myUMBC

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Today’s Chat

- State of myUMBC
- Fall 2015 Changes
- Q&A
- Preview: myUMBC: The Next Generation
State of myUMBC
OK

(but getting a little old)
Wall of Numbers
Aug 1, 2014 - Feb 9, 2015

- 35,931 Users
- 2,733,115 Logins
- Peak of 600-700 users
- 78 Groups / 667 Total
- 15,660 Joins / 10,042 Users
- 272,005 Searches
- 1,683 Spotlights
- 3,870 News
- 4,490 Events
- 1,321 Discussions
- 12,056 Comments
- 60,384 Paws
Page Views Aug 1, 2014 - Feb 9, 2015

- Homepage: 3,548,912
- Departments: 2,606,470
- PeopleSoft: 1,920,794
- Blackboard: 9,689,892
- myUMBC: 16,742,671
Profile Sharing NEW in 2015

- Under your Profile ▸ Sharing
- Share information with parents/friends
  - Current and Future Registered Courses
  - Grade History
  - Financials - Coming Soon
- Guests can log in with Facebook or Google
- You can add/revoke at any time
UMBC App

- Released Early Summer (iOS and Android)
- Home, Search, Places, and Events
- Remembers your password
- Augments the mobile web, doesn’t replace
- **New Tools:** Location, Push, Camera
- **New Focus:** Data and Priorities
Fall 2015 Changes
Motivations

- Putting “my” back into myUMBC
- Balancing utility vs. community
- Designing for dozens, to hundreds, to thousands
- Simplify the common cases; OK if complex cases require more work
- Focus on user preferences and expand the institutional toolkit
- Mobile is an opportunity to rethink/simplify
Baby Steps

- Future plans require significant changes, taking small steps now
- Will still look like current myUMBC but with some layout tweaks
- Opportunity to try and refine some ideas before we fully commit
  - Not all changes are final, with more possible as things evolve
- We expect to make some mistakes... and for you to tell us
Changes for Everyone

- **Start** will use a new layout, featuring an activity feed
- **Guide** will replace topics with simpler access to resources
- Discussions replaced with **Community Groups**
- Events with an updated browse experience (late summer)
Start

• Activity Feed
• Tasks: Alerts/Invites
• Guide: School/Work Stuff
• Recommended Events
• Community Content
Guide

- Features by various offices
- Recommendations based on most used by role
- All roles reflected; no switching
- Topics still available for less popular links
- We will promote using Favorites
Events

- My Events
- Category-based
  - What vs. when
  - Group events by time in the future
- Day/week/month still available
Changes for Groups

• Group home will feature Activity Feed and upcoming events

• New tabs: Home, Posts, Events, Files, People, Settings, Promotions

• **Follow** is now the standard, all members must be invited by admin

• Discussions and Media will be read-only, linked under Posts

• Follower/Member notifications: All, Important Only, or None

• All Settings on one page, One posting setting for all tabs
Group Home

- Pinned Posts
- Activity Feed
- Upcoming Events
- About This Troup
Promotions (Spotlights)

• Show up as a “promoted post” in everybody’s Start feed
  • Looks like other posts, pushed down as new activity comes in
• Can only promote an existing Post or Event
• Only for a single day and for all audiences, requires approval (for now)
• Limited number of promotions per group, per week (for now)
• Manage your upcoming promotions on new Promotions tab
Replacing Spotlights Elsewhere

Groups

• New “pin” feature for posts/events, admins only
• At top of group activity feed, as many as you want, stay until you remove

sites.umbc.edu

• New Slideshow feature built into sites
• Image, headline, subhead, and link. Reorder as you need.
So when?
Early to Mid June

(hopefully enough time for campus to adjust)
FOLLOW ME!!

my.umbc.edu/groups/myumbc
The End

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Preview
* The following section of the presentation contains concepts and screenshots that are not final and will probably change before they ever see public release.
Mega-Evolving

- Features have been well adopted, and we weren’t prepared for how much
- Awkward balanced of community vs. institutional vs. “my”
- Has grown cluttered and slow
- Some radical changes, hopefully for the better
Designing for Mobile
The Division of Information Technology has approximately 80 full time staff members and over 100 UMBC students that work each day to support the mission of UMBC through the delivery of IT services to the campus.

Our mission is to enable the UMBC community to implement the educational, research and administrative goals through the development and delivery of information and instructional technology services to the UMBC community.
Activity Feeds

• Reclaim your Inbox

• Dominant part of Start page and Group home pages

• A better way to expose you to content and people you might like

  • **Groups:** Content, Activity, Membership

  • **People:** Paws, Comments, Attending Events

• Summarized each day in an email (if you want)
Publishing & Sharing

- Share posts/events between multiple groups
- Comments and paws shared; if you can see, you can comment/paw
- Control over who can see/share (Public, UMBC, Group, Lists)
- Multiple editors for posts
- Scheduled publishing — create content in advance
Better Posts/Events

• News + Discussions + Media = Posts
• New event types: One Time / Multi-Day / Campaign
• More eye candy (cover photos), cleaner text, easier to read everywhere
• Better editor that looks more like the final version
• Embed multiple images/videos/polls/maps/tweets/etc.
• New comment options: On / Off / Moderated / Anonymous
Scholarships for ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing

Tim Finn
4 days ago

The 2015 Richard Tapia Conference (Feb. 2015 in Boston) brings together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, researchers, and professionals in computing from all backgrounds and ethnicities to celebrate the diversity that exists in computing, connect with others with common backgrounds, obtain advice from and make contacts with computing leaders in academia and industry and be inspired by great presentations and conversations with leaders with common backgrounds. UMBC president Freeman Hrabowski and recent UMBC faculty member Shaun Kane will be plenary speakers this year.

The conference provides scholarships for students (undergraduate and graduate), post-docs and faculty that include conference registration, meals, hotel accommodations and a travel allowance.
Notifications

• More things to be notified about: (including)
  • Replies to comments
  • Paws on posts/comments
  • Follows on you or your groups

• More ways to be notified: Online Only / Email / Text / App

• Notifications from groups: Off / Important Only / All
Community Groups

- Current discussions get unfocused or noisy
- About 12 top level groups that anyone can post to: (some ideas)
  - Athletics  Classifieds  Life in Baltimore
  - Academics  Getting Involved  Politics
  - Arts & Entertainment  Help & Advice  Random
- Can be followed individually
- Off topic posts can be removed
Promotions (Spotlights)

- Spotlights have been hugely successful, but are a pain to manage
- Moving to a new model: Promotions — Puts content in people’s feeds
  - Any existing content can be promoted
  - Promotions must apply to everyone at UMBC, must verify via “quiz”
  - Each promotion costs a variable amount of tickets
- You earn tickets back for popular promotions (and over time)
Layout & Organization
Guide

- Replaces Topics menu
- Time/You-based recommendations
- No Role Switching
- Most used links up front
- All documentation in one place
• My Events
• Categories
  • Focus on what vs. when
  • Grouping of events by time in the future
• Day/week/month
Groups

- Your Groups
- Community Groups
- Recommended Groups
- Popular
- Follow-based
- Group Directory

People

- People You Follow
- Recommended People
- Major
- Classes
- Similar Interests
- Searchable Directory
Group

- Pick a Color / Photo
- Pinned Posts
- Labels
- Links
• Privacy is critical
• Pick a Color / Photo
• Activity
• Dashboard

Timeline / Activity
Community Posts
Paws
Clubs
Courses
Events

Dashboard
Degree Progress
Courses
Financials
Deadlines
(shareable)
So when?
When it’s ready...