

TEACHING TUESDAYS



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BELLISARIO BULLETIN



— By [Denise Bortree](#)

Welcome to Teaching Tuesdays! We had a great meeting on Friday for the Think In. Thanks to everyone who attended. You'll be hearing more from Heather Shoenberger and Patrick Plaisance in the coming weeks as we continue to consider ways to incorporate AI into our classrooms and how to discourage cheating with Chatbots. In the meantime, our Schreyer Institute speaker sent along an interesting article from NYT that is relevant to our discussion of challenging topics in the classroom: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/03/opinion/colleges-civics-core-curriculum-culture-wars.html?smid=tw-share>

This week's column is written by adviser Nikki DiOrio, our Starfish guru. If you're teaching this semester, you probably received the "Early Progress Report" email today. In her column, Nikki shares strategies for using Starfish to help support students in your classroom. And, in Canvas Cues, Danielle Harris provides us with tips for creative announcements through Canvas. Here's to a good third week of the semester. Denise

Important Items of Note

- **AI, Pedagogy, and Academic Integrity** | Visit the [AI, Pedagogy, and Academic Integrity site](#) for information and resources.
- **Canvas Course Archiving** | Scheduled for September 19 | Penn State IT will perform its regular archiving of older Canvas courses. Beginning August 16, 2023, you may choose to delay particular courses from being archived by using the in-Canvas Course Archive Manager tool. Full details, including instructions on how to opt a course out of archiving or request content from a course in long-term storage, are available on the [Penn State Canvas website](#).
- **Zoom Integration Update in Canvas** | The Canvas Zoom Integration (occurred on Thursday August 31) will have two small changes implemented. These changes are a part of the final transition steps from the old to the new integration and a result of feedback from Faculty and Students. Zoom Integration Update in Canvas. For more information on the Zoom Integration with Canvas, please refer to the knowledge base article, [Canvas: Zoom 1.3 LTI Overview](#). For the latest Zoom updates, news, resources, support, and training information, visit zoom.psu.edu.

Careers/Internships

- **September 5** | 6 pm | Resume Workshop | 60 Willard

Upcoming Events

- **September 5** | Guest Lecture Amelia Pisapia, The New York Times | 6 - 7 pm | Carnegie Cinema (113 Carnegie Building) | Amelia Pisapia, manager, emerging technology projects, The New York Times, will present a free public lecture and participate in a question-and-answer session.
- **September 6** | Canvas: An Introduction to Mastery Paths | 10:00 - 11:30 am | [View Details](#) | Learn how to use Mastery Paths to create differentiated learning experiences in your Canvas course.
- **September 8** | Football Fridays | 4 - 5 pm | Doug Allen ('74) | Carnegie Cinema (113 Carnegie Building) | Doug Allen, a Penn State football letterman, former assistant executive director of the NFLPA and former national executive director of SAG, will be the featured guest when Football Fridays, an on-campus question-and-answer series, continues for the fall.
- **September 12** | Learning Tools Exploration: Content Visualization Tools | 1-2 pm | [Registration Form](#) | Faculty are invited to join Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) for a virtual session where participants will have the opportunity to preview a range of learning tools to potentially execute in courses to enhance how content is visually displayed for students.

TEACHING TIP



Progress Reporting in Starfish

— By [Nikki DiOrio](#)



It might seem like there are more items on our to-do lists every semester, but progress reporting in Starfish is a key tool for faculty and advisers to evaluate academic performance and address student problems such as absenteeism, missed assignments, and low exam scores. By creating a formal means for faculty, student, and adviser communication, as a team, we can promote beneficial, evidence-based interventions that impact student retention and success.

While the ink on your syllabus might still be wet and advisers are likely still recovering from the drop/add period, the first round of progress reporting starts this week. The Bellisario College's expectation is that every undergraduate faculty member and adviser participate in the progress reporting process.

In each of the progress reporting periods, faculty should raise flags for concern and post to-dos for students in their undergraduate courses. Students receive an email for every to-do and flag, including details about what the notification means and important next steps. Advisers also receive notification for every flag for their assigned advisees and are expected to follow up. It's a lot of moving parts, but if it helps our students reach their potential, we should be all in.

