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David W. Middleton  
Associate Director, Instructional Technology  
Seton Hall University



## Campus Pack™ in Action:

### Thinking Online with Blogs and Wikis

**What is the best way to leverage technology to improve teaching and learning? For Seton Hall University, Campus Pack™ is part of the answer. The social learning tools in Campus Pack fully integrate with the course management platform, making it simple for users to construct, communicate, and share information in more productive ways.**

#### Campus Pack Across the Campus

A recognized leader in the use of information technology in higher education, Seton Hall University places particular focus on technologies that enable improvements in pedagogy.

“A cornerstone of our institution’s technology plan is curricular integration—supporting faculty in the implementation of important tools into the learning experience,” says David W. Middleton, Associate Director, Instructional Technology, at the Teaching, Learning & Technology Center (TLTC) at Seton Hall University. With this objective in mind, Seton Hall licensed Campus Pack.

To encourage adoption, Seton Hall held a series of full-day training events during the summer months. Faculty members could attend, ask questions, and gain hands-on experience using the tools that comprise the Campus Pack software suite.

#### Blogs to Inspire Thinking and Writing

Faculty quickly saw that Campus Pack’s blogging tool is quite flexible and can be used for a variety of objectives, such as encouraging reflection, developing writing skills, and furthering classroom discussions. “Many faculty have begun to integrate Campus Pack into both online and blended learning environments. They are finding blogging to be a straightforward and interesting way for students to generate and share ideas and information pertinent to the course topics,” continues Middleton.

Faculty have recognized the value of the dialogue fostered by blogging. They find that allowing students to view and respond to each other’s writings helps them to hone their persuasive skills, learn from example, and learn to critique. Says Middleton, “This technique gives students a real sense of ownership, and demonstrates their growth in writing and critical thinking skills over time.”

## About Campus Pack™

Campus Pack is a suite of social learning applications which transform course management systems into a user-centric place for learning, sharing, and collaborating.

By integrating blogs, wikis, and podcasts into an institution's learning platform, Campus Pack

- Engages students in the online learning experience
- Gives both students and instructors tools for easily exchanging ideas and coordinating work
- Increase the effectiveness and utility of an institution's e-learning environment



Some faculty prefer to have students use Campus Pack to maintain private blogs. They find that the reflective thinking required for maintaining a diary or ongoing self-evaluation directly benefits the individual student.

## Wikis for Students and Staff

Interest in wikis has also developed quickly at Seton Hall. "The adoption of Campus Pack™ wikis spread like wildfire," observes Middleton. To date, the Campus Pack wiki tool is used to support a variety of group activities at the university, including team lab work in an ecology class, final student project presentations in Art History, and collaborative group assignments in Communications Leadership courses.

Campus Pack is also being rolled out to organize the TLTC's own inter-departmental meetings and projects. Managers in the five groups within the TLTC have access to a common wiki where they can update status reports and see how the other functional units are progressing on a particular TLTC project. "We wanted to develop a process that enables team members to easily update their tasks, assemble relevant information, and see progress. Campus Pack eliminated all the time-consuming tasks associated with combining multiple reports into a master document. With one click, we can print our monthly report and distribute real-time information to those who need it," concludes Middleton.

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

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