

# Teacher Knowledge Share

IPRO 320 Spring 2009



 **Church Green**



# Problem

- Teachers are busy
- Lesson plans take time to create
- Teachers have added pressures
  - Standardized testing
  - Teaching additional classes
  - Watching for drugs
  - Watching for signs of abuse



# Teacher Knowledge Share

- SMILE (1997) – Science and Mathematics Initiative for Learning Enhancement
- Third semester of IPRO 320
  - Wiki
  - Current Design Alpha
  - Deerfield Focus Group
  - Queen of Peace Focus Group
  - Online Survey



# Prototype

**Teacher Knowledge Share**

Search this site:

[Home](#) [Forum](#) [Lesson Plans](#) [Calendar](#) [Recent Posts](#) [Account](#)

### User login

Username: \*

Password: \*

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

### CNN: Latest

- [Video coverage of State of the nation address](#)
- [Money manager answers questions on the economy](#)
- [Quench your speech trivia thirst](#)
- [N. Korea: Ready to launch satellite](#)
- [Report: Pakistan agrees fresh Taliban truce](#)

[more](#)

### About Us

[about](#) [calendar](#) [forum](#) [lesson plans](#) [tks](#)

Teacher Knowledge Share is a website dedicated to increasing communication and the flow of resources between teachers of all grades and all subjects. The site focuses on providing teachers with the ability to post, share, review and trade lesson plans; have ongoing communication with coworkers about important issues – whether they are from the same school, same school district or miles away; and manage their time by using the calendar to find out about workshops, conferences and other relevant events to attend.

The project began in the Fall of 2008 at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The group consisted of eleven students with a large variety of majors. After speaking with over one hundred teachers from various areas around Chicago, a set of features for the site was developed and implemented. The site is open to all teachers to come and share their ideas, lessons and questions with the rest of the teaching community.

The main purpose of the site is to allow teachers to professionally network in order to reduce the time spent between classes online looking for materials. The site houses a vast database of lesson plans which can be accessed by teachers to use in their classrooms. Teachers are encouraged to use the forum section of the community to ask fellow teachers questions about anything related to teaching. The calendar portion of the site is designed to allow teachers to find out



# Semester Objectives


- Improve layout of site
- Improve usability
- Conduct further research regarding desirability and usability
- Develop marketing plan
- Migrate data from SMILE
- Implement Groups feature

# Current TKS

Search this site:

[Home](#) [Groups](#) [Lesson Plans](#) [Calendar](#) [Recent Posts](#) [Account](#)

Welcome



+ Create New Account

@ About Us

??? New Teacher Guide & FAQ  
*Coming Soon*

**INERTIA**

Submitted by SMILE on Sat, 04/18/2009 - 17:53 INERTIA physics

☆☆☆☆☆  
Your rating: None Average: 4 (1 vote)

**Objectives:**

- 1) Students will learn basic understanding of inertia.
- 2) Students will demonstrate some activities illustrating inertia.
- 3) Students will develop a basic understanding of Newton's laws of motion.

**User login**

Username: \*

Password: \*

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

**Top Contributors**

| Name       | Avg. | Score |
|------------|------|-------|
| SMILE      | 4.13 | 52.13 |
| mgrilley   | 5.00 | 21.15 |
| apierce    | -    | 19.96 |
| inter      | -    | 18.91 |
| love2teach | -    | 18.91 |

**New York Times**



# Goals Accomplished

- Redesigned layout
- Usability research
- Implemented Groups feature
- Created Top Contributors feature
- Began moving data from SMILE to TKS

The screenshot shows a user interface with a light blue background. At the top, there is a search bar. Below it is a "Log in" button, followed by two links: "Create new account" and "Request new password". A section titled "Top Contributors" contains a table with three columns: "Name", "Avg.", and "Score". Below this is a section titled "New York Times" with a single link: "Souter Said to Be Leaving Court in June".

| Name       | Avg. | Score |
|------------|------|-------|
| SMILE      | 4.13 | 52.13 |
| mngriley   | 5.00 | 21.15 |
| apierce    | -    | 19.96 |
| love2teach | -    | 18.91 |
| inter      | -    | 18.91 |



# Future Tasks

- Marketing will be a primary focus
- Continue importing SMILE content
- Establish portal for educational content
- Add features:
  - Event announcements
  - Enhanced tagging system





# Risks & Challenges

- Hard to find teachers for focus groups
- Protect copyrights of submitted material
- Protect privacy of users
- Server performance issues
- Running two independent projects



