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Escape the Library:

To Pull Students in...
Sometimes You Need
to Lock 'em Up

Marc Hight
Maryska Connolly-Brown
Hamden-Sydney College



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Escape Hampden-Sydney 2016

You Tube

What is the purpose of an "academic" escape room?

- *To promote critical thinking skills.*
- *To promote evaluative information skills.*
- *To promote collaborative teamwork.*
- *To promote sociability.*
- *To promote organizational and analytic skills.*
- *To fund special academic projects.*

And of course....to Entertain!

What is the purpose of a library?

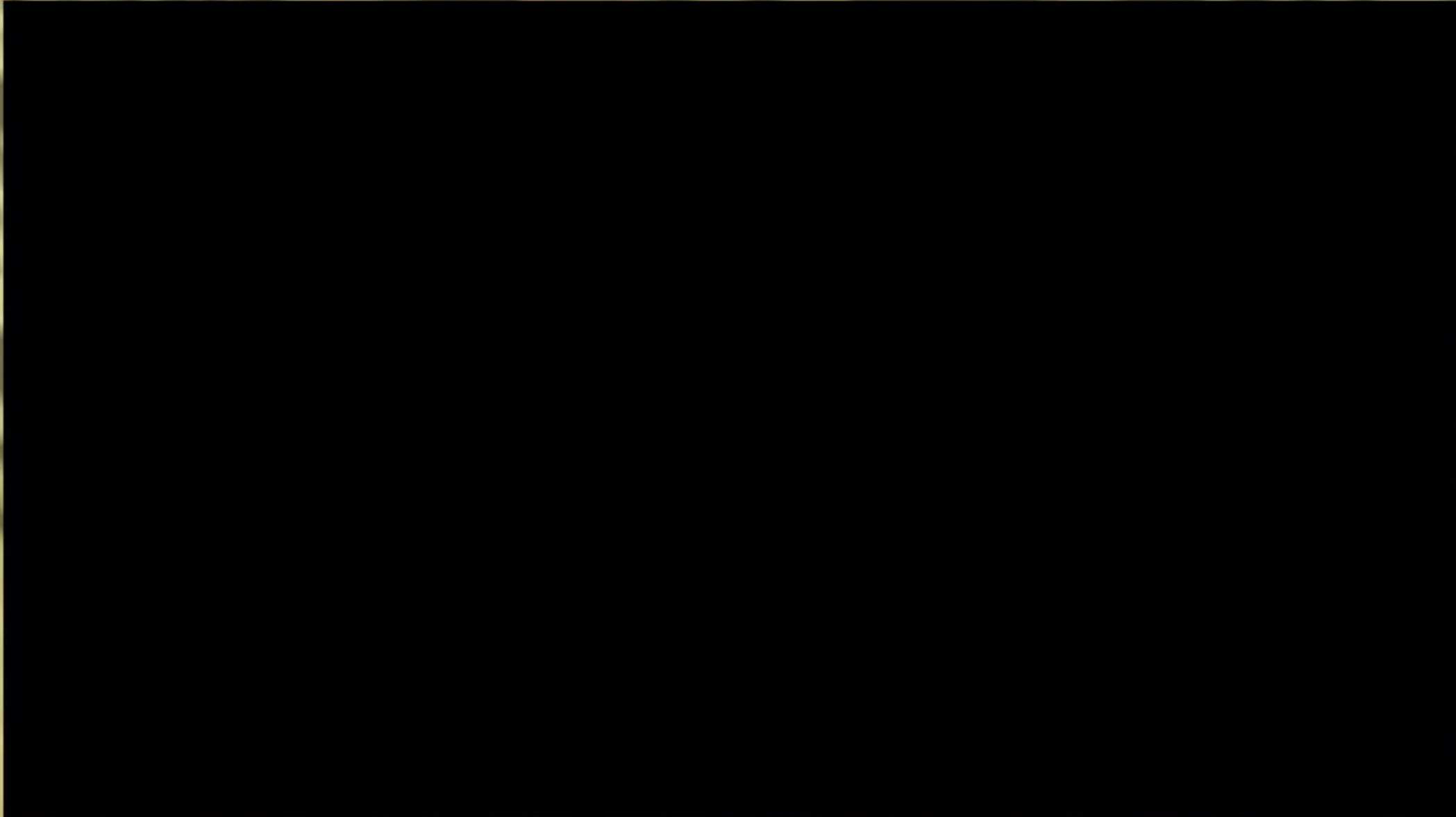
- To serve as a repository of information.
- To provide reference services and research assistance.
- To teach information literacy and critical thinking skills.
- To provide a place to study, collaborate, and socialize.
- To promote social equality.
- To provide access to technology and technology expertise.

