Building a Digital Learning Assistant Program to Promote Peer Learning in the Digital Liberal Arts

Jordan Noyes & Jennifer Jarson
Muhlenberg College

Blended Learning in the Liberal Arts Conference, Bryn Mawr, PA
May 17, 2017
Goal:

DEVELOP A STUDENT PEER LEARNING COMMUNITY AROUND TECHNOLOGY
Core Themes:
DIGITAL LITERACY
DIGITAL IDENTITY
STUDENT AGENCY
Pre-Orientation
Pre-Orientation

May 2016
BUILD

June 2016
RECRUIT

July 2016
PLAN

August 2016
LAUNCH

Images from The Noun Project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, August 22</th>
<th>Tuesday, August 23</th>
<th>Wednesday, August 24</th>
<th>Thursday, August 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10am-2pm</strong> Arrive Students arrive on campus. Pre-O leaders will greet students, check them in, and share cell phone contact numbers. Proctor Hall</td>
<td><strong>9am Breakfast</strong> Wood Dining Commons, Seegers Union</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2-3pm</strong> Settle In Students move in and get settled.</td>
<td><strong>9:10am How Does College Work?</strong> Get all your questions answered, no question too small TV studio, Watson Hall</td>
<td><strong>9:10am Thinking About Your Domain</strong> Watson 115</td>
<td><strong>9:11am Sandbox Building your domain</strong> Watson 115</td>
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<td><strong>3:15pm Meet Up</strong> in front of Ettinger Hall</td>
<td><strong>10am-12pm Find Your Way</strong> Explore the campus and beyond with online mapping Watson 115</td>
<td><strong>10am-12pm Building Your Domain</strong> Watson 115</td>
<td><strong>11am-12pm Collective Memento</strong> Watson 115</td>
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<td><strong>3:30-4pm</strong> Welcome Session for all pre-orientation students and parents, led by Dean Gulati. Empire Theatre, Baker Center for the Arts</td>
<td><strong>12-1pm Lunch</strong> Wood Dining Commons, Seegers Union</td>
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<td><strong>4:30pm Let’s Get Started</strong> Introductions and icebreakers TV studio, Watson Hall</td>
<td><strong>1-3pm Make Your Way</strong> Develop your own online map Watson 115</td>
<td><strong>1-3pm I Can’t Stop the Feeling</strong> Dance party prep Watson 115</td>
<td><strong>1-2pm Looking Back, Looking Ahead</strong> Reflecting on the week and the future Watson 115</td>
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<td><strong>5:30-7:30pm Dinner</strong> Wood Dining Commons, Seegers Union</td>
<td><strong>3-5pm digital identity</strong> How do you engage online? Where are you on the web? TV studio, Watson Hall</td>
<td><strong>3-5pm Muhlenberg Memories</strong> Delve into Muhlenberg history through the library’s digital collections Information Commons, Traxler Library</td>
<td><strong>2-3pm Beyond Pre-O Opportunities ahead</strong> Watson 115</td>
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<td><strong>8pm-7 LED Frisbee</strong> Don’t forget the ice cream, too! Lawn behind Egner Memorial Chapel</td>
<td><strong>5:30-6pm Pre-game icebreakers</strong> Get to know students from other pre-o groups Event Space, Seegers Union</td>
<td><strong>5-6pm Break</strong></td>
<td><strong>3-5pm I Wanna Dance with Somebody Dance party prep</strong> Watson 115</td>
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<td><strong>8pm-7 LED Frisbee</strong> Don’t forget the ice cream, too! Lawn behind Egner Memorial Chapel</td>
<td><strong>6pm? Take Me Out to the Ball Game</strong> Iron Pigs game (dinner at the ballpark!) In front of the Baker Center for the Arts</td>
<td><strong>6pm? Picnic and bonfire</strong> Multicultural Center</td>
<td><strong>5-6pm Break</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6-7pm Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow</strong> Goodbye dinner TV studio, Watson Hall</td>
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Every Map is...

- a tool, intended for someone’s use
- an information product
- a cultural artifact
- a conceptual framework
Digital Identity: How Do You Engage Online?
Community Building: Digital Dance Party
Digital Learning Assistants
Digital Learning Assistants

September 2016

October - December 2016

January - May 2017

PLAN & RECRUIT

TRAIN

COLLABORATE

Images from The Noun Project
Reflections on Audrey Watters

Ownership & autonomy of DATA + IDEAS

- Data possession vs. knowledge production
- Shifting the education system
- Ownership & Agency
- Public Scholarship
- Experimentation
- Student Agency

Becoming the subject of our own learning instead of the object of education technology software

1. What you create
2. How you present it

By Jazzy Pignatello

Digital Identity - Having control over presenting yourself to the world - Watters

Personal cyber infrastructure

Shifting assignments to empower students to follow and engage with their actual interests.

Successful assignments will emerge
Peer to Peer Collaboration
Jarrett Azar  
web publishing

Megan Orbach  
web publishing

Nick Cunningham  
digital storytelling

Karl Schultz  
digital archives

Jack Mangas  
web publishing

Jazzy Pignatello  
digital storytelling

Dan Lester  
digital mapping

Meredith Salisbury  
digital storytelling
The Struggle of What to Put On Your Domain

My entire life I have been given strict instructions from teachers about numerous assignments. I have always been told what I need to do and how I need to do it. When given the opportunity to make a domain, I am faced with the struggle of freedom in deciding what I want to post and how I want to do it. While it is a challenge, I think it’s important and contributes to the growth of one’s creativity.

Megan Orbach
Muhlenberg Transcribathon unlocks forgotten history

MUHLENBERG HISTORY — March 23, 2017, by Karl Schultz

Last Wednesday, March 15, Trexler Library held their 3rd “Transcribathon.” The transcribation is a come-and-go as […]

Football rivalries lead to ‘non-aggression pacts’

MUHLENBERG HISTORY — February 23, 2017, by Karl Schultz

Though Muhlenberg has its fair share of intense athletic rivalries, we always strive to act respectfully. This […]

Recent Posts

Muhlenberg Transcribathon unlocks forgotten history
March 23, 2017

Football rivalries lead to ‘non-aggression pacts’
February 23, 2017

The 1993 ‘Plan-in’
February 16, 2017

Model Mule: Jack Blair III
February 9, 2017

Other Muhlenberg Weekly Articles

Mythbusting the proposed academic policy change
March 26, 2017

Last week, Facebook was flooded with reactions from Muhlenberg students about several new proposed Academic Policy changes. As such, an understandable amount of confusion has arisen towards the actual content of these proposals. On Wednesday, Mar. 22 at […]
Next Steps
Special Thanks

Daniel Lester  Class of 2018, Pre-O Participant, DLA
Jarrett Azar   Class of 2020, Pre-O Participant, DLA
Jazzy Pignatello  Class of 2017, DLA
Jenna Azar   Instructional Design Consultant
Karl Schultz  Class of 2018, Pre-O Student Leader, DLA
Lora Taub    Associate Dean for Digital Learning
Megan Orbach  Class of 2020, Pre-O Participant, DLA
Meredith Salisbury  Class of 2017, Pre-O Student Leader, DLA
Nick Cunningham  Class of 2017, DLA
Tim Clarke    Instructional Technologist
Tony Dalton  Digital Cultures Technologist

And all of our Digital Learning Assistants and Pre-Orientation Participants