

# From the Vineyard



*Issue 42, June 2018*

*Jane Moore - Editor*

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

***Dear MERLOT Community,***

***It was wonderful to see many of you at the OLC-MERLOT INNOVATE Conference in Nashville TN as we celebrated MERLOT's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday – we are now “legal” ☺. We had a very successful conference and a very enjoyable dinner with members of our editorial boards, project directors, and international partners from Thailand and Senegal. At INNOVATE, MERLOT contributed its leadership to the Community College Summit, where over 100 participants joined workshops on Affordable Learning Solutions (<http://als.skillscommons.org>), storytelling (<http://support.skillscommons.org/connect/storytelling>) and the open courseware to help industry experts become expert instructors. MERLOT also provided leadership for the HBCU Affordability Summit and you can read more about that project in an article presented below in this newsletter. The INNOVATE Conference is our time to showcase the improvements to MERLOT – like the completely redesigned user interface and technical infrastructure – and to build new relationships with members of the MERLOT community.***

***What's ahead for MERLOT? We'll continue to grow our member community around the world (we're growing at about 900 new members per month) and develop new institutional partners, especially with HBCU's. The workforce development arm of the CSU-MERLOT program – SkillsCommons – will be focusing on acquiring grants and partners to sustain the growth and use of workforce OER. Our Affordable Learning Solutions strategy will continue to be a major focus as well.***

***As we close the 2017-2018 academic year, I wish you a wonderful summer and I would like to thank you all for all your efforts, energy, expertise, and commitment to opening educational opportunities for all around the world through MERLOT. You make all the difference in the world for making the world a better place for many people.***

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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



winner from the past five years. This year's recipient is Angela Gunder, the Director of Instructional Design and Curriculum Development at The University of Arizona. Angela is an Associate Editor on the Teacher Education Board. She was instrumental in revising the Discipline Portals and has been a Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire since her first year with MERLOT in 2013. Angela was the recipient of the Innovative Use of MERLOT Award in 2017. She is co-founder of the Technology Test Kitchen and instrumental in the creation of the Innovation Labs at the Innovate Conference. Angela served as co-chair of this year's Innovate Conference.

## **Classics Awards**

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

The winner of the 2018 MERLOT **Biology Classics Award** was

***Biointeractive*** -- The material can be found at:



<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=1335497>

The award was accepted by **Jennifer Bricken**. The MERLOT Biology Editorial Board has this to say about the Learning Material:

HHMI BioInteractive advances science education by using the power of story to inspire students to learn about and engage in the scientific process, and care about the living world.

The winner of the 2018 MERLOT **Business Classics Award** was awarded to **Dr. Charles Hofacker** of Florida State University.



***Mathematical Marketing*** -- The material can be found at:

<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=511418>

The MERLOT Business Editorial Board selected Dr. Hofacker's free online textbook, designed for Ph.D. students. "We wanted to recognize his unique contribution at this level."

The **Faculty Development Classics Award** was accepted by **Dr. Lauren Scharff** on behalf of **Improve with Metacognition**.

The MERLOT Faculty Development Editorial Board cited the goal of the site was to highlight and focus on how metacognition plays a key role in the process of learning and teaching academic content and developing skills in higher education.



**The ICT Literacy Classics Award** was awarded to **Michael Caulfield** for **Web Literacy for Student Fact-Checkers**.

Dr. Caulfield's site helps students to learn to evaluate web resources. He presented a workshop at Innovate 2018 highlighting his work.



**The Psychology Classics Award** was presented to **Bob Heller** for **Positive Reinforcement: A Self-Instructional Exercise**.

This site uses principles of behavior analysis to create a tutorial where students can gain practice in the discrimination of key features that operationally define the concept of positive reinforcement in psychology.

**The Sociology Classics Award** was presented to **Nathan Palmer** on behalf of **Sociology in Focus**.

[SociologyInFocus.com](http://SociologyInFocus.com) is a website where current events, pop culture, or common everyday experiences are used as illustrative examples of a sociological concept or to highlight a sociological research finding



The **Teacher Education Classics Award** was presented to **Joey Taralson** representing **FlipGrid One**.



FlipGrid One is a free video discussion platform. It provides a tool for educators and students to create videos that allow responses and interaction.

