

From the Vineyard



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Jane Moore - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward

Dear MERLOT Leadership Community,

As we begin our 3rd decade as a world community making educational resources available to all, it is my honor and privilege to share with you that 186 out of 195 countries around the world have registered members in MERLOT. Through your works online and in person, we have had a chance to touch the lives of millions of learners of all ages across the world. Thank you!

The California State University's Affordable Learning Solutions program has become a model adopted by other state universities, with MERLOT as a foundational service and resource. With the support of the Hewlett Foundation, the Cal State System is partnering with Southern University (Moustapha Diack) and Tennessee State University (Robbie Melton) to support HBCUs implementing their own Affordable Learning Solutions program. You can see examples at www.suol4ed.org and <http://centralstateopenlearning.org> that are derivatives of the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). THANK YOU Moustapha and Robbie! You can join us in the HBCU Affordability Summit at the MERLOT-OLC INNOVATE. CSU and MERLOT has expanded the Affordable Learning Solutions program to career and technical education with the SkillsCommons (<http://als.skillscommons.org>). You'll also read about University of Arizona's use of MERLOT to make course materials more affordable in the newsletter – Great work Angela! Angela has provided inspiring leadership through the programs being offered at INNOVATE including the Community College Summit.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming OLC-MERLOT INNOVATE Conference where we can renew our bonds of friendship as we continue our mission to bring quality educational resources to all.

Cheers,
Gerry

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Feature Article – Innovate 2018



The 2018 Innovate Conference will take place at the Gaylord Opryland Resort on April 18-20, 2018. Innovation and evolution are stories of change. For this year (the third iteration of #OLCInnovate), we move to Nashville. This city is known not only for its vibrant and innovative music scene, it is also part of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and Tennessee Promise, which offers two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates. Major education and technology innovations from the Tennessee Board of Regents and in the state have prioritized access to education. In this milieu, we'll come together to explore the rich culture of innovation in education as it changes to meet the diverse needs of students and educators.

We've listened to input and feedback from the entire #OLCInnovate community, and we believe that the program this year stands out with new approaches to discussing and driving innovation – both inside the conference and beyond. As we iterate on the ideas and energy generated last year, we are drawn to the ways in which educators are inspired and communities of practice, research, and design intermingle to co-create the next generation of educational degrees, programs, and support systems to increase inclusion and access. To that end, we have identified new tracks and session types that we think will create a robust and constructive community of ideators and practitioners over the course of this week.

Whatever your interests, we have tracks to match: Teaching and Learning Innovation; Leadership and Change Management; the Education-Workforce Continuum; Processes, Problems, and Practices; Effective Tools, Toys and Technologies or Research Highlights and Innovations. We look forward to the energy and ideas that you'll bring to the conference! In addition to the education sessions, emerging ideas, workshops, innovation labs, Solution Design Summit and Career Forum Roundtables, this year we'll also have new session types including Conversations, Not Presentations (to foster slide-free discussion and dialogue) and Campfire Stories: Learning to Fail Smarter, where we'll lend a friendly ear to leaders sharing stories of driving innovation and change. Heck, we might even share a s'more or two!

Welcome to #OLCInnovate – we hope you have a great week!

– The OLC Innovate 2018 Program Team

For further information and registration check out:

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2018/innovate/program/>

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Feature Article – Open Education Week 2018

[The Open Education Consortium](#) is planning another Open Education Week in 2018. The goal of the week is to raise awareness about free and open educational opportunities that exist for “everyone, everywhere, right now.” The planning committee invites you to contribute and participate in the 7th annual Open Education Week, March 5-9, 2018. You can get further information at the [Call for Participation](#). You can participate by hosting a local workshop on OER and related topics; create a mini-conference or offer a webinar or online discussion during the week. Even if you are not hosting an event, you can share the good news about MERLOT and open education resources using social media. #OEWeek, #MERLOT.org

Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2018 Program

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 create peer reviews. Again this year MERLOT reviewers have the opportunity to earn free registration (either in-person or virtual) at the Innovate Conference in Nashville, April 18-20, 2018. Awardees also receive certificates of merit at the Awards luncheon on April 19. In order to participate, reviewers must have completed MERLOT GRAPE (Getting Reviewers Accustomed to the Process of Evaluation) Camp, complete 15 reviews that have been accepted by your editor, and submit a minimum of 5 materials to the collection between March 16, 2017 and **March 31, 2018**.