Early Progress Reporting Period: 9/5 – 9/13

Early Progress Reporting Goals:

- Provide feedback to students/advisers early in the semester, especially regarding attendance, so students can improve or stay on the right track.
- Identify students who need additional support from advising, IT and/or student support services so their needs can be addressed early in the semester.

Midterm Progress Reporting Period: 10/2 – 10/25 (Late drop deadline: 11/10)

Midterm Progress Reporting Goals:

- Help students to understand their grades so they can:
 - Improve by accessing available resources like office hours and tutoring.
 - Consider dropping the class before the late-drop deadline if grades are not salvageable.
- Identify students who need additional support from advising, IT and/or student support services.

Changes in Starfish

The new Starfish interface will save you a significant amount of time. Only two options for *Flags* exists now: 1) Never attended or logged in to the course or 2) Instructor needs additional help with this student (Think: Urgent! This student is not going to be successful in this course!). *Kudos have been eliminated*, so no positive feedback is needed. Instructors can indicate several *To-Do items* directed to students, which encourage them to participate more in class and visit office hours. To-Dos are less urgent concerns, but should be directed only to students who are struggling.

Instructors of Large Lecture Courses: You should be able to use the survey tool so that you don't have to enter individual flags. *Due to the changes in the Progress Reporting process, we're only looking at students with two issues right now:*

- Has not attended
- Urgent help needed from advising

Tips for Faculty participating in Progress Reporting

- Include comments with flags to provide more detail – this helps the student and advising team to understand the issue.
- Watch this [3-minute video](#) about completing a progress survey.
- Follow these [step-by-step instructions](#) for completing progress surveys for your courses.

While progress reporting periods are critical to success, ongoing communication between students, faculty and advising is just as important. If you're worried about a student at any time of the semester, you can use Starfish to raise a flag or reach out to the advising staff directly with your concerns.

Department Advising Liaisons

- Advertising and Public Relations: [Aaron Rill](#)
- Film Production: [Michelle Rist](#)
- Journalism: [Nikki DiOrio](#)
- Media Studies: [Del Schwab](#)
- Telecommunications & Media Industries: [BB Muré](#)

On behalf of the academic advisers, we wish you a smooth fall semester and look forward to partnering with you to support our students.

CANVAS CUE



Creative Canvas Announcements

– By [Danielle Harris](#) | Instructional Design

You can get creative when sharing important information with your students in a Canvas announcement. There are several reasons why sending announcements throughout the semester can be beneficial, but there are also ways to creatively share relevant information and course updates:

- Remind students of upcoming assignments, clarify instructions, or address misconceptions; you are able to [embed an external link](#) or [course link](#), taking students directly to assignment at hand.
- Address a certain topic or concept; Canvas allows you to [embed an image or infographic](#) to help illustrate what is being shared in your announcement.
- Provide an introduction or wrap-up to the week or lesson; one creative option would be to [record this as a video or audio message](#) for your students.
- Share a file or additional resource; you can [attach a file](#) to your Canvas announcement which is a quick and convenient way to share something important.
- Choose when to share announcements; you can [delay the posting of an announcement](#) until a specific date.
- Update course settings and have [announcements posted on your home page](#); this will help ensure students don't overlook important course updates!

The screenshot shows the Canvas announcement editor interface. At the top, there is a 'Topic Title' field. Below it is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing various icons for text formatting, linking, and media embedding. Annotations with arrows point to specific icons: 'Embed an image' points to the image icon, 'Embed an external link or a course link' points to the link icon, and 'Upload or record media' points to the media icon. Below the editor is a 'Post to' dropdown menu set to 'All Sections'. Underneath is an 'Attachment' section with a 'Choose File' button and the text 'No file chosen', with an arrow pointing to it labeled 'Attach a file'. At the bottom, there is an 'Options' section with a 'Delay posting' checkbox, which is annotated with an arrow and the text 'Delay announcement until specific date'. Other options include 'Allow users to comment', 'Users must post before seeing replies', 'Enable podcast feed', and 'Allow liking'.

SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY



Share something fabulous 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 it in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.