The **World Languages Classics Award** was awarded to **Todd Bryant** for **The Mixer Language Exchange**.

The Mixer is a free social networking language exchange site integrated with Skype and hosted at Dickinson College. Individuals can find language partners on their own as well as submit writing for feedback.



## **MERLOT House Cup**

The House Cup (modeled on the Harry Potter House Cup) 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 were: **Biology, Business, Computer Science, Sociology** and **Teacher Education**.

This year's winner was the Teacher Education Board which made 697 contributions to MERLOT, including 175 individual reviews, and 106 composite reviews. The Teacher Education Board also won the House Cup in 2015.



From left: Jane Moore, Editor of the Board, Bruce Bennett, Gerry Hanley, Angela Gunder.

The Editorial Board for Teacher Education includes:

**Jane Moore, Editor,** MERLOT and The University of Western Ontario

**Associate Editors:**

**Bruce Bennett,** Grand Canyon University

**Cris Guenter,** California State University-Chico

**Angela Gunder,** The University of Arizona

**Elaine Lawrence,** State University of New York-Oneonta

**Laurie Tenzer,** St. Petersburg College

**Mary Wall,** Thomas Edison State College

**Esperanza Zenon,** River Parishes Community College

**Peer Reviewers** who have contributed this year in addition to the board members are:

Kimberly Rodriguez, Suzanne Brigham, Doris Dickerson, Maggie Broderick, Jillian Powers, Stephanie Burch-Bynum, Michele Webb, Lindsey Valencia, Karoline Kaon, Michael Rowe, Stephen Ferry, Emily Bublitz, Beth McKenna, Laura Dillon-Locicero, and Kathy-Ann Daniel-Gittens.

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## **Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2018**

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 2018 MERLOT Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire are:

<b>Juville Dario-Becker</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Central Virginia Community College</b>
<b>Whitney Holden</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts</b>
<b>Michael Plotkin</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Mt. San Jacinto College</b>
<b>Diane Badow</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Troy University</b>
<b>Susan M. Moncada</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Indiana State University</b>
<b>Cathy Swift</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Retired</b>
<b>Jody Paul</b>	<b>Comp. Science</b>	<b>Metropolitan State University of Denver</b>
<b>Paul Bowdre</b>	<b>Criminal Just.</b>	<b>Oakland City University</b>
<b>Tamer Osman</b>	<b>Eng./ Lang.</b>	<b>Zhengzhou University</b>
<b>Renee Aitken</b>	<b>Fac. Dev.</b>	<b>Wayne State University</b>
<b>John Prusch</b>	<b>Fac. Dev.</b>	<b>SUNY Onondaga</b>
<b>Ray Purdom</b>	<b>Fac. Dev.</b>	<b>UNC Greensboro-Retired</b>
<b>Luz del C. Esquivel</b>	<b>Fac. Dev.</b>	<b>National Autonomous University of Mexico</b>
<b>Arthur Finkle</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Kean University</b>
<b>Lesley Farmer</b>	<b>ICT Literacy</b>	<b>California State University-Long Beach</b>
<b>Slim Chtourou</b>	<b>Info. Tech.</b>	<b>King Faisal University</b>
<b>Leila Halawi</b>	<b>Info. Tech,</b>	<b>Embry Riddle Aeronautical University</b>
<b>Edmundo Tovar</b>	<b>Info. Tech.</b>	<b>Technical University of Madrid</b>
<b>Carlos Vaz de Carvalho</b>	<b>Info Tech.</b>	<b>ISE-IPP</b>
<b>Irene Knokh</b>	<b>Instruc. Tech</b>	<b>University of Michigan</b>
<b>Deirdre McDonald</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>Texas A &amp; M – San Antonio</b>
<b>Victoria Lynn Packard</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>Texas A &amp; M – Kingsville</b>
<b>Larry Green</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Lake Tahoe Community College</b>
<b>Sherri Restauri</b>	<b>Prof. Coaching;</b>	<b>Coastal Carolina University</b>
<b>Jessica Hall</b>	<b>Prof. Coaching</b>	<b>Coastal Carolina University</b>
<b>Julie Evey</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>University of Southern Indiana</b>
<b>Catherine Honig</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>National Louis University</b>
<b>Bruce Bennett</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>Grand Canyon University</b>
<b>Stephanie Burch-Bynum</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>Kaplan University</b>
<b>Tammy Garren</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Services</b>
<b>Cris Guenter</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>California State University-Chico</b>
<b>Angela Gunder</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>The University of Arizona</b>
<b>Elaine Lawrence</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>SUNY-Oneonta</b>
<b>Jane Moore</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>MERLOT</b>
<b>Laurie Tenzer</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>St. Petersburg College</b>
<b>Esperanza Zenon</b>	<b>Teacher Ed</b>	<b>River Parishes Community College</b>