By the end of December, seven MERLOT reviewers have already achieved PRE status: **Cathy Swift**, Editor of Business, **Susan Moncada**, Business; **Lesley Farmer**, Editor of ICT Literacy; **Jody Paul**, Computer Science; **Larry Green**, Editor of Mathematics; **Jane Moore**, Editor of Teacher Education, and **Stephanie Burch-Bynum**, Teacher Education.

Please contact Jane Moore (jmoore@calstate.edu) if you are interested in participating. Send her your name, email address, snail mail address, your institution, and your editorial board by January 31. She will contact your editor to make sure that you are assigned enough reviews to complete the process.

Thus far, 43 MERLOT reviewers have signed up for Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire.

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Feature Article – MERLOT at Innovate 2018

Multiple MERLOT members are presenting at Innovate 2018. Here's a list so you can connect while at the conference.

Day	Time	Presenter	Title	Location
4/18 /18	10:30 - 12:00	Robbie Melton	Strategic Planning and Exploration of Immersive Learning and Workforce Training with Mixed Reality Tools	Hermitage C
4/18 /18	1:00- 1:45	Angela Gunder, Jane Moore	#Squad Goals: Creating Collaborative Professional Networks That Rock	Belmont A
4/18 /18	1:00- 1:45	Brenda Perea	Learn It! Perform It! Display It! The Power of Digital Credentialing for Workforce Acceleration	Hermitage A/B
4/18 /18	2:00- 2:45	Susan Moncada, Carol Jessup	MERLOT Mystery Challenge: Exploring Resources to Support Teaching and Learning	Ryman Studio MNO
4/18 /18	3:30- 4:15	Catherine Honig, Sherri Restauri, Jean Mandernach, Julie Evey (Psychology Board)	Ed Tech and the Faculty Role: Changing Expectations and Course Expectations	Belmont A
4/18 /18	3:30- 4:15	Jane Moore, Cris Guenter, Angela Gunder, Elaine Lawrence, Bruce Bennett, Esperanza Zenon (Teacher Ed Board)	Smart Phones? Smarter Classrooms?	Ryman Studio PQR
4/19 /18	8:45- 9:30	Jeff Gallant	Encouraging Faculty Breakthroughs in Open Pedagogy	Cheekwood GH
4/19 /18	8:45- 9:30	Catherine Honig, Sherri Restauri, Jean Mandernach, Julie Evey (Psychology	Advantages of Open Educational Resources through MERLOT (and Why that Google Search is	Magnolia Ballroom

		Board)	Wasting Time)	
4/19 /18	8:45- 9:30	Sherri Restauri	Elearn Ready: Preparing Students to Elearn Effectively and Users Feedback from Students and Teachers	Ryman Studio MNO
4/19 /18	9:45- 10:30	Angela Gunder	Is Educational Technology Killing This Conference?	Cheekwood G/H
4/19 /18	9:45- 10:30	Jane Moore, Cathy Swift	Finding Your Professional Voice: Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer	Magnolia Ballroom
4/19 /18	9:45- 10:30	Barb Sperling, Sorel Reisman	MERLOT III: A New Resource for the 21st Century	Ryman Ballroom A/B
4/19 /18	11:15 - 12:00	Sherri Restauri	Outcomes from Implementing Quality Metric Guidelines into Online and Hybrid Courses and Programs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Magnolia Ballroom
4/19 /18	11:15 - 12:00	Jean Mandernach	Utilizing Technology for Effective and Efficient Online Instruction	Magnolia Ballroom
4/19 /18	12:00 -1:20	OLC MERLOT Awards Luncheon	Tennessee Ballroom	Tennessee Ballroom
4/19 /18	1:30- 2:15	Sherri Restauri	Embedding Online Student Communities to Improve the Retention and Satisfaction of Students	Magnolia Ballroom
4/19 /18	1:30- 2:15	Irene Knokh	Design of Universal Active Learning (DUAL)	Ryman Studio ABC
4/19 /18	2:30- 3:15	Gerry Hanley	Rapid Design of Workforce Development Programs Leveraging OER in SkillsCommons	Hermitage A/B
4/19 /18	2:30- 3:15	Jane Moore, Cris Guenter, Angela Gunder	Campfire Stories: Approach for (Design Thinking) Impactful Change	Magnolia Ballroom
4/20 /18	9:45- 10:30	Robbie Melton, Moustapha Diack	Practitioners Summit of Advancing Affordable Learning Solutions and Quality Online Education for HBCUs	Hermitage A/B

