# The Canvas Connection

**June 21, 2013**
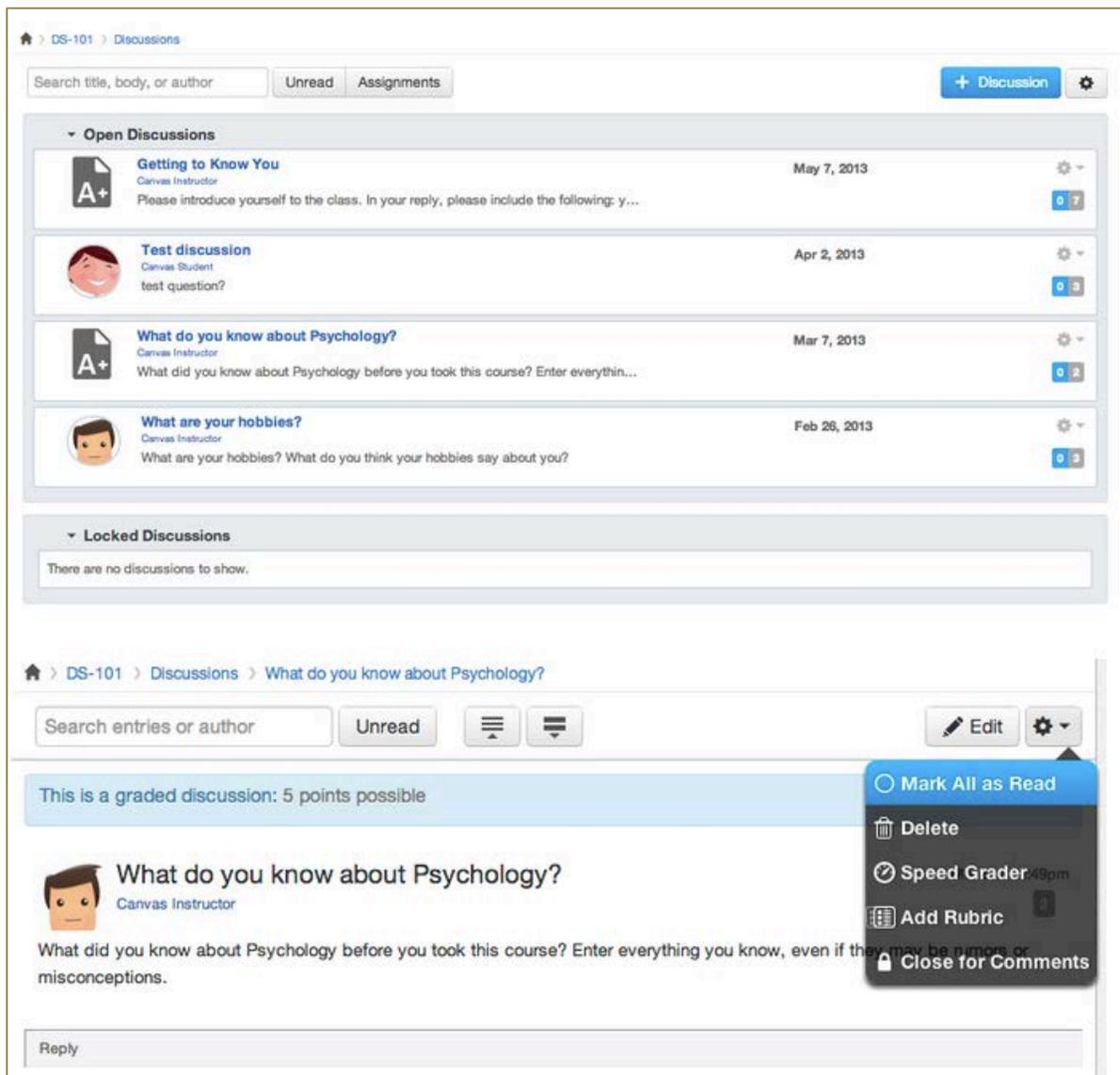
View past issues of the Canvas Connection at **Learnit.stfrancis.edu/canvasconnection**

## New Features – to be released June 22, 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, June 22, 2013**; some of the updates include the following:

**Discussions now grouped by open and locked discussions topics.**

Discussions are grouped by open and locked discussions. Discussion topics are displayed in order by most recent activity. Users can also mark individual entire discussion topics as read by opening a discussion and accessing the gear menu.



**Live**

**Conferences in Canvas are now organized by new and concluded conferences**.

New conferences include the title and description of the conference,and conference hosts will have a Start button to activate their conference. (Students can still only create conferences within their own student groups). Thanks to a new in-progress indicator, users can more easily identify and join conferences that have already started.



**People" in the Course Menu now includes access to user information for instructors.**

All course user information is located directly within the People page; administrators and instructors no longer need to access the Users tab in Course Settings. Each user has a gear icon where administrators and instructors can resend the course invitation to the user, edit the user's section enrollment (if applicable to the user's role), and view the user's details. The People page also indicates the status of all users whose course invitations are pending; clicking the Resend link will reissue all outstanding invitations at the same time.



**Notifications are now easier to understand and are more convenient.**

In "Settings" Users can now hover over the name of a notification to view its details and change their preferences accordingly. Instructors will only receive notifications for exam submissions that require manual grading, such as essay questions.

**Gradebook "curving" notifications to instructors**

Instructors receive a warning when curving student grades.  Pre-curved grade histories will be available, but the curving action is irreversible.

**Titles for assignments, discussions, and other Canvas items are limited to 255 characters.**

The limit of 255 typographical characters for titles applies to:

- Assignments
- Discussions
- Collaborative documents.
- Quizzes
- (Wiki) Page and media comment titles

**In Assignments, students can now upload unlimited files to submit an assignment.**

**In Quizzes, students will get visual help to identify the status of each question. Unanswered questions are indicated by a question mark, while completed questions are indicated by a checkmark.**

**Coming soon:  SUBJECT HEADERS FOR INBOX COMMUNICATIONS!**

This long-awaited and repeatedly requested feature will soon become reality in Canvas. Currently in the planning stages, Inbox communications will soon have subject lines, improved search capability, more powerful filtering options, and automatic arcival of messages from concluded courses. Canvas is also cleaning up the Inbox user interface to make it easier to use. A timeline for the implementation of these features has not been announced but the fact that is now a "planned" upgrade means it won't be long. We will keep you updated.

**Reminder:  Your USF Canvas Support team is the Department of Academic Technology**.

Whenever you are experiencing any obstacle or problem in Canvas, your best option is to click "Help" in Canvas and complete a problem report. This report gives us diagnostic information to help us quickly resolve the issue, and is guaranteed to be viewed by DAT staff within a 24 hour period. More often than not we beat that 24-hour period by a mile.