joe (sorta St. Louis member)

- * The New Blankets coordinator, and the person who got me involved in New Blankets.

- * I give Joe all of the credit for introducing me into all of this. He brought me my first 3D printer when I was only in the third grade, and it sparked an undying curiosity that has carried me to the place where I am now.

- * It continues to amaze me when I see all that I have accomplished as a result of this man's undying support for me and my success.

b.) In Springfield



1.) Mona

- * Mona is one of two coordinators of the makerspace in Springfield.

- * Mona blew me away in a lot of aspects, she not only was very kind to me right off the bat, but she had an incredible amount of knowledge about the space and the machines, and she had a very noticable knack for figuring things out and making them work. What amazed me the most was her ability to balance her multiple jobs while still donating an unmeasurable amount of time and money and effort to NEW Blankets. She truly inspired me, and

showed me how important hard work is, especially in a network of people like this. Mona is the type of person that is the backbone of a community like this.

2.) Karli

* My fellow dog enthusiast.   -woof

* The other coordinator of the Springfield makerspace.

* I was quick to warm up to Karli because we bonded over our mutual inability to thread a bobbin using the embroidery machine. We worked through it together and thus were able to learn something through a mutual effort. I find Karli to be a very good example of the type of person you can meet through New Blankets. She's smart and sweet and is eager to teach and learn. Eager to help. (maybe not so eager to drive three hours to drop stuff off at quick trip, but hey, she's a trooper.)

c.) In Carbondale (or Murphysboro)

1.) Susan

* Susan was the first person I met in Carbondale and is very easy to enjoy. She handles a lot for New Blankets, but what I like most about her is that she's got a lot of experience and a lot of great abilities and ideas. She fixed a book that is very special to me out of the sheer kindness of her heart, and she gave me multiple

ideas about how to take a project to the next level (such as doilies using the embroidery machine on dissolvable backing.) Susan's support is powerful enough to fuel New Blankets work into the next millennium.

2.) Jennifer

*"Librarian" is not an awesome enough term to describe Jennifer Horton. She's one of those sweet quiet types, but don't let that fool you, because she does some utterly AMAZING things with the new Blankets machines on SIU's campus. Jennifer amazes me in her ability to think of ways to get all different types of people involved in the use of these machines. When I think of "New Blankets" people I think of artists, but Jennifer has completely expanded the term "artist." Jennifer showed me that anyone, scientist, teacher, mathematician, Noko... anyone can be an artist if you just give them the tools and the opportunity. This woman is a superhero.

3. Brandon

*"I like that guy," that's what Joe and I said to one another after meeting Brandon for the first time. I like Brandon a lot because he reminds me of myself, I think. Brandon is not only passionate about being a creator, but

he is also just a "do'er in the truest sense of the word. When Brandon gets an idea, then he sits down and he does it, and if it doesn't work, then he fixes it. Brandon is simply a people person, and the people that he brings in are all eager and interested. Brandon is someone that makes me proud to be a part in all of this. His vision for his space inspires a very special kind of creation - a creation simply for enjoyment. The Murphysboro space is a beautifully inviting place, and that is a truly amazing thing.

d.) New Orleans?

1.) SHOSH

* Shosh is my New Blankets sister. Though I've seen her the least since my joining in New Blankets, she is very special to me. In all honesty, when Joe first told me about her, I expected someone very strange. (After all, who in their right mind would come and stay at a random stranger's house?!) but, I was delightfully proven wrong, and Shosh became someone I really bonded with at the beginning of my New Blankets journey. It is nice having someone in my age group involved in New Blankets.

Shosh inspired me in a very special way. Though we are not far apart in age, the person that she is and her accomplishments have made her a real role model for me. I'm proud to know her, and I'm happy that I have someone as great as she is to serve as my inspiration moving forward in this community.

*I couldn't be more thankful for all of the people that I've had the privilege to meet this past year. I know I would never be able to list them all, nor do all of them justice in regards to their amazing qualities and their impact on my life altogether.

V. Timeline

*The only consistency throughout the past year in my internship is that my knowledge has done nothing but grow on all fronts. Any possible future interns can fully expect to further their people skills, their general knowledge, and their creativity. As far as time and scheduling goes, sometimes you'll be non stop busy for four days and sometimes you'll be working on school or personal projects, and that's the great thing about the schedule. It fits to your busy schedule, and it supplements your skills and your passion. It is your time and your fulfillment that New Blankets works with.



VI. Journal

The past year has in many ways been just like a lot of others. I've had a lot of ups and downs, dealt with a lot of stress, but overall come out on top in all of my dealings. My time with New Blankets has been more positive than I could possibly explain in any amount of writing. This internship has opened up an array of opportunity and assistance when it came to my ability to pursue and fuel my creativity. New Blankets has been an outlet for me to deal with my struggles in a constructive manner. I am so thankful for all that new Blankets has provided for me personally, but I am most thankful for the opportunity to meet all of these amazing people ^{with} this amazing vision, and that I have gotten to be a part of it. Every time I was involved with an event I left more fulfilled and more inspired than when I came. I find true happiness in the idea that I may have a fraction of the same inspiring affect on someone that all of these people have had on me. I look forward to another year with New Blankets, and I am excited for all that it may bring for me.

-Justine Pipitone
New Blankets Intern