Festival of Learning Showcase

Facilitator: Dr Janet Beilby, Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology and Speech Pathology

Strategic theme: Leading in innovative education

Subject Title: Evidence for Student Learning with Innovative Virtual Learning Technology at Curtin – “Jim” the Avatar

Contact: Dr Janet Beilby j.beilby@curtin.edu.au Phone 7463

Brief Description: The Empathy Simulator, Jim, was designed to develop student’s skills in communicating with adult, particularly elderly, clients, and specifically their ability to demonstrate empathy. 69 students were randomly allocated to one of 3 conditions: the traditional placement model of the nursing home, a simulated patient in the Juniper simulation suite and the newer technology of the virtual interaction learning environment. To gather data on their experiences, we asked the students to complete pre and post surveys reflecting on their experience, namely their self-rating of their skills, knowledge and confidence, in addition to completing the Jefferson scale of empathy. We wanted to know whether these ratings improved after their placement and how the ratings different between the three conditions. The surveys also asked students to evaluate the experience and answer open-ended questions relating to the advantages and disadvantages of the placement. We also have data from interviews conducted with some of the participants and the clinical educator who ran all the conditions. Given the sheer quantity of data I’ll be sharing an overview of some results today.

Benefits:

Attendees will have a practical demonstration of “Jim” the avatar. Research will be presented demonstrating the beneficial student learning outcomes from virtual skills practice embedded into current undergraduate curricula.

Time/Day: Tuesday 17 March 2015, 12:30-1:30pm

Duration: One hour

No. of Sessions: One

Venue: Building 211. Room 222

Special Requirements: School of Psychology and Speech Pathology, IT support – Dale Towner