

# From the Vineyard



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*Jane Moore - Editor*

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***From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley***

Dear MERLOT Community,

As MERLOT starts its 19th year of services to learners around the world, we are grateful for all your efforts, energies, expertise, and enthusiasm to provide free access to quality teaching and learning resources for everyone. MERLOT begins 2016 with newly design portals for our discipline communities that dynamically present content and significantly lightens the burden to maintain the webpages for our editor boards. A shout out to the MERLOT Tech Team and Angela Gunder for making this happen.

MERLOT's services continue to enable nationwide initiatives, such as the Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative, that are being implemented in California, Georgia, New York, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. Check out a really "cool" MERLOT-derivative website - [www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org) (California Open Online Library for Education) that has free and open etextbooks aligned with 50 courses. We will be having accessibility evaluations of these etextbooks posted this spring as well.

Workforce development is a growing priority for MERLOT as well. The SkillsCommons project ([www.skillscommons.org](http://www.skillscommons.org)) is a growing repository of OER ready for your use. We'll have a lot more to showcase at the upcoming OLC-MERLOT INNOVATE conference, especially around building industry-sector communities and leveraging MERLOT Voices.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans April 20-22, 2016 at the OLC-MERLOT INNOVATE Conference. Don't forget to get your registration discount as a MERLOT partner. With the early bird discount (February 29), you save \$175 over the full registration for a non-member. Contact Jane Moore ([jmoore@calstate.edu](mailto:jmoore@calstate.edu)) to get the right discount code.

Cheers,  
Gerry.

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## ***Feature Article – Open Education Week***

Open Education Week #openeducationwk is a celebration of the global Open Education Movement. Its purpose is to raise awareness about the movement and its impact on teaching and learning worldwide. Participation in all events and use of all resources is free and open to everyone. Open education encompasses resources, tools and practices that employ a framework of open sharing to improve educational access and effectiveness worldwide.

Open Education Week is coordinated by the [The Open Education Consortium](#), an association of hundreds of institutions and organizations around the world that are committed to the ideals of open education. Universities, colleges, schools and organizations from all over the world have come together to showcase what they're doing to make education more open, free, and available to everyone.

The Open Education Week Planning Committee invites your contributions to and participation in the annual Open Education Week, featuring online and in-person events around the world.

There are many ways you can contribute to Open Education Week #openeducationwk:

- Upload an informational or inspirational video,
- Host an event in your community,
- Send us links to resources about open education,
- Hold a webinar,
- Get creative, and
- Promote Open Education Week in your community, networks and social media.

To contribute a video or resource, or to have your event or webinar featured on the Open Education Week Events Calendar, please use the submission form at [www.openeducationweek.org](http://www.openeducationweek.org). Your event will be featured in the Open Education Week schedule, on the world map of events, and will be promoted through Open Education Week social media channels. You'll also receive the official Open Education Week badge to display on your webpage or event promotional materials.

*To get the website ready, Open Education Consortium needs your submissions by February 12, 2016.* You are welcome to submit multiple resources or events. Please fill out one form for each contribution. **For questions, email [info@openeducationweek.org](mailto:info@openeducationweek.org).**

## **Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2016**

Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire receive a certificate of commendation as well as a free registration at the Innovate Conference, to be held in New Orleans April 20-22, 2016. The purpose of the program is to recognize the contribution of peer reviewers and to allow them to attend the conference and meet members of their editorial boards in person. Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire attend the MERLOT awards luncheon and the Leadership Dinner at the conference.

Each Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire has completed at least 15 reviews and contributed a minimum of 5 materials to MERLOT between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

As of January 1, six MERLOT reviewers have achieved Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire status: Editors: Arthur Finkle (History) and Jane Moore (Teacher Education) as well as Teacher Education board members: Bruce Bennett, Laurie Tenzer, Esperanza Zenon, and Mary Wall.

## **Feature Article - Copyright and MERLOT**

At a recent editors' meeting, one of our number brought up a comment made to one of his editorial board members. A faculty member approached him and said that she was no longer using MERLOT because she found that there was little information about the copyright or creative commons license associated with the materials. Some of the editors on the call were surprised to find out that it is possible in advanced search to search for materials by copyright or creative commons license. Just go to Advanced Search, scroll down until you see this:

**Find materials by Cost, Copyright, Accessibility:**

cost involved:  yes  no  not specified

source code available:  yes  no  not specified

accessibility information available:  yes  no  not specified

Accessibility Information form:  yes  no

copyrighted:  yes  no  not specified

**Find materials by Creative Commons Licenses:**

Creative Commons:  yes  no  not specified

Creative Commons Zero (CC0):  yes  no

Allow commercial uses of your work:  yes  no

Allow modifications of your work:  yes  no  yes, as long as others share alike

We ask that contributors make note of the copyright restrictions when submitting to MERLOT but not all do. So, we are asking our reviewers to research this element in future reviews and editors will also endeavor to find out as much about usage restrictions as they possibly can when completing composite reviews.

If you are the author of a material in MERLOT, please go to the site and make sure that you have made clear the ways in which faculty members can use your material.

