

From the Vineyard



photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/50979249@N06/6862120830/>>Pinot Grigio prior to harvest, vintage 2012 via <http://photopin.com/>>photopin (license)

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Jane Moore - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Community,

We had another outstanding conference with the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) in New Orleans! With a record-breaking attendance at the INNOVATE Conference (over 1,100), quality of presentations, innovative formats, excellent staff, and enthusiastic participants, we all experienced the power of a vibrant leadership community in higher education. We had wonder food at the MERLOT Leadership Council and we had our partners talk about the exciting projects they are implementing at the University System of Georgia, the State University of New York, and Southern University.

I am looking forward to the summer when we all get a bit more time for reflection, inspiration, and collaboration with our friends and colleagues. MERLOT continues to strengthen our collaborations with the Online Learning Consortium (who have been absolutely terrific partners with INNOVATE!) and Quality Matters (who are working on an exciting project where QM certified peer reviewers will evaluate the open courseware in MERLOT). The MERLOT technology platforms continue to respond to the needs of our worldwide community of users and we'll be building the MERLOT collection with resources from other OER collections.

We'll be celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2017 so start thinking about ways we can have fun and recognize the vitality of MERLOT – which has at its heart, YOU – the MERLOT Leadership Community.

Cheers,
Gerry.

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Feature Article – MERLOT Awards

The Distinguished Service Award is reserved as MERLOT's highest honor. The recipient of this award exemplifies the vision that brings MERLOT members together to create the MERLOT Community. Individuals who receive this award have made many personal contributions to MERLOT and have demonstrated their dedication to MERLOT through serving as visionaries and leaders. The recipients are



selected by the previous winners with consultation from MERLOT management.

Robbie Melton, of the Tennessee Board of Regents was the recipient of the 2016 award. Robbie has been tireless in her efforts to develop the mobile learning collection in MERLOT. Robbie infuses every conversation with enthusiasm and creativity.

The Innovative Use of MERLOT award is given to an individual, department, or program that demonstrates novel, comprehensive, or creative usage and/or application of MERLOT materials and services. . This year there were two recipients of the award, both of whom contributed to the MERLOT Content Builder.

Brenda Perea has authored and submitted over 700 materials to the Content Builder. Brenda is Instructional Design Project Manager (TAACCT Grant) and Senior Instructional Designer for the Colorado Community College System.



Angela Gunder was instrumental in building a prototype for the development of the MERLOT discipline portals. She is a Senior Instructional Designer at The University of Arizona and an Associate Editor for the MERLOT Teacher Education Board.

Classics Awards

Eight editorial boards selected Classics Award Winners. These materials were deemed to be exemplars in their fields.

The Biology Classics Award was presented to **John Morrison** for BrainFacts.org. Accepting the award was **Alisa Ortman**.



The biology board stated that, “Neurobiology is where biology is going today. The brain has been called the last frontier of biology. BrainFacts is an authoritative source of information about the brain and nervous system for the public.”

The Business Classics Award was awarded to **The Business Classics Award** is awarded to John Bartholdi and Steven Hackman for Warehouse and Distribution Science.

This is a free online textbook that can be used for an Operations Management class. The book maintains a high quality at zero cost to the student. The authors explain why the book was created and review the need for a more scientific approach to optimize warehouse operations. A business plan is part of the requirement, thus including all aspects of business and clearly defining the place of warehouse and distribution science in the overall business model.

The Chemistry Classics Award was awarded to John Christopherson for Animated Chemistry PowerPoints.

The site is well organized and updated regularly; the lectures are indeed animated and with good solid content. There is a lot of material in the site that would help any teacher high school teacher prepare a much better class (slides, handouts, AP materials). The author clearly enjoys his subject and wants to share with others what he has done.

The Faculty Development Classics Award was awarded to **Bonnie Stachowiak** for Teaching in Higher Ed

Teaching in Higher Ed contains a series of blog posts and podcasts in the areas of educational technology, personal knowledge mastery, teaching, and productivity. As the author states: “This is the space where we explore the art and science of being more effective at facilitating learning. We also share ways to



increase our personal productivity approaches so we can have more peace in our lives and be even more present for our students.”

The History Classics Award was awarded to **Maryland Public Television, Gail Porter Long** for [Exploring Maryland’s Roots](#).

Exploring Maryland’s Roots lets you explore colonial Maryland history through 12 interactive activities filled with text, narration, video, and sound effects. Period covered: from Native Americans to 1700.

The Information Technology Classics Award was presented to **Scott Ford** for [Add YouTube Videos to your Presentations](#).