More information about Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire 2019 will appear in the September issue of *From the Vineyard*---but start working on those reviews.

## **Feature Article – HBCU Summit**

### **HBCU AFFORDABILITY SUMMIT AT INNOVATE 2018: A SUCCESS STORY**

by Moustapha Diack

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (**HBCUs**) **Practitioners Summit for Advancing Affordable Learning Solutions and Quality Online Education** held this year in Nashville Tennessee as integral part of the OLC/MERLOT Innovate international conference was a success story, as would attest all practitioners who attended this year Summit.

The Affordability Summit kicked off with a one-day pre-conference workshop on April 17, 2018, hosted by Fisk University in Nashville, TN. The venue facilitated by Dr. Robbie Melton, Professor, TSU Technology Strategic Consultant and HBCU Summit co-chair, gathered more than 59 participants from different HBCU institutions. The excellent presentations and panels enabled participants to share practices, opportunities and challenges for successful integration of Open Education and affordable learning solutions (AL\$) at their institutions. (Details about the Fisk Preconference are available online: <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2018/innovate/program/hbcu-summit/> )

The 2 and 1/2 - day Summit held on April 18 thru April 20, attracted more than 89 participants from various HBCU and African institutions. This 2nd annual meeting of HBCU's at INNOVATE enabled participating institutions to present and share their AL\$ strategies and outcomes, along with other online education initiatives that emerge as priorities for HBCU's. (Please see the Summit Full Program: <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2018/innovate/program/hbcu-summit/> )

Dr. Michael Torrence, President of Motlow State Community College, who participated in the Summit noted: "The HBCU Summit proved positive in its mission to communicate the importance of Open Educational Resources (OER) as a viable option for post-secondary institutions. The Online Learning Consortium (OLC) provided a platform for Motlow State Community College to engage in meaningful dialogue with several HBCU's, learn about existing and growing OER databases, and further cost neutral impactful teaching and learning opportunities.

We could not have been more pleased to have participated and look to the future where the journey toward student success begins with every student having access to their materials on the first day of class."

According to Dr. Moustapha Diack, Southern University System (SUS) Vice President for Online Learning Services and HBCU Summit Chair, The HBCU Summit partnering institutions with support from the CSU/MERLOT organization are enabling an international research network focusing on measuring the effect of AL\$ on Student Recruitment Retention and Success (SRRS) at minority institutions. Indeed, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> HBCU Summit, Nashville 2018, there were a total of 20 HBCU institutions and Higher Education Institutions in Africa (HEIA) who expressed interest in joining the network. The Summit organizers invite all HBCU institutions to join this growing network of OER practitioners. You can subscribe to our INNOVATE HBCU e-mail list to get information about community events and publications related to Affordable Learning.

**Use the following link to subscribe:**

<https://mailman.sonoma.edu/mailman/listinfo/innovate-hbcu>

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## **MERLOT Technology**



Introducing the all “new” MERLOT website! Have you seen it? It’s the same URL ([www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org)) but there’s a new interface, new search tools to find materials faster (Smart Search), works well on all mobile devices and its much faster!

When you get to the site, you can’t help but notice the new simplified home page intended to provide an easy way to locate resources. As you move through the site, you’ll notice all the pages have been redesigned and have a cleaner look. We also added a “recommender” section to each material detail page to provide additional results. Lastly, from any page you can access the new redesigned context-sensitive help (just click on the “?” in the top right corner).

The Journal says, *“This latest edition features a new, simplified home page, intended to provide an easy and familiar way for instructors and students to hunt down resources.”* But you be the judge. Please take a look at the new site and let us know what you think. Send your comments or questions, to [webmaster@merlot.org](mailto:webmaster@merlot.org).

