ENDICOTT COLLEGE

Academic Technology Newsletter

Welcome to the December issue of the AT Newsletter, the last one for 2023! As the end of the semester and the start of the holidays approach, it seems like everyone has more to do and less time to do it. With that in mind, we've kept this issue short but we think it's worth taking a look at. So good luck with the rest of the semester and from everyone in Academic Technology, we hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Faculty Spotlight

Discovering Library Resources

Long-time Endicott College reference librarian, primarily involved with research and instruction, **Bridget Cunio** is focused on the integration of technology and librarianship. So much so that she went back to school for a second master's degree in Information Technology.

Libraries have been adapting to new technologies from early on with computerized cataloging and the first digitization projects at the Library of Congress. Bridget loves the evolution of electronic resources and sharing them with others!

Whether you are looking for print books or eBooks, audiobooks, electronic journals, magazines or newspapers, streaming video or instructional guides, she probably has access to it and if not she can connect you to it. "It is amazing how many resources we

have at our fingertips! Students, faculty & staff are always surprised at how much we have to offer", said Bridget.

Here are **a few of her favorites**:

New York Times Digital Edition - 1851 to present (with some exceptions)

The Halle Library at Endicott provides students, faculty, and staff access to the *New York Times* Online. Follow the above link to register for an Academic Pass with your EC email address. Your Pass will provide access to NYTimes.com from any location. Once activated go to www.nytimes.com and log in. You may access your free subscription to the New York Times on your desktop or mobile device after following these simple steps. Download the NYT app on your phone or tablet and log in with your new account.

Halle Library LibGuides - Ever wonder which databases or journals to search for your subject? There is most likely a guide for that. These are research tutorials created and curated by Endicott College reference librarians. There are a variety of subject guides that are easily embedded into your Canvas course. Like to see something in your area's subject guide? Reach out to the librarian listed in the guide.

EdTech News

Quizizz uses AI to create quizzes from YouTube videos, Google Slides, or any web page

Our favorite new use of AI is the automatic quiz creation features that have recently been added to Quizizz. Simply enter the URL of a YouTube video, web page, or Google Slide deck and Quizziz will automatically generate a quiz in seconds! You can then copy and paste the quiz into Canvas.

Use Google Workspace Labs to experiment with Generative AI

Google has been rolling out many generative-AI features in the Google Workspace suite of products including Docs, Gmail, Sheets, and Slides. Currently, these features are only available when using your personal Google account (non-Endicott) and can be accessed by signing up via Google Labs. The AI features include writing suggestions, data organization in Sheets, and text-generated images in Slides.

Canvas Tip of the Month

Using Canvas as your Partner for Classroom Teaching

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, utilizing Canvas as a tool for teaching enhances your teaching practices and the student's learning experiences, saving time and effort and allowing greater focus on other priorities. Canvas can be used in many different ways to support in-person teaching. For this issue of our AT Newsletter, we will focus on **eco-friendliness** and **time-saving tips**.

Keeping your documents and assignments within Canvas:

- **Saves paper and ink**, saving money and resources for you, your students, and your department.
- Canvas makes assignment submissions as easy as attaching a document to an email - **no more printing**!
- Allows instructors to leverage a **weighted grade scheme in your Canvas course** with the use of "Assignment groups."
- **Grading becomes a quicker task** with the use of "SpeedGrader."
- Continuity: **Courses can be reused easily** the next time you teach them simply by copying the content to the new course and then adjusting as necessary.
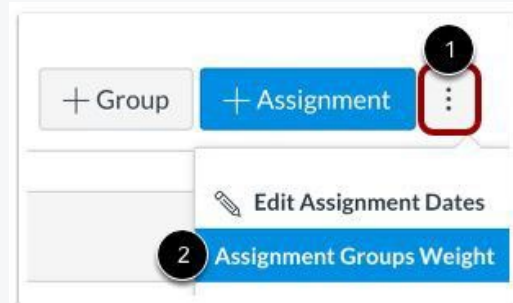
Question of the Month

How do I use the weighted grading feature in a Canvas course?

When you have different assignment types (e.g., assignments, discussions, quizzes, etc.), and a weighted grading system, you may use Canvas' Assignment Groups to calculate weighted grades and organize the assignments. Based on the information you've articulated in your syllabus, you can quickly set up Assignment Groups and **have Canvas do all the calculations for you!**

Assignment groups allow you to organize your assignments into discrete groups. For example, you may want to group all the essay assignments in your course within one assignment group titled 'Essays.'