4/20 /18	9:45- 10:30	Angela Gunder	I Need a Hero: Incorporating Monomyth and Narrative in Online Course Design	Hermitage C
4/20 /18	9:45- 10:30	Gerry Hanley	Open Learning for All: Tools & Strategies for Saving Students Money on Course materials with OER	Ryman Ballroom A/B

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Feature Article – MERLOT at the University of Arizona

UA Online Leverages Resources from MERLOT to Assist with Drastically Reducing the Cost of Course Materials

Since its formation in 2014, The University of Arizona's fully-online campus, UA Online, has been dedicated to removing all obstacles and barriers on students' paths to a world-class education. One formidable challenge continues to be access to quality, affordable learning materials - students struggle with purchasing the required books and resources for classes due to cost, and are not prepared for success on the first day of classes. Members of the UA Online community, including Teacher Education Associate Editor, **Angela Gunder**, have created an initiative to strategically reduce the number of courses using costly textbooks in classes, ideally moving their faculty to adopt OER. As the number of quality free and low-cost learning materials continues to increase, UA Online seeks to connect faculty with viable options for reducing the cost of textbooks and resources for their students. Angela shares, "Our mission is to ensure that all of our learners have access to a high-caliber academic experience without sacrificing rigor or quality. We're starting with educating our faculty on the wealth of open educational resources that exist currently, and seeing how far we can push the needle by connecting them to the MERLOT collection and other quality OER that can have an impactful effect on student success."

The UA Online Affordable Learning Solutions initiative hopes to achieve the following goals:

1. Inform UA Online faculty of the variety of quality, lower and no-cost textbooks and learning materials available as replacements for their current costly materials
2. Assist UA Online Faculty with the curation, selection and deployment of these materials in their fully-online courses
3. Measure the rate of cost-savings distributed to UA Online students over time

The need to reduce the cost of course materials is more critical than ever, in that students continue to make decisions about their academic career based on textbook cost. Inside Higher Ed (<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/09/20/study-high-textbook-prices-lead-poor-grades>) recently shared the results of a survey of 1000

students from four-year institutions across the US and Canada on student access to course materials in which they found that 85% of students delayed or avoided purchasing textbooks for their courses, with 91% citing cost as the reason. 50% of the same students said that their grades had suffered because of their decision. Angela notes that, "Resources like MERLOT and the CSU's Affordable Learning Solutions Project have helped to make our work at the UA actionable and highly-effective. We are certain that we'll be able to address the needs of our students due to the excellence of these collections."

Future UA Online initiatives include reporting statistics on the cost reduction, and showcasing low cost and zero cost online courses. "It's our hope that in showcasing the fine work of our faculty reducing book costs for students, that we'll inspire others to join us." Learn more about this initiative and the Office of Digital Learning on their website at <http://odl.arizona.edu/>.

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Feature Article - Virtual University of Senegal and MERLOT

The Virtual University of Senegal (VUS) signs a MOU with the California State University -MERLOT to launch an OER Open Library for higher Education in Senegal



Signing, Professor Moussa Lô, Chief Coordinator Virtual University of SENEGAL. Standing: Ms. Mame Tacko SALL (VUS – Office of Development and Cooperation), Professor Moustapha Diack (Assistant Vice President for Online Learning Services, Southern University System of Louisiana – Director MERLOT Africa Network, representing MERLOT for the MOU), Ms. Fadji Sarr DRAME (Project Manager at VUS)

The Virtual University of Senegal referred here as VUS and commonly know from its French acronym of UVS (Université virtuelle du Sénégal) signed a Partnership Agreement with the Multimedia Education Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) international organization to launch an open digital library of Open Education Resources (OER) and digital textbook in support of higher education in the Republic of Senegal and French West Africa. The agreement signed by the VUS coordinator, Moussa Lô, on January 2, 2018 in presence of Professor Moustapha Diack, Director of the MERLOT Africa Network, will enable VUS to assume a leadership role in the creation, adoption and deployment of OER in support of higher education in francophone Africa and to strengthen its eLearning infrastructure and leadership as premiere virtual university in Africa. The Virtual University of the Republic of Senegal was launched in 2014 by the Senegalese Ministry of Education and Research; it has evolved to become an African model.