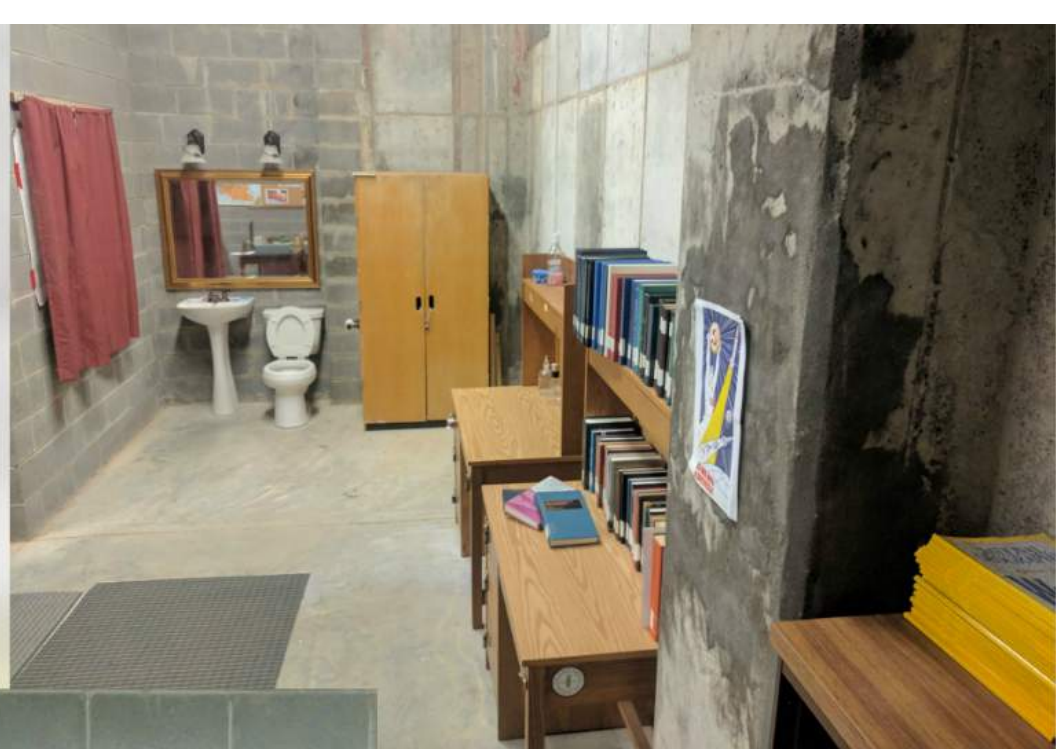
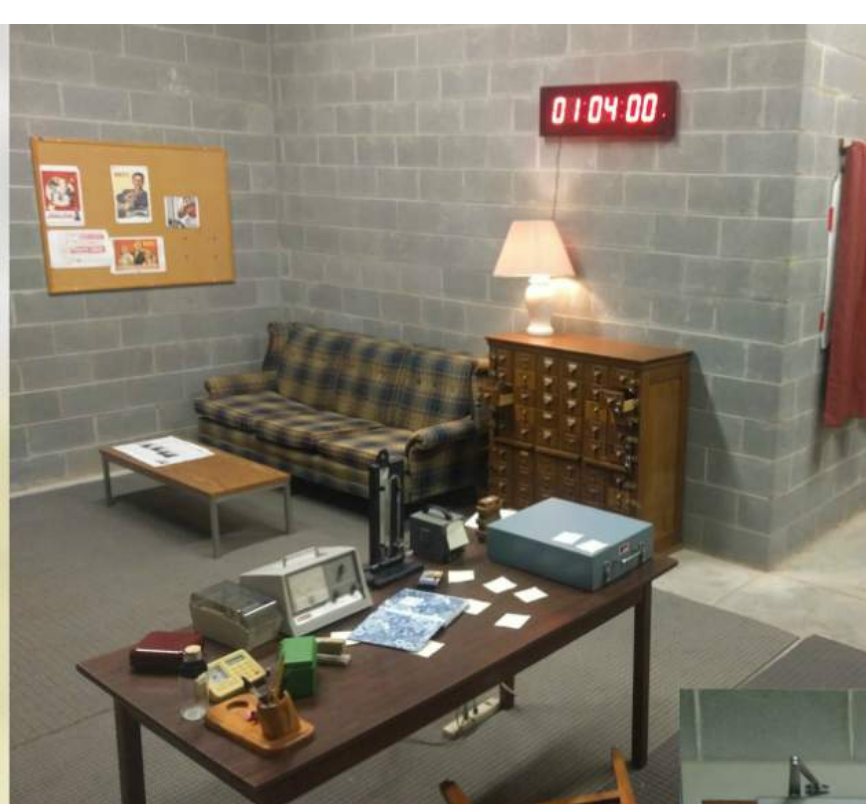
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How Escape Hampden-Sydney Came to Be:



- Philosophy 201: Logic
- Finding a space
 - Competition
 - Long-term use
 - Accessibility
 - Infrastructure investment
- Getting permission (perseverance)
- The legal stuff (waiver, rules, etc.)
- Educating the campus (what the heck is an escape room?)

Operation

- *Don't fool yourself: this is time and work intensive*
- *Designing a room (theme, puzzles, etc.)*
- *Creating the room (props, furnishings, etc.)*
- *Funding the room*
- *Running the room (scheduling teams, debriefing, reset, etc.)*

2016 Escape H-SC participants

Alumni

4.1%

Community

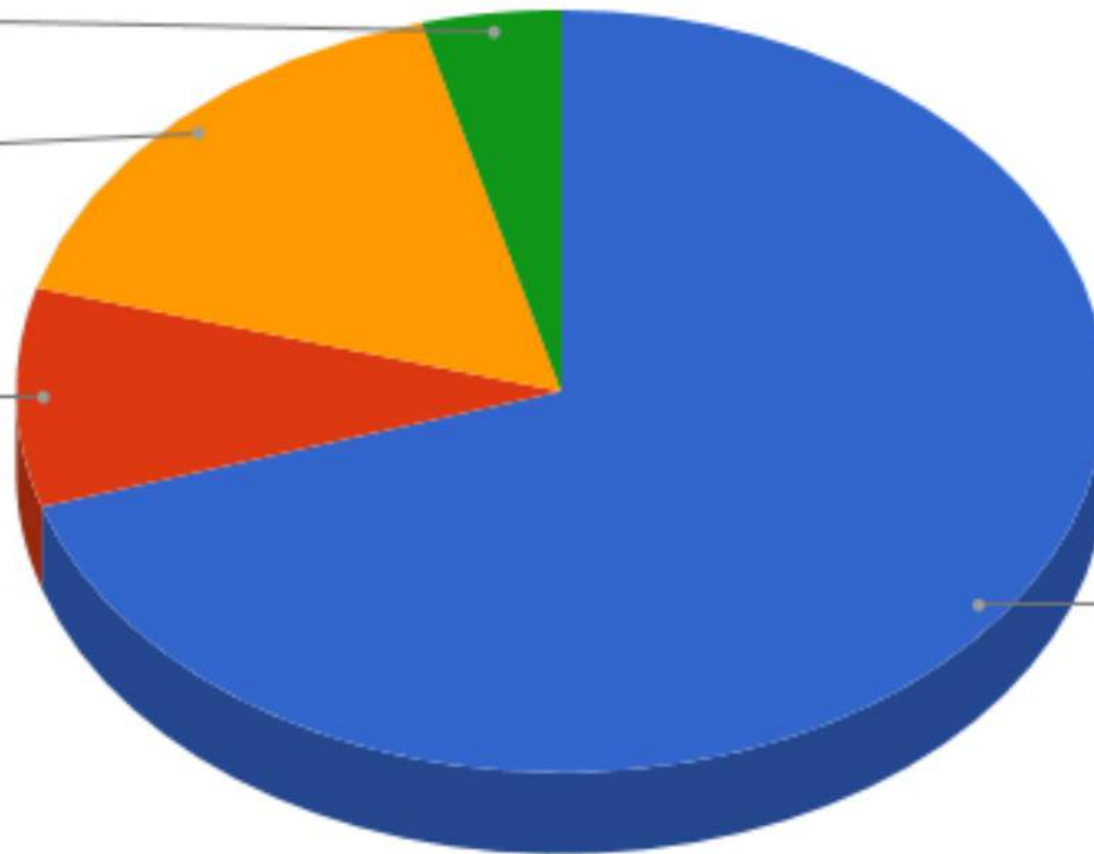
16.5%

Faculty and Staff

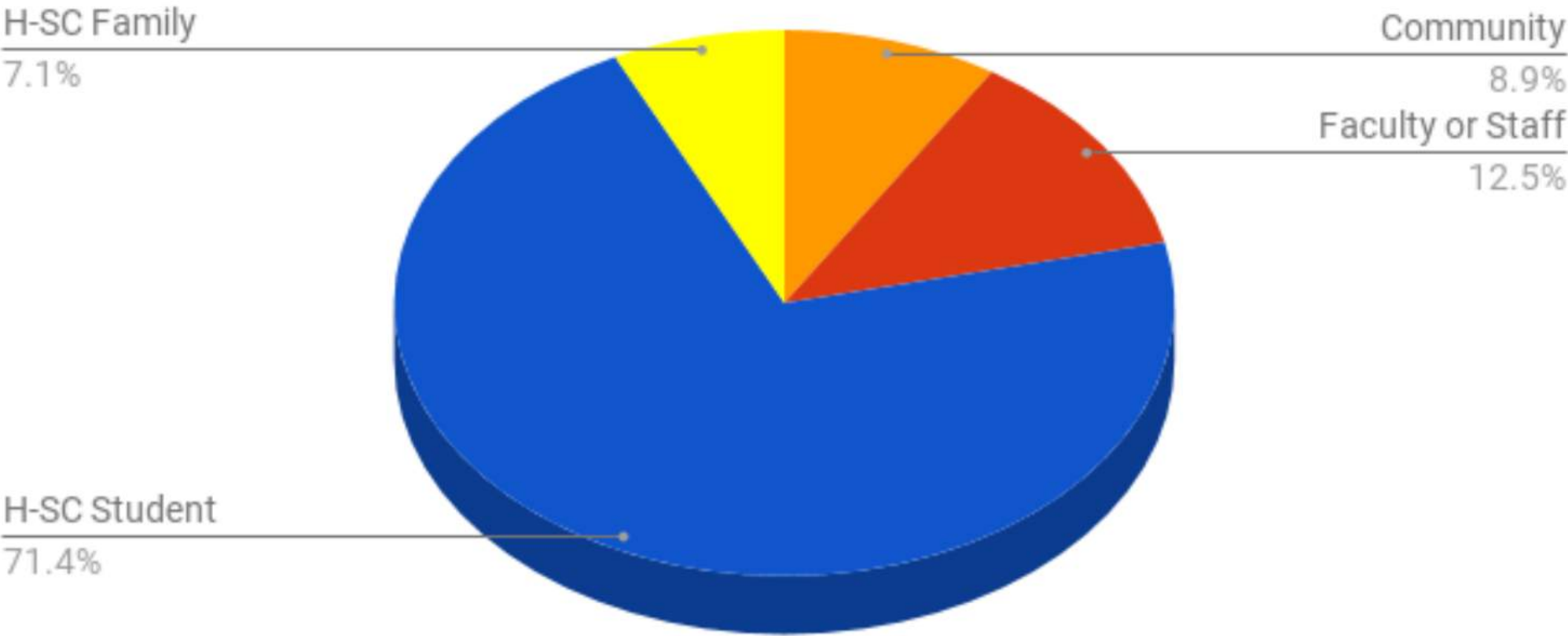
9.3%

H-SC Students

70.1%



2017 Escape H-SC Participants





Improvements:

Year One

- Clues give by an observer in the room
- No web presence
- No operating budget
- Need to educate the campus community about escape rooms
- "One man show"

Year Two

- "Red" phone and cameras
- Libguide page, leader boards, and online booking form
- More technology
- Modest operating budget
- "Escape Room" is familiar term
- Two staff members



You Tube



Escape H-SC 2017 cast: Paula O'Buckley as "The Nurse"; Mike Smith as Administrator Smith; Kevin Dunn as Igor; and David Lewis as Yuri.

A Bright Idea!

Escape rooms are a novel way to promote the educational and social missions of the library.



All photographs are property of Hampden-Sydney College, 2017

Questions?

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Session Evaluation: tinyurl.com/fri2017vla tinyurl.com/fri2017vla



Prezi



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