# Group Organization

## Managerial / Documentation

*Ed Scanlon*  
Dmitriy Pindrik  
Dmitriy Vystoskiy

## School Green

*Zachary Cornelius*  
Stephen Sunderberg  
Jaeyeon Kihm

## Research & Dev.

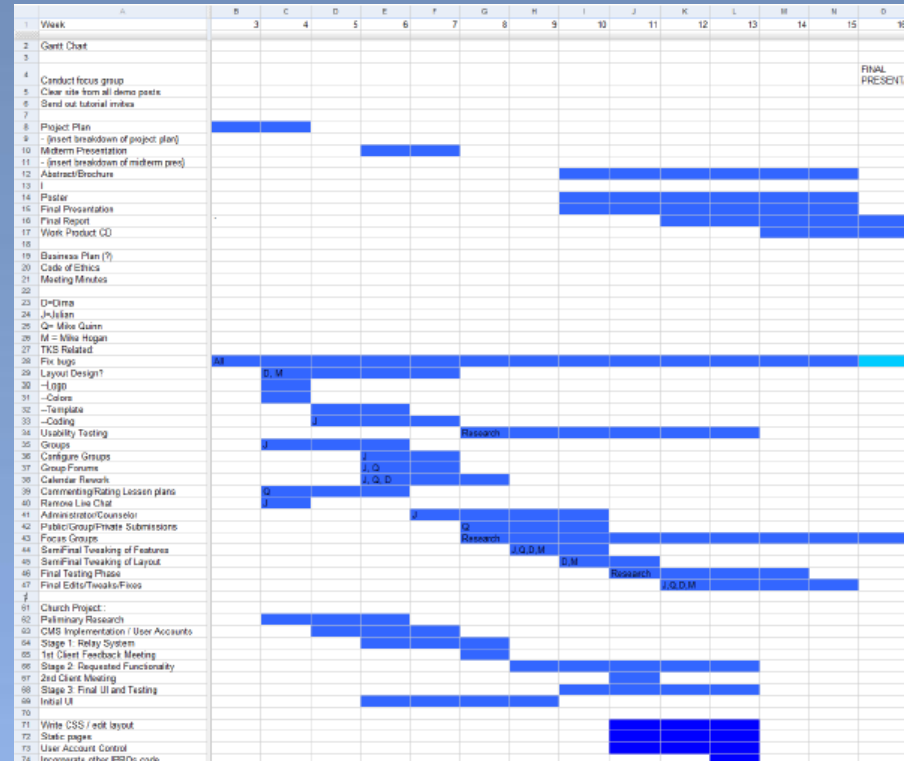
*Mitchell Edwards*  
Mimmi Wide  
Danielle Di Pego  
Evan Himchak

## TKS

*Mike Quinn*  
Mike Hogan  
Julian Hartline  
Max de-Courten-Myers

# Tasks & Schedule

- Each sub-team had its own Gantt section
- Tuesday/Thursday meetings
- Gantt chart modified



# Research Efforts

- Research Conducted
  - Aesthetics
  - Chicago area teachers
- Marketing Strategy
  - Office of Community Affairs
- Focus Group
- Usability Testing





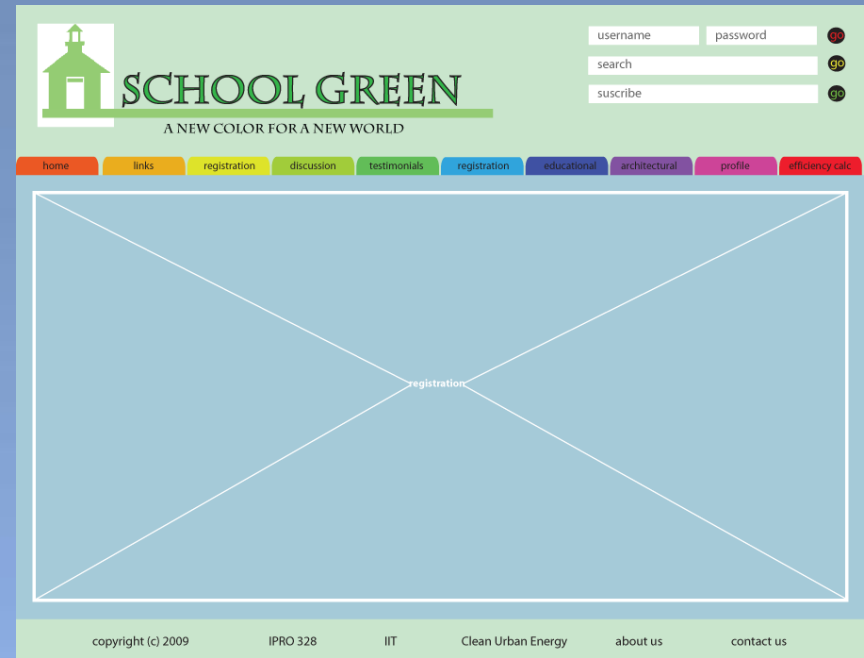
# Research Results

- Focus Group verified interest
- Teachers responsible for material beyond their degrees
- Home and rural schools need resources
- Competition:
  - Poor acceptance
  - Insufficient organization
  - Fewer features



# Church Green Team

- Project requirements
  - Manage and display meter data to users
  - Upload static information
- Semester agenda
  - Turn static content into public pages
    - Private section
  - Create improved design





# Church Green Team

- Completed tasks
  - Public pages and user control
  - Script to import incoming data
  - New design
- Challenges
  - Requirements were not always clearly stated
  - Communication delays



The screenshot shows the Church Green website homepage. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with the Church Green logo (a leaf) and the text "Church Green" in white. To the right of the logo are links for "Home", "Funding", "Links", and "About Us". Further right are "Register" and "Log In" links. Below the navigation bar, the main content area has a white background. On the left, there is a photograph of a large, multi-story building with a courtyard in front, covered in snow. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "Welcome to Church Green" followed by a "Mission" statement: "Mission - To help schools and religious institutions find ways to reduce their energy costs, allowing them to better fulfill their intended missions. This will be accomplished by offering simple and low cost ideas, and examining their current energy usage by top energy professionals to find times and ways to reduce their energy bills." At the bottom of the page, there is a green footer bar with the text "© 2009 IIT | Clean Urban Energy".



# Conclusion

- Site is operational
  - Registered users
  - Lesson plans uploaded
- Demand for site exists
  - Focus group
  - Usability testing
- Teachers benefit
  - Saves time
  - Professional networking site





# Special Thanks

Audrey Galo – Future Strategy

Dr. Fluet / MSED550 Class – Focus Group

IIT Office of Community Outreach – Marketing

Roy Coleman – SMILE Program

Dr. Porter Johnson – SMILE Program

Anica Jovanova – Usability Office

# Questions?