This excellent video is easy to follow, understand, and the information easy to practice. There are a lot of video instructions on the web. Mr. Ford's sessions are short, fun, and non intimidating. Anyone, from a PowerPoint guru to a beginner should watch the videos. They are succinct and perfect for a quick refresher or an introduction to a particular challenge in PowerPoint.

The Psychology Classics Award was presented to **Blake McKimmie, Mark Horwill and Barbara Masser** for [Crime101x: The Psychology of Criminal Justice](#). **John Zornig** accepted the award.

Crime 101 is a creative and contemporary exploration of psychological concepts as applied to the criminal justice process. Originally developed by three School of Psychology faculty members via the University of Queensland's UQx project, Crime 101 uses a series of crime drama videos to depict a complex fictional crime drama.



The Teacher Education Classics Award was awarded to **Phil Hansen** for [Goodbye Art Academy](#).

The Goodbye Art Academy is a comprehensive site, of value to both art teachers and teachers of all disciplines who wish to integrate the arts into their curricula. Users can

create materials for their classes and use materials already posted. Students of all ages can learn about art at this site.

MERLOT House Cup



(left to right: Jane Moore, Elaine Lawrence, Laurie Tenzer, Bruce Bennett, Esperanza Zenon, Angela Gunder and Gerry Hanley)

The House Cup (modeled on the Harry Potter House Cups) is an award to recognize the level of contributions made to the MERLOT collection during the past academic year. Contributions include Reviews, Contributions to MERLOT, Assignments, Comments, and editor reviews.

The top five editorial boards in alphabetical order are: Business, History, Information Technology, Library, and Teacher Education, and the recipient of the 2016 award was the **Teacher Education** Editorial Board, which made 899 contributions to MERLOT, completing 409 editor's reviews, 204 individual reviews, 123 composite reviews and submitting 104 materials to MERLOT.

Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2016

The MERLOT Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire MERLOT created the Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire award to honor the hard work and generous donation of our members' time, energy and enthusiasm that they direct towards the growth and development of MERLOT. We rely heavily on our Peer Reviewers to help expand the MERLOT collection and perform the Peer Review process. The following individuals completed MERLOT GRAPE (Getting Reviewers Accustomed to the Process of Evaluation) Camp, and worked with the Editors to complete their reviews on a timely basis. These individuals have

completed at least fifteen Peer Reviews in the past 12 months and added at least 5 materials to MERLOT. Our 2016 MERLOT Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire are:

Jim Bidlack	Biology	University of Central Oklahoma
Juville Dario-Becker	Biology	Central Virginia Community College
K. Camille Freeman	Biology	Maryland U. of Integrative Health
Martin Zahn	Biology	Thomas Nelson Community College
Cathy Swift	Business	Retired
Riz Klausmeyer	Chemistry	Baylor University
Paul Bowdre	Criminal Justice	SUNY-Canton
Renee Aitken	Faculty Dev.	Wright University
Ray Purdom	Faculty Dev.	Retired
John Prusch	Faculty Dev.	Excelsior College
Luz Vilchis-Esquivel	Faculty Dev.	National Autonomous University
Jeanne Sewell	Health Sciences	Georgia College
Art Finkle	History	Empire State College
Irene Knokh	Info. Technology	University of Michigan
Larry Green	Mathematics	Lake Tahoe Community College
Mohammed Kaabar	Mathematics	Washington State University
Catherine Honig	Psychology	National Louis University
Julie Evey	Psychology	University of Southern Indiana
Bruce Bennett	Teacher Education	Grand Canyon University
Stephanie Burch-Bynam	Teacher Education	American College of Education
Tammy Garren	Teacher Education	Albany College of Pharmacy
Cris Guenter	Teacher Education	California State University –Chico
Angela Gunder	Teacher Education	The University of Arizona
Elaine Lawrence	Teacher Education	SUNY-Oneonta
Jane Moore	Teacher Education	MERLOT
Laurie Tenzer	Teacher Education	St. Petersburg College
Mary Wall	Teacher Education	Thomas Edison State College
Michele Webb	Teacher Education	Houston Christian High School
Esperanza Zenon	Teacher Education	River Parishes Community College
Laura Franklin	World Languages	Northern Virginia Com. Colleges

Feature Article – Excelsior College

Excelsior signed a Campus Partnership agreement and is currently in the process of building our MERLOT-Excelsior web site, EnCORE (Excelsior College Open Resources). This site will be used internally and externally, primarily by faculty and staff during the course development and teaching processes for the purpose of locating Open Educational Materials including textbooks, multimedia, and other learning materials. Shortly after the launch of the site (expected in May of 2016), we will be working with MERLOT to customize some Learning Communities for our academic units to utilize as landing pages for resources within courses. We are also exploring the idea

of publishing some of our own work within MERLOT under a Creative Commons license.



