The Canvas Connection

March 7, 2013

View past issues of the Canvas Connection at **Learnit.stfrancis.edu/canvasconnection**

Important Browser Information

After March 31, 2013, Canvas will no longer actively develop or provide bug fixes for Internet Explorer 8.

What does this mean? Future Canvas releases will not be tested to ensure that new features and updates work the same in IE 8 as in other browsers. Over time, this will likely degrade the user experience for people who try to use Canvas in IE 8, so for the best user experience, **Canvas recommends using the current version of either Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome**.

You can find a current list of supported browsers in the **Canvas Guides**.

Going Mobile

You can access Canvas from any browser on your phone and interact with Canvas as you would on a normal browser, but keep in mind that the Canvas software was optimized for desktop displays, and the browser on your mobile device may not function as it would on a desktop system.

If you wish to use Canvas on a mobile device, **it is recommended that you use the Mobile Apps for iOS or Android devices.** Information about downloading and installing the Mobile Apps can be found at **Learnit.stfrancis.edu**.

The url to configure your mobile app to connect to USF is: **learn.stfrancis.edu**.

Remember that items requiring Flash to run will not work on mobile browsers.

Discussions Area Improvements

Canvas recognizes that the Discussions area is not meeting all the needs of its users, and has been working for several months testing updates and fixes to correct some known issues. In the next 4-6 months, they expect to announce the following changes:

- ▶ Improved read/unread message controls and filters
- ▶ Ability to toggle individual messages as read or unread
- ▶ Auto-lock discussion thread after a set date
- ▶ Ability for users to rate individual discussion posts
- ▶ Grading improvements for instructors

The Center for Instructional Delivery will provide more information to users as these updates are announced by Canvas.

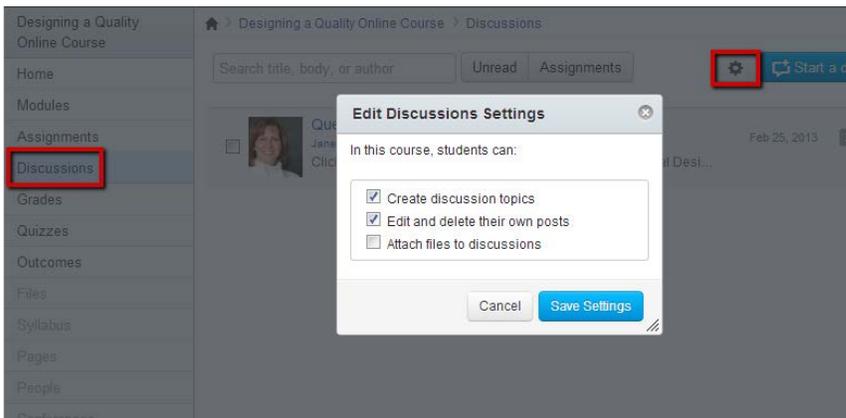### New Features – to be released Saturday, March 9, 2013

Every 3 weeks the Canvas engineers fix any bugs in the Canvas software, and will sometimes add new features. The next update will happen on **Saturday, March 9, 2013**; some of the updates include:

Discussions Settings

Canvas has added the ability to adjust three new Discussion settings directly from the **Discussions** main page (below):
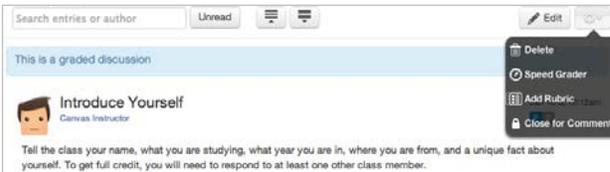
1. Restrict students from creating a new Discussion topic.
2. Prevent students from editing/deleting their own postings. This is particularly useful to those faculty who require students to make a first initial posting before allowing them to read others' postings.
3. Allow students to attach files to replies.

These Discussion settings are also accessible via Settings (left menu) under "more options".

Discussions Interface Update

In Discussions, instructors will notice the edit button has been moved next to the Gear icon, while the Speedgrader™ and rubric information is now located inside the Gear icon.

Print Grades

Instructors can easily print grades for a student, regardless of their Internet browser, by using the **Print grades** button located on **Grades** page.

Disable Comments on Announcements

Instructors can disable comments on Announcements for an entire course in Course Settings. This setting can be enabled at any time during the course and will apply to all future Announcements, as well as those previously posted.

Next Canvas update:
March 30, 2013, 8:00 am.