### ***Feature Article – Innovate 2016***



Registration is open for OLC Innovate Conference, April 20-22, 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana. [Early Bird registration](#) is open until February 29<sup>th</sup>.

A new feature of the conference, the Solution Design Summit is accepting proposals until [February 10](#). For the Solution Design Summit (SDS), a new program feature created for OLC Innovate 2016, small teams (e.g. 3-5 people) will submit a challenge from their respective organization and/or institution that requires a creative, multi-disciplinary approach. Selected teams will receive feedback on their SDS proposal, be invited to join the SDS workshop session at the start of the conference to network with peers and solicit feedback from experts, be provided an opportunity to “pitch” (i.e. 10 minute presentation) their ideas during the #OLCInnovate conference where participants can ask questions or give feedback, and share with the OLC community after Innovate 2016 concludes.

**The goal of the Solution Design Summit is to:**

- Encourage creative, design thinking for challenges we face in learning
- Foster dialogue among learners, educators, administrators, researchers, designers, and ed tech companies
- Promote a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach towards the development of solutions for learning challenges
- You can submit your proposal for the Solution Design Summit at:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VhZwb3mVgRThClc2z-aycs6X4el5edJf6sZtP6p7LOg/viewform?c=0&w=1>

### ***MERLOT Technology***

The MERLOT development team has been busy since the beginning of the year working on maintenance of the site, working with our Internet Service Provider. Some of you may have noticed MERLOT was down the beginning of the month so our servers (along with many others at the Chancellors office) could be moved to “higher ground.” With the threat of El Nino, it was decided this move would remove any threat of our equipment being damaged at its current location and allow better monitoring of the system.

In addition, we are working on a few new features to the site, including a “Rate this Material” option which will allow users to rate a material they have looked at, giving it their initial opinion as to whether or not they used it. We also continue to work with our database team to improve the speed and access of Workspace.

### ***Social Networking and MERLOT***

We have many ways for you to stay connected with MERLOT and all the wonderful things happening with the website and initiatives. Please share these sites with your colleagues. Note in the chart the increased interest in MERLOT in part due to social media initiatives.



MERLOT has a [Facebook page](#) and we'd love for you to Like us!



You can also [follow us on Twitter](#).



MERLOT also has a [LinkedIn group](#). We invite you to join us and network with other

MERLOT Users.

## MERLOT Blog



MERLOT's can be accessed at <http://blog.merlot.org>. Our blog was created to provide commentaries on contemporary issues written by MERLOT staff and invited contributors.

Please have a look at our blog and follow what we have to say. Feel free to add your comments and join the discussion about the topics you find there. There will be new posts on a regular basis. If you have any suggestions about topics you'd like us to address, please email ([webmaster@merlot.org](mailto:webmaster@merlot.org)).

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## *Update on MERLOT Community*

### **Volunteers Needed!**

We are looking for volunteers to find online courses in MERLOT that meet the Quality Matters' Standards. The project will entail searching in MERLOT, finding courses and checking that the components in the QM Rubric are available in the MERLOT submission.

Contact Jane Moore ([jmoore@calstate.edu](mailto:jmoore@calstate.edu) or [jane@merlot.org](mailto:jane@merlot.org) ) if you are interested in participating in this short term project. Thanks!

### **Winter GRAPE Camp Sessions**

**To become a Peer Reviewer for MERLOT, individuals must be an instructor in an institution of higher education and have:**

- Expertise in the scholarship of their field
- Excellence in teaching
- Experience in using technology in teaching and learning, and
- Connections to professional organizations in their discipline.

MERLOT has developed training for Peer Reviewers to ensure that they become familiar with MERLOT processes and policies on Peer Review. MERLOT Management conducts GRAPE Camp (Getting Reviewers Accustomed to the Process of Evaluation) to train Peer

Reviewers on a regular basis. GRAPE Camp consists of a series of three one-hour workshops online, one per week. In these webinars, participants will:

- Develop an understanding of MERLOT
- Learn how MERLOT evaluates Learning Materials
- Conduct a group review
- Complete an Individual Review
- Learn how to use the Workspace tool, and
- Introduce participants to the Editorial Board of their disciplines.

The webinars include people from a variety of disciplines and is archived so participants can review the material as needed. For information about GRAPE Camp, contact [Cathy Swift](#).

### **GRAPE Camps are scheduled for 2016 Winter/Spring in:**

- February - Tuesdays (9, 16, 23) at 5 PM Eastern/ 4 PM Central/ 3 PM Mountain/ 2 PM Pacific
- March - Thursdays (10, 17, 24) at 5 PM Eastern/ 4 PM Central/ 3 PM Mountain/ 2 PM Pacific
- April - Mondays (4, 11, 18) at 11 AM Eastern/ 10 AM Central/ 9 AM Mountain/ 8 AM Pacific
- May - Tuesdays (17, 24, 31) at 5 PM Eastern/ 4 PM Central/ 3 PM Mountain/ 2 PM Pacific

**To register** for any one of these sessions or to sign up for asynchronous sessions, please complete the short form [questionnaire](#).

