TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA APPLICATION FORM
STATION MANAGER OF KVRX RADIO
Term of Office: June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

This application and supporting materials must be submitted to the TSM Business Office (via hard copy to room HSM 3.200 or via PDF emailed to serpas@austin.utexas.edu) by Monday, April 29, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

This position is due to be appointed at the TSM Board meeting scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Please plan to attend and discuss your application with the Operating Trustees.

Applicant Information

Ariel Pitre Young
Name

ASY327
UT EID

arielyoung@utexas.edu
Email Address

Government / French
Major

Applicant Attestation / Authorization for Release of Information

1. I am currently enrolled as a UT-Austin student.

2. By the start of my term of office, I will (if an undergraduate) have completed 12 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 2.0 or (if a graduate student) have completed 9 hours at UT-Austin with a GPA of at least 3.0.

3. I agree to demonstrate an understanding of media law and FCC regulations by passing an exam prepared by the Broadcast Adviser prior to taking position.

4. My application has been approved by at least 30% of the participants in the KVRX staff approval voting process.

I certify that to the best of my ability I have given true and accurate information concerning my scholastic and experience qualifications, and hereby grant permission for the Office of the Director, Texas Student Media, to verify said information. Further, I understand that this information will be provided to the TSM Board of Operating Trustees and will become part of the public record of TSM.

Ariel Pitre Young
Signature of Applicant

4/26/2019
Date

It is recommended that you include supporting materials such as:

A résumé
Your record of experience with KVRX (list positions and dates)
A letter outlining your qualifications, goals, plans for the position
Letters of recommendation
Ariel Pitre Young
2100 San Antonio Street #1008, Austin, Texas 78705 • 813-579-0603 • arielyoung@utexas.edu

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin
B.A. Government & French
Classes taken in Racial and Ethnic Politics, Comparative Politics, French Literature, French Phonetics
GPA: 3.72
South Grand Prairie High School, Grand Prairie, TX

EXPERIENCE

Parks and Recreation Department, Grand Prairie, Texas
June 2018 – August 2018
Summer Camp Supervisor
● Created daily activities and schedule for summer camp children aged 5 to 12, focused on community engagement, health and wellness, and academics.
● Liaison between parents and summer camp functions, such as rules, payment, and child behavior.
● Managed Camp Counselors and their respective groups of children while at the Recreation Center and away at field trips.

Parks and Recreation Department, Grand Prairie, Texas
June 2016 – August 2017
Summer Camp Counselor
● Coordinated and created activities for community youth.
● Assisted in production and execution of municipal events including parades, ceremonies, and field trips

Lone Star Park, Grand Prairie, Texas
April 2015 – July 2015
Usher
● Monitored traffic flow of entrance gates, assisting guests with disabilities with entry
● Performed ticket sales and distribution

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

91.7 FM KVRX – College Radio of UT, Austin, Texas
February 2017 – Present
Music Director/DJ
● Contacting record labels and music promotion agencies
● Curating and cataloguing the music selection of the radio station
● Collaboration with other departments within the radio station to enforce rules relating to music content

Boys and Girls Club of Grand Prairie, Grand Prairie, Texas
May 2014 – August 2014
Volunteer
● Front desk receptionist; greeted parents and children for registration and daily check-ins
● Provided conflict resolution among camp members

HONORS
● Joe R. Long Scholar – UT Department of Government
● Julia Walther Scholar – UT Department of French & Italian
● University Honors

SKILLS
Communication, Leadership, Flexibility, Self-Motivation, Community Organization, Advocacy
Languages: Advanced French

REFERENCES
● Amber Moffitt, Counselor 469-693-4655
● Monte Whetstone, Supervisor 972-237-4760
● Chris Ginapp, Supervisor 972-237-4141
April 26, 2019

Record of Experience

February 2017 – Present: DJ, Host of Mercury in Retrograde; French Kissin’

April 2017 – December 2017: Music Department Intern

January 2018 – Present: Music Director
Dear Operating Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the position of Station Manager at KVRX. My involvement with this organization began during my freshman year at UT, and since then my commitments have increased from DJ to intern to staff member. Throughout all of these positions, I have learned the importance of cooperation, accountability, and personal initiative. As a Music Director, I had the pleasure of being a part of a team that directly shapes the culture of KVRX by choosing music that supports and strengthens the idea of what it means to be an ethical music fan in a rapidly changing music industry. The Music Department’s weekly rotation sessions are one of the most visible ways that I have shown my commitment to our student community, as I have participated nearly every Friday for the past 5 semesters to build relationships with other DJs and organize the station’s new music repertoire.

Over the course of the next year, I would like to focus on enhancing the community among DJs and staff members, data and organization, and effective content output of the station. Since KVRX is a student organization at its core, I want our college radio station to be a space for students to build relationships with each other. As station manager, I hope to foster these connections through holding study sessions in the KVRX library in addition to our documentary screenings and listening sessions. Moving forward, I want our staff to utilize these meeting times, including KVRX shows, to actively build connections with other DJs. If there are DJs who have special interests they would like to share with the organization, such as yoga, meditation, or other activities, I want KVRX to be the place where both DJs and staff members can organize events among ourselves to practice with each other.

Concerning the station’s role within the greater community in Austin, I envision KVRX continuing to organize local shows with KOOP to increase our listener base as well as present other opportunities in radio for our DJs.

