Lurk Like Learn: Using Facebook to enhance peer-learning

Presenters:

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Abstract:

Shunning clunky online platforms, the Curtin University UniPASS team has established peer-mediated Facebook groups as a supportive tool for peer-learning. These Facebook groups are part of the larger classroom-based UniPASS program which is nationally accredited through the Australasian PASS Centre, University of Wollongong. Despite increasing national and international success with classroom peer-learning programs, online peer-learning has been met with limited success.

The current Curtin University Facebook groups represent the third iteration of our online model. Facebook was selected for its ubiquity, informality, fluidity of communication, and frequency of use among Curtin University’s diverse student body. This online space allows for a vibrant learning experience where students can connect with peers socially and academically outside the classroom, creating a safe student-centered space to seek support. Results show that these student-driven learning communities provide an exciting and inclusive online space to support first-year students completing difficult units.

This presentation builds upon the success of our 2014 pilot; sharing 2015 data, strategic design, and operational techniques. During the presentation participants will be encouraged to join and interact with a purpose built Facebook group to demonstrate some of the key-points.