MERLOT has been very active in Africa during the last 10 years through its outreach

program, MERLOT Africa Network, including more than 2,300 members living in over 96% of the African Countries. It is anticipated that this partnership arrangement with VUS will result in extending the MERLOT community to immediately serve the goals of providing access and quality eLearning resources and communities of eLearning expertise in Africa.

MERLOT and VUS intend to work diligently in identifying global partners and funding to raise awareness about the critical needs for French OER and to engage francophone Africa in the development and cataloging of existing French resources. This partnership arrangement is in alignment with the current efforts of the CAMES – the francophone Council for African and Malagasy Higher Education, to promote the development and adoption of OER in French West Africa. It is also aligned with the Joint declaration issued during the 1st meeting of Francophone Ministers of Higher Education held in Paris on June 5th, 2015.

This international partnership will be coordinated through the VUS Offices of Research and Innovation (Dr. Abdoul Alpha Dia) and Training and Pedagogical Engineering (Dr. Alassane Diop).

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MERLOT Technology

As we have reported previously, the MERLOT development team is working on a new version of MERLOT! The biggest change will be a new look and feel to the home page as well as some other interesting changes to pages behind the home page – things that will make the site even easier to navigate. The new version will also include system infrastructure changes that aren't visible to users except for their seeing improved performance, especially to Workspace!

If you or any of your colleagues would be interested in being a part of our beta test, please contact Barbra Sperling at barb@merlot.org with name and contact information, and whether you or they are using a Mac or PC. Thank you!

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!

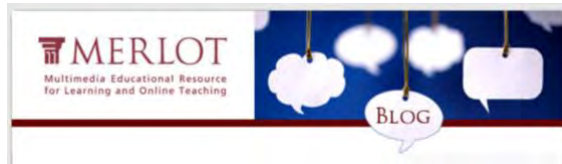


You can also [follow us on Twitter](#).

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

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MERLOT Blog



This month's new blog entry "[Welcome to MERLOT's Third Decade](#)" 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



To become a Peer Reviewer for MERLOT, individuals should 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](#).

2018 GRAPE Camps are scheduled for Winter/Spring in:

- February - Thursdays (8, 15, 22) at 5 PM Eastern/ 2 PM Pacific
- March – Tuesdays (13, 20, 27) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific
- April - Tuesdays (10, 17, 24) at 5 PM Eastern/ 2 PM Pacific
- May – Thursdays (10, 17, 24) 11 AM Eastern/ 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. In addition, you can sign up for a Self Study, which you do at your own speed.

You can also participate in the discussions about GRAPE Camp in [MERLOT Voices](#).

Comments from GRAPE Camp Participants:

"Overall, this was very well done. I'm glad I participated."

"Well-designed orientation."

"It was very helpful for me to do this asynchronously due to changing computer systems in the middle of the training! I am pleased to be part of your reviewer group."

"Respectful of participant's time by keeping sessions valuable and on-time."

"I think it's a great idea and appreciate the time of the facilitator."

"Grape Camp was a good learning experience. The materials were organized and clear."

"The instructor is knowledgeable, enthusiastic and responsive. Thank you."

"It was an enjoyable and comfortable 'classroom' environment."

"I think Grape camp is a good way to learn about doing reviews. The format is flexible, as in my case I missed a session and could watch the archived presentation".

"I thought the amount of time was just right and the instructor was available for questions between instructional sessions."

Winter Graduates of GRAPE Camp include:

Name	Institution	Board
Crystal Peirce	Harper College	Biology
Mark Gondree	Sonoma State University	Computer Science
Kathy-Ann Daniel-Gittens	Teacher Education Network	Teacher Education
Charles White	El Centro College	Business
Bernadette Mirro	Marymount University Southwest	Library and Information Services
Nancyruth Leibold	Minnesota State University	Health Sciences
Gary Ackerman	Mt. Wachusett Community College	Instructional Technology
Francis Wambua	Masai TTI, Kenya	Computer Science
Lori Petty	Amarillo College	Teacher Education
Emily Bublitz	North Dakota State University	Teacher Education
Mark Herring	Winthrop University	TBD

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Business Board Sets a Record

Congratulations to Cathy Swift and the Business Editorial Board on completing 1,001 reviews. Business is the first board to reach this milestone!

Editorial Board News

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

Congratulations to **Renee Aitken** (Faculty Development Editorial Board) on her new position Director of Assessment and Accreditation at Colorado State University – Global.