Excelsior College has been offering affordable education for working adults since 1971 by providing a host of cost and time-saving options. They are now eager to make education even more affordable by partnering with MERLOT on an Affordable Learning Solution initiative for the college, faculty, and adult learners. Excelsior College's strategic goal is to incorporate Open Educational Resources into courses and exams to enhance learning and the student experience. Collaborating with MERLOT as a partner, the college also has the goal to explore options and solutions for the implementation of a repository for OERs that encompass a wide range of digital content from etextbooks, learning/course materials, and aids to multimedia and virtual games.

In regard to virtual games and learning, Excelsior College would like to announce and invite you to an upcoming conference Revolutionary Learning 2016. In addition to world renowned speakers and session leaders, all attendees will experience the Revolutionary New York Game Arcade where you will see demos, speak with game designers and engage in active play. You have the opportunity to participate in a team-based conference wide game culminating in a final expertly judged live presentation with valuable education awards. An onsite book exhibit gives you a chance to meet and chat authors. Networking opportunities are built into the event. The event takes place August 17-19 in New York City's historic Roosevelt Hotel. To register or learn more go to: www.revolutionarylearning.org or contact Dr. David Seelow, Conference Chair at dseelow@excelsior.edu.

MERLOT Technology

The MERLOT development team is always working to improve the website. We are constantly fixing bugs to improve performance and adding new features. So, if you haven't visited MERLOT in a few months, you are missing out on:

- **Rate this** material – When you click to “go to a material” and come back to MERLOT, you have an opportunity to rate the material you just viewed.
- **New taxonomies** have been added and updated in MERLOT. These include Instructional Technology, Information Technology (updated) and Computer Science
- **Submit and Add another material** – Now when you have more than one material to add to MERLOT, you can click “Submit and Add Another” on step 5 of the Contribute wizard, and be taken back to Step 1. However, the system will

make some assumptions on what you previously added to the collection and auto-populate some of the fields (which can be edited if not right). So find some materials and add to the collection!

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.

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MERLOT Blog



Last week a new blog entry “All Those OERs, and eTexts Too” was posted.

The MERLOT blog can be accessed at <http://blog.merlot.org>. Our blog was

created to provide commentaries on contemporary issues written by MERLOT Managing Director, Sorel Reisman

Please have a look and follow what we have to say. Feel free to add your comments and join the discussion about the topics you find there. If you have any suggestions about topics you'd like us to address, please email (webmaster@merlot.org).

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Update on MERLOT Community

Welcome Back

Sorel Reisman, MERLOT's Managing Director has recently returned from Israel where he spent 4 ½ weeks as a Fulbright Specialist working on OER projects with Eli Shmueli, Project Director of MERLOT's Partner Meital.



Summer GRAPE Camp Sessions

Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer and GRAPE Camp Information

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:

- June – Mondays (13, 20, 27) at 11 AM Eastern/ 10 AM Central/ 9 AM Mountain/ 8 AM Pacific
- July – Tuesdays (12, 19, 26) at 5 PM Eastern/ 4 PM Central/ 3 PM Mountain/ 2 PM Pacific
- August – Thursdays (11, 18, 25) at 11 AM Eastern/ 10 AM Central/ 9 AM Mountain/ 8 AM 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

We are looking for those interested in becoming editors in Agriculture and Communication Sciences and Disorders. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone, please contact Jane Moore (jmoore@calstate.edu). Thanks!

Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards

Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

February – Tom Sparhawk, Central Virginia Community College, Sociology Board

March – Sergey Belyi, Troy University, Mathematics Board

April – Doris Dickerson, Shorter College, Teacher Education Board

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

Deirdre McDonald and Victoria Packard, Co-Editors Library and Information Services Board

Deirdre McDonald is the Instructional Services Manager (Librarian) at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. She received her Master's Degree in Adult Education, Training, and Development at Seattle University and her Master of Library Science at North Carolina Central University. Her research interests include basic skills and information literacy development in university settings and disability studies. Some of her current projects involve developing a strong library support system for Open Educational Resources and low/ no cost textbooks, mapping information literacy skills to the new undergraduate curriculum at A&M-SA, and chairing the Texas Library Association's Copyright and Access Interest Group. Deirdre became a MERLOT reviewer in 2014. As incoming co-editor, she is looking forward to helping make the MERLOT Library & Information Services community the go-to resource for information professionals.