To Assign Weights to Assignment Groups in Canvas:

1. On the "Assignments" page, click the 3 dots in the upper right-hand corner of the page

2. Click "Assignment Groups Weight"

3. Check the box next to "Weight final grades based on assignment groups"

The percentage weights you specify here will determine how Canvas calculates the final grade for your course. These percentages can be changed at any time and students will be notified when any changes are made. The weights will show up in the Gradebook for both students and instructors.

1. Enter the percentage weights for each of the different Assignment Groups you created.

2. Click the **Save** button

Assignment Groups Weight

☒ Weight final grade based on assignment groups

Assignments	30 %
Discussions	30 %
Quizzes	30 %
Summaries	10 %
Extra Credit	10 %
Total	110%

Cancel   Save

Academic Technology News

Canvas Credentials

Many of you may already be familiar with the concept of academic micro-credentials and badges.

What you may not know is that we now have a new application called Canvas Credentials that makes it easy to create and award badges to your students for new skills acquired as part of a course or extracurricular activity.

First, **it's important to distinguish between a micro-credential and a badge**. In short, a micro-credential earns academic credit while a badge does not. A badge can be awarded as part of a credit-bearing course or activity, but it cannot be awarded if the activity itself earns a credit or credits. Here's an example: you're teaching a 3-credit course that may contain a badge or series of badges for specific activities within that course, but you can't award the students both a badge and the 3 credits for passing the course itself.

Confused? A new Badging Policies and Procedures document will be available soon that will cover pretty much everything you need to get started creating and awarding badges. Once these policies and procedures are finalized, the document will be available through the ecacadtech.net AT support site. Then, if you have questions or want to explore badging further, please reach out to a member of the Academic Technology staff.

Learn About AI with a LinkedIn Learning Course

Just a reminder that all Endicott faculty have access to all the courses on LinkedIn Learning. They have recently added lots of videos and courses related to AI. For example, "How to Research and Write Using Generative AI Tools."

Ana and Jim Earn Canvas Certifications

Instructional Technologists **Ana Emlinger** and **Jim Lacey** recently earned Canvas Certifications, Ana as a Canvas Certified Educator and Jim as a Canvas Certified Technical Admin. These certification programs, offered by Canvas, require the successful completion of a series of online courses.

The Certified Educator program is designed to strengthen pedagogical best practices for online, blended, and in-class learning. The Technical Admin program covers the setup, design, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of Canvas. Jim also completed the Canvas Certified Educator program in March.

Upcoming Events

Small Bytes with AT

The last Small Bytes of the academic year is around the corner! Come celebrate the last day of class in our informal get-together! Join us on Wednesday, **December 13 at noon** in LIB112 (Oversize Book Room) for some free wraps, salad, cookies, and drinks and chat with the members of Academic Technology (AT) staff and other members of our community. No agenda, we can talk about tech or not, it's up to you!

Canvas Basics & Assignments and Grading

New to Canvas? You will learn how to customize your course Home page, create Announcements, upload files, use the Rich Content Editor to create content, adjust course settings and publish your course so it is available to students. All new faculty should plan on attending this workshop. In the 2nd part of the workshop, you will learn how to create assignments, and group assignments to make grade weighting easier, and use the Gradebook and SpeedGrader to quickly score student work. Instructor: **Jim Lacey**

WINTER CONFERENCE

Winter Conference on Teaching & Learning, scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Friday, January 19, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Academic Technology Workshops offered in the Winter Conference:

Inclusivity in Canvas Course Design, by Ana Emlinger   **AI: Tips for Inclusion and Recognizing Bias**, by Hedrick Ellis

Past Events

AI with AT

Faculty and staff from across the college gathered for a free lunch and a conversation about the **challenges and opportunities presented by AI technology**. People shared some of the creative ways that they are using AI in both work and in their personal lives. For example, a young mother shared how she creates new bedtime stories for her kids by entering prompts into ChatGPT with topics that her kids are interested in, and within seconds she has a new story to read!

We will be offering more **AI with AT** meetings in the Spring. Stay tuned!

For more academic technology information, news, and support, please visit the Academic Technology Resources and Support website. To access our archive of previous AT Newsletters, please visit that page under our blog.