Vito DiPinto (Teacher Education) built on the recent Chicago weather to share science tips with parents home for the long holiday break: NLU Blog
<https://blog.nl.edu/2018/01/daily-herald-wciu-tv-feature-prof-dipintos-frozen-fun-winter-science/>

Joe Perez (Business) completed a post-doctorate in global leadership this year. Congratulations, Joe!

Two MERLOT Editorial Boards submitted proposals to Innovate and had them accepted: **Psychology** and **Teacher Education**. Be sure to check them out on the list of presentations for the conference.

Congratulations to **Carol Edwards** (Instructional Technology) on successfully defending her dissertation “Interactive Technology Use and Student Persistence in ELearning Classes.”

Congratulations to **Naomii Brack** (Criminal Justice) on completing a Master Certificate in Online Teaching from the University of Illinois.

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Meet the Editor

Faculty Development Editorial Board – Ray Purdom, Editor

Ray Purdom, Faculty Development Editor, retired as Director of the University Teaching and Learning Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) in 2011. He earned a B.S. in physics from Duke University, and an M.S. and a PhD in physics from Purdue University. In 1970, he began his academic pursuits as a faculty member at Kentucky Wesleyan College. From the beginning of his teaching career, he was interested in strategies to improve teaching and learning. When he became Dean of the College, he was able to secure funding to support a comprehensive



faculty development program for his faculty. His interest in faculty development continued to increase and, in 1995, he undertook a career change and pursued faculty development fulltime at UNCG.

Ray served as a member of the UNC System Teaching and Learning with Technology Collaborative where he developed the UNC Faculty Development Portal. The Portal was created to share faculty development resources among the 16 universities in the system. In 2002, Ray working with John Prusch started the Faculty Development Collection in MERLOT. Much of the early MERLOT collection came from its merger with the Faculty Development Portal.

In 2010, the MERLOT Classic Award was given to the resource, *Using Brief Hybrid Workshops on Teaching Well Online*, developed by Steve Gilbert, Todd Zakrajsek, Jane Harris and Ray. Ray was also part of a team at the Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College that produced a unit on *Using Media to Enhance Teaching and Learning*. In addition, he was a team leader of the UNC System Carnegie Foundation CASTL Leadership Program on Building Scholarship of Teaching and Learning System-wide. In retirement, when not on the tennis court, he continues to build the MERLOT Faculty Development Collection and serve as a consulting editor of *College Teaching*.

Meet the Board Member – John Prusch

John Prusch, Ph.D., M.A.T., M.A. began his academic career in Comparative Literature and languages while also enjoying a two-year stint as a Fulbright Scholar first at the University of Mainz then at the University of Munich in Germany. He has taught and acquired languages while living, studying, and teaching several years in a few European countries. As the importance of technology for teaching and learning, and especially for language teaching and learning began to rapidly grow in the earlier nineties, he was drawn to the limitless possibilities offered by emerging instructional technologies. His purely instructional career to this point shifted decisively when he landed a position at Union College in Schenectady, NY as the director of the newly established Language Center and lab.



Leaving Union College for an inspiring new challenge, John broadened and deepened his experience in faculty development and support by accepting a position as one of four system-wide Multimedia Instructional Designers (affectionately called “MIDs”) for the SUNY (State University of New York) Learning Network or SLN. At SLN he supported, developed/trained, and mentored faculty and instructional designers in all disciplines offered online throughout the SUNY system. During this time SLN achieved the EDUCAUSE Award for Systemic Progress in Teaching and Learning, the Sloan-C Award for Excellence

in ALN Faculty Development, and also the Sloan-C Award for Excellence in institution-Wide Asynchronous Learning Network Programming. John's innovative online language course was the highlight in SLN's receiving the USDLA 21st Century Best Practice Award for online technology in higher education. While working for SLN, John became a member of MERLOT and helped establish the Teaching and Technology board with his long-time colleague and friend, Ray Purdom, among others.

Leaving behind the increasingly hectic life of a MID at SUNY under transition, John decided to make a move to a smaller and somewhat quieter situation at Excelsior College. He was proud to introduce the college to MERLOT and was known for encouraging faculty and instructional designers alike to become 'dually certified' as instructional critics: both as MERLOT and QM peer reviewers.

