

TEACHING TUESDAYS



Term: Fall 2025 | [Issue 136](#) | Date: December 9, 2025 | Editor: Danielle Harris

BELLISARIO BULLETIN



By [Juliet Pinto](#) | Acting Associate Dean and Associate Professor

It's the last week of classes, and we're already looking ahead to the holiday season and next semester. Hope to see you at the Bellisario Holiday Party next week. Those who RSVP'd will be receiving a confirmation email this week.

New for Spring 2026 classes is an important update to the [Faculty Senate Policy 43-00 \(Syllabus Requirements\)](#) regarding the Disability Accommodation Statement. The statement now includes language clarifying that reasonable accommodations may be available for students participating in internships, practicums, student teaching, and other experiential learning opportunities. Faculty are asked to review and update the disability-related information in their course syllabi to reflect this change.

The College's Simple Syllabus template reflects this updated language in the section for Disability Accommodations; however, if you plan to import previous syllabus content into spring syllabi, then you will need to make that update manually. Please [email Danielle Harris](#) with questions or concerns. We also have other [tutorials](#) for using Simple Syllabus. Similarly, anyone who would like a refresher on Canvas features can sign up for one of the Canvas 101 trainings over the break, as discussed in today's Canvas Cue.

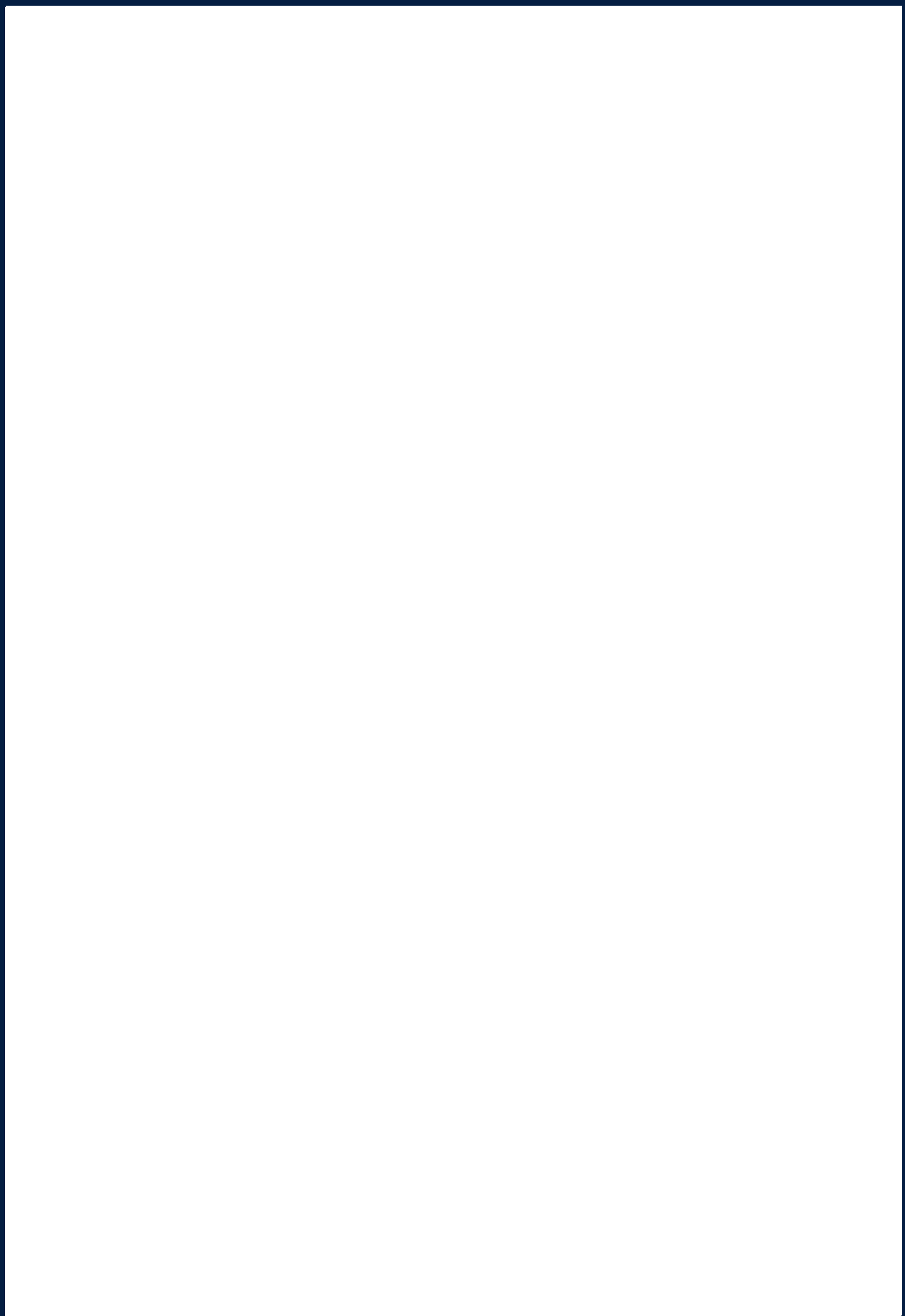
Finally, today's newsletter features not a goodbye from Michelle Baker, who is leaving her position as the College's Director of eLearning Initiatives at the end of this semester, but rather an "hasta pronto," as she pursues a new career in writing. Wishing you all the best, Michelle, and wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and New Year!