Victoria Lynn Packard is a Professor and Coordinator of Instructional Services & Distance Learning at Texas A&M University – Kingsville. She is also the Funding Information Network Supervisor for non-profit grants. Victoria obtained her MLIS from University of Tennessee

– Knoxville and has advanced certifications in Instructional Design and Technology. Victoria is a member of MERLOT, TXDLA, American Library Association (ALA), and Texas Library Association (TLA). She has published and presented at the international, national, and state levels in the areas of Distance Learning, Grant Research, Government Information, Geography, and GIS. She is on the MERLOT Executive Board and also a reviewer for Reference Reviews International and the new TXDLA journal.

New Editorial Board

Irene Knokh, Editor

Instructional Technology Board

The Information Technology board has been transformed a new board called Instructional Technology. Irene Knokh who served as the editor of Information Technology has moved to Instructional Technology. A new Information Technology board and a new Computer Science board are currently being formed, and we'll share more about these other two boards in future editions of *From the Vineyard*.

A message from Irene:

The Instructional Technology Board helps users find out about teaching and technology integration, open education, e-learning, blended learning, training, flipped classrooms, best practices to support teaching in the classroom and beyond, evidence based instructional design application to instructional technology, micro learning, tools and tips, adult learners-and more!

Our dedicated board team is always on the job looking and reviewing new modules. Until a few months ago, all of us (reviewers and editor), were on the Information Technology board and, with growing interest in Instructional Technology, we now have our own area. I took a peak one day and noticed that there are already plenty of materials to triage and review!

Because this is such an extensive area that is connected to teaching, we will collaborate with the Pedagogy Portal to help you use [Merlot.org](https://www.merlot.org) productively in class and at work.

Of course, nothing happens without our dedicated volunteer reviewers. I'm very excited and honored to work with my colleagues on the board:

Meet our team:

Irene Knokh-Editor

Carol Edwards

Lynn Aaron

Lynne Williams

John Okewole

Ram Rangarajan

Come visit us! Look at our showcase, peruse the materials, make some bookmarks, and, perhaps, even become a reviewer?

If you have any questions, please let our board know!
We are happy to help you!
See you in Merlot!

Warm Regards,

Irene Knokh
Instructional Technology Board Editor

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Out and About with MERLOT

Laura Franklin

In February, Professor **Laura Franklin**, Editor of the World Languages board received the Brooks Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Profession at the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in New York. Franklin was commended for her service to NECTFL and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL),



which “resulted in extraordinary and positive change for both organizations and their professional development offerings.”

Franklin was also lauded for her “professional integrity and unflagging dedication” and for serving as “a model for future leaders.” Her dedication and passion were evident in the remarks she made upon accepting the Brooks Award, describing teaching French at NOVA as a privilege, not work.

Several of Franklin’s proud NOVA World Languages colleagues including board member Martha Davis (left) as well as her daughter, Angela (right), attended the NECTFL Annual Awards Ceremony to support her achievement.

Irene Knokh, new editor of the Instructional Technology Editorial Board is busy this term

with presentations:

<http://iie.institute/2016-ann-arbor-gathering/>

Getting started with a flipped classroom

I will share my flipped classroom toolkit and talk about suggested strategies for getting started with this approach in school or at work. There will be a brief demo of some tools, such as screencasting options, MERLOT.org free online modules, and Zaption.

At The Enriching Scholarship Conference (University of Michigan), Irene presented:

MERLOT With Your Meal, Integrating Digital Resources Into Your Courses Or Non-academic Projects: Getting Started, Qualtrics for Your Projects and Qualtrics for Program evaluations.

Also, Irene is participated in planning a session of **Flipped Classroom Planning Toolkit** and presentation with the TLT group: <http://www.tltgroup.org/>

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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.

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](#)

Online Learning Consortium Accelerate



The [call for proposals](#) is open through May 23 for Accelerate (formerly the 22nd Annual International Conference) to be held at the Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel November 16-18th. The conference is devoted to driving quality online learning, advancing best practice guidance and accelerating innovation in learning around the world.

Quality Matters Annual Conference



[Register now](#) and become a trailblazer for quality education by attending the [QM Annual Conference](#), Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 at the [Hilton Portland and Executive Tower](#) in Portland, Oregon. Learn, connect and share for three and a half days with a community focused on the future of online learning.

Moore Musings

Dear Jane:

I heard you had a great conference in New Orleans. Where will Innovate 2017 be?

Sincerely,

A Peer Reviewer

Dear Peer Reviewer:

You didn't miss your chance to visit New Orleans. Innovate 2017 will be held at the New Orleans Sheraton, April 5-7, 2017. Start doing your reviews now so you can qualify for Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire and earn your registration to the conference!

Jane

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MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of April 30, 2016

63,257	# items in Collection
4,451	# of materials w/a Peer Review
12,063	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
5,898	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,033	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
139,576	# of registered users

Usage Statistics for January - April 2016

292,220	Total # of visits
3.13	Avg. # pages/visit
2:46	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!