John has been a MERLOT member since 2000 and served as a founding peer reviewer and associate editor of the Faculty Development (originally: "Teaching and Technology") board since its inception in 2002. He has enjoyed experiencing and participating in the evolution of the Faculty Development board and its collections, presenting and engaging in the MERLOT international and more recently combined conferences over the years. He is most of all devoted to spreading the good word about MERLOT and its incredible community of practitioners and enthusiasts. At SUNY John provided system-wide workshops on MERLOT specifically but also presentations on teaching and learning tools that inevitably led to MERLOT collections and members. At Excelsior College he continued to encourage faculty and instructional designers to participate in the Grape Camps and become peer reviewers. When MERLOT began its open textbook and OER initiatives, he enthusiastically supported them and pursued his own related initiatives at Excelsior College. After most recently working and serving as the project manager for MERLOT at Excelsior College, John has decided to semi-retire and is still figuring out what semi-retirement actually means or if it really exists. One thing for certain, he continues to serve on MERLOT's Faculty Development board to discover and review ever new and effective resources for faculty enjoyment, edification, and development.

Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards

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Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

September - **J. Dominique**, Psychology Board, International Institute for Qualitative Research Methods.

October - **Lynn Ritchey**, Sociology Board, University of Cincinnati

November - **Cris Guenter**, Teacher Education Board, California State University-Chico

December - **Jeanette Landin**, Business Board, Landmark College

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.

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Out and About with MERLOT

Leila Halawi (Information Science Board) shared MERLOT resources with her Systems Analysis and Design course.

Lesley Farmer, Editor of ICT Literacy has developed a MERLOT object on Fake News:
<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=1357366>

Sally Robertson (Library and Information Services Board) did a presentation on OER and MERLOT to the faculty at Nashville State Community College on Jan. 5. “I focused on the use of open textbooks for student affordability as well as the use of Content Builder and its templates. I tried to tell them that MERLOT is all about sharing good quality resources and affordability of higher education. I showed them how they could explore the different academic communities.”

Here’s is my LibGuide:
<http://nscclibguides.com/oer>

Under both “For Faculty” and “For Students” MERLOT is my #1 choice.

Here’s a MERLOT Content Builder guide about quality science OER resources.
<https://contentbuilder.merlot.org/toolkit/users/bikinglibrarian/science>

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Meeting Notices:

OLC Collaborate – Los Angeles

Expanding Textbook Affordability Programs on Your Campus and Requesting Additional State Funding is the topic for the January 30th Collaborate at the Hyatt Regency Los Angeles International Airport. The event is hosted by California State University. 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.

OLC member pricing is \$150. You can get more information and register at <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2018/collaborate-losangeles/>

International Conference on Mobile Technology in Teacher Education (MITE)



The International Conference on Mobile Technology in Teacher Education (MITE) will be held in Galway Ireland at the Galway Bay Hotel, January 19-20, 2018. The conference will celebrate the possibilities and explore the challenges of integrating mobile technology in ITE and in the broader field of education in order to promote best practices by teachers, students, and schools. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Punya Mishra, Associate Dean of the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. For further information see: <http://www.gratek.ie/mite2018/>

QM Connect Conference



Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2018
St. Louis, Missouri

The QM Call for Proposals is open at <https://www.qualitymatters.org/events/present> Deadline for proposals is March 9.

Tips on writing a winning conference proposal can be accessed at :
<http://twist.elearningguild.net/2014/04/tips-for-writing-a-winning-conference-proposal>

Open Education Global 2018 Conference



The Open Education Global Conference is where the world meets to discuss how opening education helps us achieve universal access, equity, innovation and opportunity in education. The OE Global conference is the most internationally diverse conference devoted exclusively to open education, attracting researchers, practitioners, policy makers, educators and students from more than 35 countries to discuss and explore how Open Education advances educational practices around the world.

OE Global 2018 will take place from 24-26 April 2018 in Delft, the Netherlands, hosted by the Open Education Consortium and Delft University of Technology. The theme of OE Global 2018 is Transforming Education through Open. Further information is available at : <https://conference.oeconsortium.org/2018/>

Moore Musings

Dear Jane:

When will the “new” MERLOT be available?

An Impatient Reviewer

Dear Impatient,

The Development Team has been working nonstop on creating a sleeker, modern look for MERLOT. Additionally, the behind-the-scenes structure has been updated and upgraded to make MERLOT function even more efficiently. Be patient---it will be worth it.

Jane

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MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of December 31, 2017

79,999	# items in Collection
4,859	# of materials w/a Peer Review
12,731	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
6,229	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,059	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
151,064	# of registered users

Usage Statistics for 2017

727,037	Total # of visits in 2017
3	Avg. # pages/visit
2:37	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!