Important Items of Note

- **Final Grades** | Final grades are submitted in LionPATH and are due within 48 hours of the last day of the semester or final exam. | [LionPATH Faculty Center Grading Instructions](#) | [Tutorials Available](#) | [LionPATH Support](#)
- **Semester Classes End** | December 12
- **Semester Commencement** | 9:30 a.m. Master's and Doctoral Degrees | 4:30 p.m. Bachelor's Degrees | Bryce Jordan Center
- **Simple Syllabus** | Syllabi will update each week, on Tuesdays so if your syllabus is not available yet, it should populate soon! | View [video tutorials](#) on *Accessing Simple Syllabus*, *Editing a Simple Syllabus*, *Enabling Simple Syllabus in Canvas*, and *Importing a Previous Syllabus*.

Careers/Internships

- **Summer 2026** | [Newsroom Internships](#) | Feel free to share with rising juniors or seniors.



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Upcoming Events

- **December 17** | 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. | [Inclusive and Ethical Pedagogy Series: Teaching Larger Classes](#) | Virtual

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TEACHING TIP



This is Not Goodbye

By [Michelle Baker](#)

"How did you like the class?" the professor asks me.

I am an incoming undergraduate student, and I just observed his senior-level creative writing class. Seventeen and shy, I sat in the back—listening to students read their work and feeling a little intimidated. Now, in the hallway with the professor, I feel even more so.

"What do you want to do?" he asks.

"I want to be a writer."

He nods sagely. And then with satisfaction, he unfurls an obviously practiced story about a favorite, former student. She is talented. Preternaturally gifted. Angels weep at her words, and Muses fight to whisper story ideas in her ears.

"And do you know what she's doing today?" He stares down at me.

“No...?”

“She’s a baker.” DRAMATIC PAUSE. “But her first book is coming out in the spring.”

I don’t hear this line about first books and springtime. I hear only one word: baker.

She is a baker.

I am a first-gen college student. A journalism major. The only child of my parents whose hopes for me are unachievably high. If I become a baker—or anything other than Something Directly Related to My Major—my parents will be more than upset. They. Will. Kill. Me.

I walk away, determined to do something practical. Something that doesn’t involve flour.

Of course, the universe has a way of laughing.

I did become a Baker.

But I didn’t become a writer.

Not the way I had intended.

Fast forward (ahem) years into the future. We are in lockdown, and I, along with half the U.S., am cleaning out my storage room. In a forgotten Tupperware bin filled with yearbooks and prom paraphernalia is a copy of the college admissions essay I had written.

And there it is again, on dot matrix paper: I want to be a writer.

This time, the words spark.

I begin an MFA program in writing for children and young adults. I love it. My heart is drawn to middle-grade fiction because themes about community and home and family, especially chosen family, resonate deeply within me.

This is what I want to do, I realize.

I want to put something hopeful out into the world.

So, as a way to create space to pursue this dream, I am stepping back from my full-time role with our College at the end of this semester, and I will begin teaching part-time in the spring.

Because I love our Bellisario Family, this transition is bittersweet. I feel so lucky and blessed to be a part of our College. You are amazing colleagues who do unbelievably important work. Every day, I am inspired by you—by your successes and your kindness.

I am glad to know you.

But this is not goodbye.

I look forward to seeing you around campus, and I wish you all a good end to the semester and a wonderful winter break.

CANVAS CUE



Canvas 101: Course Design & Navigation

By [Danielle Harris](#) | Instructional Design



Join a **Canvas 101: Basic Course Design** training before the start of the spring semester. There will be three offerings, so hopefully one timeslot will work well with your schedule!

- I. **December 30** | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | [Zoom Link](#)
- II. **January 5** | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | [Zoom Link](#)
- III. **January 8** | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | [Zoom Link](#)

The session will provide a refresher on basic Canvas features that help immensely when trying to organize course content in a way that is easy for students to navigate.

This will also be a safe space to ask Canvas questions that might keep you up at night. Questions like, how might I better organize my gradebook this semester? Or what can I have students do in Canvas that might increase their engagement with an activity they seem to struggle with each semester?

Canvas 101: Basic Course Design will review the following:

- Course homepage
- Module management
- Gradebook organization
- Quiz moderation
- Accessibility tools

SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY



Share the phenomenal things that you have been doing in your classroom! Do you have a teaching technology or strategy that you've seen succeed and would like to share in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.