## **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. If you have information you’d like use to post on our Facebook or Twitter

pages, please send it to [webmaster@merlot.org](mailto:webmaster@merlot.org).



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

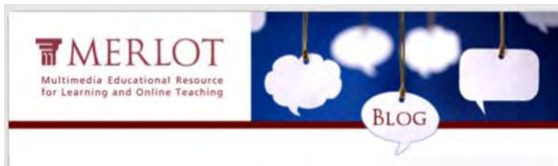


You can also [follow us on Twitter](#).



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

## MERLOT Blog



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](mailto:webmaster@merlot.org)).

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## *Update on MERLOT Community*

### **Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer and GRAPE Camp Information**

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 an orientation 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 assist 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 webinar includes 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 Summer in:

- June - Thursdays (7, 14, 21) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific
- July - Wednesdays (11, 18, 25) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific
- August – Tuesdays (7, 14, 21) at 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:

- "I've been reviewing papers for years, but this is the first time I've actually been taught how to do it properly. Grape Camp will improve the quality of my work as an author and as a reviewer."
- "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."

**News**

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***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](mailto:jmoore@calstate.edu)). Thanks!

### **Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards**

Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

**January - Mark Herring**, Winthrop University, Library and Information Services

**February - Emily Bublitz**, South Dakota State University, Teacher Education

**March – Nancyruth Leibold**, Southwest Minnesota State University, Health Sciences

**April – Harriette Spiegel**, University of Tennessee-Martin, Instructional Technology

**May – Gary Ackerman**, Independent Consultant, Instructional Technology

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.

### **News from Editorial Boards**

**Lesley Farmer**, Editor of the ICT Literacy Board was named California State University-Long Beach's Outstanding Professor. Congratulations, Lesley!

**Jeanette Landin**, a member of the Business Editorial Board, presented a session at the AAA Northeast region meeting in October about the use of learning games in the accounting classroom. She also participated in a panel at Harvard University's SECON conference in February about empowering youth through a social enterprise. The fourth edition of her textbook, *Payroll Accounting* from McGraw-Hill, published in October.

**Esperanza Zenon**, Associate Editor in Teacher Education presented virtually at Innovate 2018 both with the editorial board on Smart Phones in Classrooms and during the HBCU Summit on her experiences with OER. At the same time, Esperanza was presenting on the Growth Mindset research that the River Parishes Community College EESTEM II Team completed at the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)/National Summit for Educational Equity (NSEE).

Congratulations to **Kelly Massey**, Editor of Health Sciences on achieving tenure at Georgia College.

**Crystal Peirce** of the Biology Board succeeded in attaining a tenure track position at Harper College (NW suburbs of Chicago). She is now an Assistant Professor of Biology.

**Arthur Finkle**, History Editor, has a text, *U.S.'s Neurotic Immigration Policy* currently in press.

## Meet the Editors

### Biology – Michael Plotkin and Marty Zahn



Michael Plotkin ----I joined the Biology editorial board in 2010, after finding MERLOT purely by chance while scouring the web for resources. I contacted the editor, and was soon participating as a reviewer on the biology board. I very much enjoyed the work and the varied activities of the board and when the illustrious longstanding editor Jim Bidlack retired, Marty Zahn and I agreed (with some jitters on my part at least) to take over as co-editors. My trepidation notwithstanding, it has been non-stop adventure and excitement ever since. In addition to winning the House Cup several years ago, we have revitalized our board to include a dedicated group of biologists of all sorts, from all over the country, and we have begun the process of revitalizing the curation of the materials. We restructured and modernized our material categories and are beginning to create content pages to highlight our best materials. We aim to promote easy access to the best open resources in biology available on the web, and in the process to make MERLOT the go-to site for educators. Since the day I joined, I have found MERLOT to be an exceptionally rewarding activity both for the service to the community of education professionals, and for the amazing interactions I have had with colleagues in MERLOT. In addition to working with MERLOT, I am a plant biologist with an interest in phylogeny, systematics, evolution, and the nature of science—in addition to science education, of course. I am an associate professor at Mt. San Jacinto College in Southern California (in the shadow of Mount San Jacinto). I also serve as the department chair of life sciences where I oversee biology, nutrition, environmental science, and health sciences.

