



*“The Sympodium allows for more spontaneous presentations by the faculty who can immediately incorporate student thoughts and ideas and then save those annotations for future discussions.”*

– Alison Kendrick, acting director of instructional technology

## Old meets new in technology-enhanced university classrooms

Founded in 1839 in Farmville, Virginia, Longwood University is among the oldest postsecondary institutions in the United States. With its red brick buildings, ornate verandas, stately white columns, mature trees and well-manicured grounds, this award-winning university seems the epitome of traditional education.

But behind Longwood’s old brick façades are 21st-century learning environments equipped with technology that enables the type of spontaneous, interactive learning that has become integral to Longwood’s well-rounded education experience. At Longwood, incorporating technology such as the Sympodium® interactive pen display into classrooms is viewed as a key to enabling student success, and a way to accommodate the physical challenges faced by some faculty.

In 2005, Alison Kendrick, acting director of instructional technology at Longwood, introduced the school’s 37 Sympodium interactive pen displays into a wide range of technology-enhanced classrooms, including those used for teaching math, art, chemistry, physics, health and recreation.

“We wanted to provide an easier way for faculty to save their notes and post them on the Web for students to use at a later

time,” explains Kendrick, who has worked in technology at Longwood for 20 years. “The Sympodium allows for more spontaneous presentations by the faculty, who can immediately incorporate student thoughts and ideas and then save those annotations for future discussions.”

Named a “Best Southeastern College 2006” by the *Princeton Review*, and listed as one of 20 top colleges that foster student success in an article appearing in *USA Today*, Longwood aims to encourage personal growth in its 4,000-strong student body through student citizenship and a rigorous, technology-rich education.

All of the technology-enhanced classrooms in Longwood’s new, state-of-the-art Science Center and Ruffner Hall are equipped with Sympodium interactive pen displays. In addition to enhancing the education experience for its students, making technology accessible to faculty with a wide range of physical abilities was also central to Longwood’s Sympodium interactive pen display implementation.

“The main issue that I hoped to solve with the implementation of the Sympodium was the use of a complete system with a whiteboard for those faculty who are physically unable to move between a resident technology desk and the whiteboard,” Kendrick says.

### Challenge

To make lectures more interactive and accessible for students and faculty

### SMART Solution

Sympodium interactive pen display units

### Result

Faculty, including those with limited physical abilities, can incorporate student thoughts into presentations and save annotations for future use

*“I can demonstrate code, write down and define terms ... all without getting out of my chair, which is very important as I cannot stand for any length of time without extreme pain.” – Dr. Jeffery Peden, associate professor of computer science*

# Longwood University

Case Study, Farmville, Virginia

*"I do know that I am having consistently good attendance since starting to use the Sympodium – slightly, but noticeably better than before I was using it."*  
– Dr. Jeffery Peden, associate professor of computer science



Dr. Jeffery Peden uses the Sympodium interactive pen display while teaching to accommodate his physical disability.

"By incorporating the Sympodium, we have resolved that issue."

Dr. Jeffery Peden, an associate professor of computer science at Longwood, has quickly mastered the Sympodium product since first using it in September 2005. He now uses the Sympodium interactive pen display instead of the classroom whiteboard, in part to accommodate his physical disability.

"One thing I really like about the Sympodium is that I can integrate its use with the computer and LCD projector system, easily and quickly switching between them," says Peden, who often records his lectures using the Sympodium interactive pen display and presents them again in "real time." "I can demonstrate code, present a diagram, and write down and define terms, all using the same integrated system and all without getting out of my chair, which is very important for me as I cannot stand for any length of time without extreme pain."

Besides the obvious advantage in terms of physical accessibility, Peden says the Sympodium

interactive pen display increases student interaction and motivation in his classes.

"Unlike when using a chalkboard or whiteboard, I am able to save each screen as I write or draw, including from previous lectures – which I do – and refer to them back and forth during class," says Peden. "This allows the students to refer back to previous screens during their questions and comments and this makes them much more likely to ask questions and make comments. I noticed this within the first week of using the Sympodium."

In addition to making his lectures more interactive, Peden also noticed improvements in student attendance and retention since he started using the Sympodium interactive pen display.

"It seems to me that technology which would increase student interaction in class would increase student attendance and retention as well," he says. "I do know that I am having consistently good attendance since starting to use the Sympodium – slightly, but noticeably better than before I was using it."

## About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is both the industry pioneer and global market leader in easy-to-use interactive whiteboards and group collaboration tools. The award-winning SMART Board interactive whiteboard is the most widely installed product of its kind in the world. It streamlines lesson planning, improves student learning outcomes, and is used in more than 250,000 classrooms spanning more than 75 countries and every Local Authority in the UK. SMART products also include interactive pen displays, interactive digital signage, wireless slates and software. Using SMART products, groups can access and share the information they need to meet, teach, train and present. SMART's education customers include Oxford University (UK), Barnier Public School (Australia), University of Ottawa (Canada), United World College (Singapore), Stephen-Hawking-Schule Neckargemuend (Germany) and Harvard University (U.S.). For more information, visit [www.smarttech.com](http://www.smarttech.com).



[www.smarttech.com](http://www.smarttech.com)

Toll-free 1.888.42.SMART

Phone: 403.245.0333 Fax: 403.228.2500