



“I am excited to see the students work together and develop a genuine sense of community. It has really changed the way students think and write.”

Dr. Evan Stoddard  
Associate Dean of Liberal Arts  
Duquesne University



## Campus Pack™ in Action:

### Using Wikis to Enliven Group Projects

How can you encourage students to interact in and out of class in a way that effectively leverages teamwork? The wiki tool in Campus Pack™ provides a solution; it enables collaboration while allowing each student to maintain a sense of ownership and without burying you in a mountain of documentation. At Duquesne University, students use Campus Pack wikis to build rich-media websites—and communities—both inside the classroom and beyond.

#### Supporting Teamwork with Technology

With an unwavering focus on teaching, learning, and scholarship, Duquesne University adopts academic technologies as means for accomplishing fundamental university goals. In particular, Duquesne encourages faculty to look at ways that new technologies can help students learn. Dr. Evan Stoddard, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts at Duquesne, is an instructor who has heeded this call.

In his undergraduate honors course *Community and University*, Dr. Stoddard requires the class to work as a team to research, plan, and implement a project to improve conditions in a low-income community near the university. “Since the course is a ‘hands-on’ class with a focus on teamwork, experiential learning, and writing, the students needed a highly flexible means of interacting online,” explains Stoddard.

With this need in mind, Stoddard sought to bring Campus Pack to Duquesne. “I knew these types of web-based tools had the potential to help students build cohesive relationships with each other. Since Campus Pack easily integrates into the Blackboard environment, the adoption curve required to get started would be minimal. It was a must-have for me,” continues Stoddard.

#### Campus Pack as Project Platform

Today, Stoddard relies heavily on the wiki tool in Campus Pack to support the writing and teamwork aspects of *Community and University*. The students use the wiki functionality in Campus Pack to develop three core assignments: a community profile, a proposal, and a final report.

Working together, the students build each of the project deliverables, using Campus Pack wikis to document their research and support their writing. The wikis allow the students to read, edit, re-organize, re-write, re-format, and add content to not only their own—but also each others’—contributions. The students can add different types of content, such as rich text, images, external links, and uploaded files.

## Campus Pack™ Wikis

Campus Pack's wiki tool is designed specifically for education, enabling students and instructors to collaboratively create interactive, multimedia websites. Sharing a common online workspace, course members author, organize, and present their work.

With Campus Pack wikis, users can

- ▶ Easily work together to build knowledgebases, write papers, or synthesize research
- ▶ Use hyperlinks to organize information in sophisticated and informative ways
- ▶ Enhance content with rich text formatting, images, and embedded video clips
- ▶ Track and review individual contributions to group projects



© 2009 Learning Objects, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Reproduction in whole or in part without prior written permission is prohibited. Campus Pack, INSPIRE THINKING ONLINE, and the book logos are trademarks of Learning Objects, Inc.

## Participation Made Easy

To help keep the students organized as they progress, the wiki history in Campus Pack tracks changes, allowing students to view edits, comments, and feedback from both other students and Dr. Stoddard. For the students, this means less time cutting and pasting each other's work into one final document and more time analyzing and reflecting on the work at hand.

On occasion, Dr. Stoddard uses class time to assist students with their work by pulling up the class wiki on a laptop, projecting it on a screen in class, and working on the project together with the students. "I can correct the document on the spot and preserve the changes as they are made on the wiki site," he explains.

Dr. Stoddard also notes that, with Campus Pack's tracking features, he can gain insight into the contributions of each individual simply by looking at the recorded history of the document's evolution.

## Users Respond

During the piloting phase, Duquesne's Educational Technology group administered a survey to Dr. Stoddard's

students to hear more about their experiences first-hand. Responses were overwhelmingly positive.

"The results really speak for themselves," states Ruth Newberry, Director of Educational Technology. "About three-quarters of the class felt the tool was useful and almost all respondents felt Campus Pack wikis should be considered for adoption in every class at Duquesne."

Students highlighted the tool's easy-to-use interface and simple navigation structure. In addition, they mentioned the ability to edit each other's work and provide constructive criticism as very beneficial. According to one student, "The use of the wiki was vital to the outcome of this class and the central project. It provided a useful and effective tool that enabled each team to reach their common goal."

In Stoddard's view, Campus Pack "has really livened up the use of technology in my classroom. I am excited to see students work together and develop a genuine sense of community. It has really changed the way students think and write, enabling them to be more fluid, flexible, and to work collaboratively across the boundaries of time and place."

A screenshot of the Campus Pack web application interface. The top navigation bar includes "DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY" and links for "Home", "Help", and "Login". Below the navigation bar, there are several tabs: "My DU Home", "My Classes", "Gumberg Library", "DU Organizations", "B&amp;E Resources", and "Student Resources". The main content area is titled "MY COURSES &gt; THE HONORS LIBRARY &gt; ASSIGNMENTS" and contains a list of assignments. The assignments listed are: "ASA Style Guide", "Excellent Service-Learning Projects", "Project Report", "Project Report", and "Final Presentation". Each assignment has a brief description and a "View" link.

Visit us on the web to learn more about Campus Pack™.

1.202.265.3276 | [www.learningobjects.com](http://www.learningobjects.com)