Marty Zahn ---As best I can research and recollect, I was introduced to MERLOT in 2001 when the Virginia Community College System became a Partner in the project. I was one of the faculty selected and did my MERLOT peer reviewer training in Nashville that Fall. The entire project was relatively new but the Biology Editorial Team was an original group and headed up by Scott Cooper and Jeff Bell. I attended the MERLOT



International meetings for several years as well as presenting at those meetings. Virginia supported us for those activities. There came a change in administration at the VCCS about six years after starting and the VCCS withdrew as a Partner and all support was stopped. After a couple of years I stopped participating. Then, in 2010, I rejoined the editorial team and after a few years became co-editor. I have remained active since that

time but have not attended the annual meetings because my college does not support out of state travel for faculty.

### ***Meet the Board Member – Whitney Holden***

Dr. Whitney Holden has been a member of the MERLOT Biology editorial board since August 2017 and achieved the status of Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire in March 2018. She received a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Arkansas in 2009, where she was a Goldwater Scholar, and a Ph.D. in Microbiology & Immunology from Vanderbilt University in 2014, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. Her dissertation research focused on immune defenses like antimicrobial peptides and symbiotic skin bacteria against the fungal pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Her research has been published in multiple academic journals including *Science*, *Developmental & Comparative Immunology*, *Biological Conservation*, and *Applied & Environmental Microbiology*. Since the fall of 2014, she has been teaching Science of Biology, Microbiology, and Infectious Disease in History & Culture at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts. Dr. Holden also co-directs two major outreach programs: Advanced Biology Plus, which offers professional development and in-classroom support to AP Biology teachers from across the state of Arkansas, and the Arkansas Summer Research Institute, which provides training in essential research skills to undergraduates in STEM disciplines. In her spare time, she runs a successful YouTube channel for education in biology ([www.youtube.com/BiologyProfessor](http://www.youtube.com/BiologyProfessor)), teaches chemistry as an adjunct professor at National Park College, and tries to be part of cool conversations on Twitter (@DrWhitneyHolden).



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

Congratulations to **Sherri Restauri**, Editor of Professional Coaching, and a member of the Psychology Editorial Board on being named co-chair of OLC's Accelerate Conference in November 2018.

## ***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.

Berkeley College – New York, NY – August 7, 2018

UMKC – Kansas City, MO – September 25, 2018

For further information, contact OLC:

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/collaborate-overview/#sign-up-for-email-alerts>

### **Online Learning Consortium ACCELERATE 2018**





The [call for proposals](#) is open through today, June 4 for Accelerate to be held at the Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel November 14-16, 2018.

The conference is devoted to driving quality online learning, advancing best practice guidance and accelerating innovation in learning around the world.

For more information, go to:  
<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2018/accelerate/>

### Quality Matters Annual Conference



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2018**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

The [call for proposals](#) is open until June 15, 2018.

### ***Moore Musings***

Dear Jane,

I'm wondering what the advantages are to being a peer reviewer for MERLOT. I heard you at the Innovate conference say that peer reviewing is great professional development. Can you expand on that?

## A Potential Reviewer

Dear Potential Reviewer,

Being a MERLOT peer reviewer affords you the opportunity to look at new and exciting materials for educators in depth. I know that in my reviewing, I have been assigned materials that I might not have looked at on my own and ended up using many of them in my classes. Additionally, you can earn a registration at the Innovate conference by completing 15 reviews and submitting a minimum of five materials between April 1, 2018 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Each month, I choose at random a reviewer's name who has completed reviews during the previous month. That reviewer earns a \$50 gift card from the e-retailer of his or her choice.

Being a part of the MERLOT community of learners and educators is the best perk of all. Try it. You can find information on GRAPE Camp in this newsletter. Sign up and start reviewing!

*Jane*

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## MERLOT Statistics

## MERLOT Statistics

### MERLOT Collection as of May 31, 2018

80,514	# items in Collection
4,973	# of materials w/a Peer Review
12,850	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
6,293	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,019	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
154,739	# of registered users

### Usage Statistics for January - May 2018

354,971	Total # of visits
3	Avg. # pages/visit
3:04	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!