As a Black woman and a first-generation college student, I find that the student population at UT does not reflect the general population of Texas as a whole, or the DFW suburb that I call home. However, this does not mean that KVRX has to have similar demographics. By reforming our volunteer system to include weekly tabling sessions and events with identity-based student organizations, students will have the opportunity to see their identities and experiences reflected in the DJ population and their diverse interests through media.

I plan on starting each semester with each staff member submitting written documentation of three tangible goals to pursue outside of their typical duties. At the end of each month, staff will have a debriefing session where we collectively revisit our goals, assess how we have achieved them and how we can achieve them moving forward. In doing so, I hope to create healthy habits of self-reflection and accountability among our staff and DJs. By the end of the fall semester, I expect each department to have submitted their own handbook which not only includes their duties, but more importantly the ethos of their department.
I also plan on changing the structure of general meetings so that DJs have the opportunity to share their weekly experiences with their shows and volunteering with KVRX. Each department will give very brief updates, which will then be followed by discussion led by DJs of their questions, comments, and concerns of the operations and events at the station.

In order to help lessen the workload of the Production Department, I want to create a separate department for Local Live. I believe that this can help us get a true handle of producing and publishing past content, as well as having a streamlined process in the future. My hopes are that this will allow us to focus more on what we share with our fans and innovative ways to share new music information, like DJ’s weekly music selections, themed Spotify playlists and more.

As the Station Manager of KVRX, I want nothing more than to serve the organization that has helped me and so many others find their professional and personal passions. I aim to be a resource for DJs, whether it be for musical, academic, or professional reasons. Armed with an attitude of both perseverance and flexibility, I hope to expand KVRX’s role as a leader in college radio, but more importantly an inclusive and reliable space for student voices and music.

Thank you kindly for your consideration,
Ariel Pitre Young
April 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support the application of Ariel Pitre Young for the position of station manager of KVRX. Ariel was a student in my course on French Phonetics (FR324L) in the Fall of 2018 and I came to know about her engagement with French music and her DJ experience from her at that time. Her program, French Kissin’, as you might expect, has provided UT and the greater Austin area with a welcome and engaging mix of popular French music when we most need it, Wednesday night or, as it is called in French, le jour de transition. Her commitment to introducing KVRX listeners to French (and sometimes Arabic) music helps me and my colleagues support the educational, cultural, and international mission of our department as music plays a large role in our curriculum at all levels. In fact, we are introducing a French Through Music course this semester. And the best part is that DJ Marseille (Ariel) and DJ Marianne have excellent taste in contemporary French music.

I rarely have occasion to write a letter of recommendation that is not for a strictly academic position so I suspect that you care less about what a strong student Ariel is (and she is!) and more about why she would make an excellent station manager. Here are the qualities that I think recommend her: experience, patience, open-mindedness, seriousness of purpose, and a tinge of zaniness. An experienced DJ and Music Director, she has a history with KVRX. She (co)-DJs a successful show and, as a station director, she has interfaced with commercial labels and worked through legal issues. She is good with people – patient, open-minded, and attentive to others’ ideas and this is the best quality you could find in a manager. Finally, I find her mix of seriousness and zaniness to be refreshing. Too often I encounter students who are serious simply because they are driven to achieve personal success and prestige. But Ariel strikes me as someone who works in radio because she likes it, not because it defines her or she wants ‘conquer’ radio. Instead, she has fun and success doing something she likes. This attitude could lead to an excellent work environment for folks at the station and to continued growth and success for KVRX, which is what you are seeking.

In sum, I think you have before you the best candidate for the position in Ariel Pitre Young. I look forward to listening to KVRX even more under her watch.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Barbara E. Bullock,
Professor of French Linguistics
April 20, 2019

Dear Texas Student Media Board Members,

I recommend Ms. Ariel Pitre Young for the position of Station Manager at UT Austin. Ariel took my Enhancing French Skills course in Fall 2017, my Advanced French I course in Spring 2018, and is currently taking my FR 325C Crisis and Conflict course. Ariel is one of our most well-rounded and promising French majors.

What strikes me most about Ariel as I continue to get to know her is that she has an incredible work ethic and seeks out leadership positions. For instance, last year Ariel worked part-time at the UT radio station, but this year she is a music director there. Over the summer, Ariel accepted the position of director for a youth camp where she had been a counselor for many years. Moreover, she is already thinking ahead about internships that she would like to pursue to combine her studies in government and French. Ariel has proven that she is willing to work to contribute financially to her education and that she seeks out employment where she can develop her professional skills in a meaningful way. Therefore, I believe that Ariel would be a hard-working and professionally appropriate choice for this position because she has a demonstrated excellent employment record; she is entrusted with jobs requiring great responsibility, and she has been involved with college radio for two years.

Academically, Ariel is one of my best students. She works hard to prepare assignments well and is one of the most active students in class discussions. She always earns very good grades. She often speaks to me during office hours or after class to further discuss her thoughts and ideas about the material that we are reading for the course. I always appreciate this level of engagement from a student because it demonstrates genuine intellectual curiosity, another trait that suggests a high level of potential.

Finally, I would like to add that Ariel continues to produce and host a French music show on UT’s college radio, as she did last school year. The show is called “French Kissing” and explores a variety of genres of French music. What is intriguing about this show is that since last year, she has actually recruited a fellow French major to co-host the show with her. Therefore, it is clear that her enthusiasm for promoting French language and culture is infectious, and this is indeed a quality that I find most deserving of a leadership position at the campus radio station.

Sincerely,

Heather G. Pelletier, Ph.D.
Lecturer in French & Faculty Advisor in French
The University of Texas at Austin