If these times don't work for you, you can also participate **asynchronously** by completing the questionnaire above and indicating that you want to do it asynchronously. You can also participate in the discussions about GRAPE Camp in [MERLOT Voices](#).

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### ***Editorial Board News***

#### **Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards**

Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

September – Ingrid Ulstad – UW-Eau Claire – Business

October – Maggie Broderick – Concordia University, Portland – Teacher Education

November – Naomii Brack – City Colleges of Chicago – Criminal Justice

December – Esperanza Zenon – River Parishes Community College – Teacher Education



Thanks to all for the work they do for MERLOT. Each month a name is drawn from those who have contributed reviews to MERLOT during that month. The winner receives a \$50 electronic gift card to the store of their choice. The more reviews you do, the better chance you have to win.

## Meet the Editors

### Jeanne Sewell, Health Sciences Editor

Jeanne Sewell will start the new year as Interim Director of IDEAS (The Office of Instruction, Distance Education & Advanced Services ). Jeanne is well known to Georgia College for her expertise in teaching with technology to enhance student learning outcomes. She is an associate professor in the School of Nursing where she teaches across the nursing curriculum. She is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching award from the College of Health Sciences and Excellence in Nursing Education award from Mercer University Georgia Baptist College of Nursing. She is also the 2015 recipient of the Georgia College Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award. The fifth edition of her textbook, *Informatics and Nursing: Opportunities and Challenges*, was published in 2015. The fourth edition of her textbook received the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award.



## Meet the Board Member



Kelly P. Massey, Ph.D. EP-C, CMES, AASDN-NS is an Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator for the Exercise Science Program in the School of Health and Human Performance at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, GA. Her research focus is fat metabolism and exercise program design and maximal fat oxidation rates in females. In her spare time, Dr. Massey enjoys hiking in the North Georgia Mountains and spending time with family and friends.

“I have greatly enjoyed my time working with MERLOT and having the opportunity to research and review such inventive online content has enhanced my ability to offer my students a vast array of information and references on our subject matter. MERLOT is an amazing resource for all disciplines and can be utilized by educators at every level as they develop not only online courses but face-to-face courses as well. “

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### ***Out and About with MERLOT***



#### **Susan Moncada, Indiana State University – Business Board**

Susan recently published an article about MERLOT: “Rediscovering MERLOT: A Resource Sharing Cooperative for Accounting Education” published in the *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice*, Vol. 15(6), 2015, pages 85-95. Here is a link to the article

[http://m.www.na-businesspress.com/JHETP/MoncadaSM\\_Web15\\_6\\_.pdf](http://m.www.na-businesspress.com/JHETP/MoncadaSM_Web15_6_.pdf)

The journal is indexed in EBSCOHost, GoogleScholar, and listed with Cabell’s Directory of Periodicals.

#### **Laurie Tenzer, St. Petersburg College– Teacher Education Board**

Laurie Tenzer, Teacher Education Editorial Board, helped to promote MERLOT at St. Petersburg College in Florida during its annual All College Day colloquium. With the in-house Editorial Board Cup at her side, Dr. Tenzer presented the talk to faculty members across many disciplines during two sessions. Faculty members from Veterinary Science and Social Sciences became MERLOT members as a direct result of Dr. Tenzer's presentation



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## ***Meeting Notices:***

### **Online Learning Consortium Collaborate**



Join your fellow online learning professionals, educators and administrators to hear from the experts and collaborate on solving the challenges we all face in online higher education today. You'll get the chance to hear from regional experts regarding current and emerging trends in online learning, collaborate and network with your regional peers during group discussions on top-of-mind challenges that may impact the future of online learning – and your career.

Los Angeles – California State University – March 2, 2016

**REGISTER**

Orlando – University of Central Florida – March 10, 2016

**REGISTER**

Las Vegas – Nevada State College/UNLV – June 10, 2016

**SIGN UP FOR UPDATES**

University of Maryland System – Date/Location TBD – September 2016

**SIGN UP FOR UPDATES**

## ***Moore Musings***

Dear Jane:

My institution won't cover any travel expenses to attend conferences. How can I participate in the Innovate Conference?

Sincerely,

A Peer Reviewer

*Dear Peer Reviewer:*

You can participate in the Innovate conference remotely. The cost is only \$140. If you can find two colleagues to register, you buy two and get one registration free!

<http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/olc-innovate/register/>

*Jane*

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## MERLOT Statistics

### MERLOT Collection as of January 1, 2016

62,729	# items in Collection
4, 151	# of materials w/a Peer Review
11,901	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
5,721	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,024	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
134,809	# of registered users

### Usage Statistics for 2015

519,677	Total # of visits
4	Avg. # pages/visit
3 min	Avg. length of visit

Are you interested in writing for *From the Vineyard*, or adding news and updates? *From the Vineyard* is published September, January, and May. Getting your information in print is easy. Send your submission to [Jane Moore](#) by the first Wednesday of the month in which you wish it to be published. Unfortunately we can't publish all articles/stories in each issue; if you don't see your story in the issue, we promise to try to get it into the next one!