

 MERLOT

From the Vineyard



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Jane Moore - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward

Dear MERLOT Leadership Community,

As MERLOT begins its 22nd year of providing free and open educational services, we are re-invigorating our commitments and efforts to support “Education for All Everywhere”. The only way to fulfill this mission is to enable communities of people and partnerships with organizations to collaboratively share their time, resources, and talents in designing, delivering, and sustaining open educational services and resources. MERLOT and the Online Learning Consortium are partnering in our “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness” initiative in 2019 with our hallmark event, the [3rd Annual HBCU \(Historically Black Colleges and Universities\) Affordable Learning Summit](#) at the INNOVATE Conference in Denver, April 2-5, 2019. We hope you can join us for the MERLOT Leadership Dinner (and presentation) on Wednesday April 3rd – you’ll find good food and good company as we reflect on and recommend strategies for MERLOT. With the MERLOT partner discount (**IN19MP**) and early bird registration, you can save \$250 on the INNOVATE conference fee.

A major priority for MERLOT in 2019 will be to leverage and integrate www.SkillsCommons.org, which the CSU has nurtured to become the national workforce development OER program with over 1.4 million downloads already. The talents of the [SkillsCommons team](#) will be joining MERLOT’s and the technologies and services will complement the academic focus of MERLOT’s services. SkillsCommon’s industry and technology partners, along with the over 700 community colleges that participated in the program, will broaden the foundation of MERLOT’s consortium. You can explore some of the new services that will be available at <http://skillscommons.csuprojects.org>.

2019 will be another successful new year for MERLOT because of all the previous years you, the MERLOT leadership community, have developed friendships, contributed your expertise, inspired your colleagues, and shared our passion for continuously building the capabilities of MERLOT’s community, collections, and commitment to Education for All Everywhere.

Cheers,
Gerry

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Feature Article – Innovate 2018

Moving Mountains in Digital, Blended, and Online Learning



The 2019 Innovate Conference will take place at the Gaylord Rockies Resort in Denver Colorado. For further information and registration check out:

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2019/innovate/program/>

Education innovation. It's how we, as a community, continue to thrive in this rapidly changing learning environment. It's how we respond to, revolve around, and guide student success and satisfaction. Whether embracing emerging tech, incorporating intelligent learning management systems, or designing blended classrooms, now more than ever it is imperative that academic leaders, faculty, and administrators alike come together to ensure that our pedagogies are progressive, organic and continually break new ground.

Advancing education innovation requires continuous visionary leadership from all disciplines. And that's why we're inviting you to join us in Colorado in April 2019. Together we will challenge our teaching and learning paradigms, reimagine the learning experience, and ideate on how disruptions in education today will shape the innovative classroom of tomorrow.

At OLC Innovate, we will conduct a series of engaging hands-on sessions aimed at fostering organic interactions and collaborative cross-disciplinary problem solving. Together we will build new foundations for stronger, better higher education environments. And because innovation scales best when ideas are shared, our work sessions will explore digital technologies and adapted teaching behaviors aimed at informing policy, inspiring leadership, and evolving practice at all levels impacting institutions, universities and colleges.

Advancing education innovation begins with you. Join us in Denver, April 3-5, 2019, and help us shape the future of online and digital learning.

You can [sign up for email alerts](#) for ongoing updates.

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Feature Article – BON4Ed/MERLOT in Senegal by Moustapha Diack

MERLOT INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN SENEGAL: PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL LED TO THE LAUNCHING OF AN AFFORDABLE LEARNING SOLUTIONS (AL\$) PORTAL FOR THE COUNTRY

The International organization MERLOT signed a partnership agreement with the Virtual University of Senegal (VUS) in 2018 in which the two organizations laid out key strategic goals to (1) develop and extend the collection of Open Education Resources (OER) available in French language and to create a comprehensive French content curation to populate the MERLOT collection; (2) Build capacity by securing funding to develop OER in Senegalese local languages including Wolof, the national language of the country, to support governmental initiatives to significantly improve the quality of education and provide access to quality digital resources for teaching, learning and workforce development. It is noteworthy that approximately 80% of OER currently available on the Internet and within the MERLOT collection is still in English, while only 20% of the world population speaks English. The partnership intends to significantly contribute in addressing this problem. The MERLOT/VUS partnership aligns with the international declaration of the Council of Francophone Ministries of higher education to promote the development of Open Education Resources in French language and the sharing of existing resources to foster economic development and education for all. This is critical to providing educational access in the French West Africa region (See Here to Learn More: <https://www.francophonie.org/Pour-le-developpement-numerique-de.html>)

As part of this partnership **MERLOT and VUS launched in December 2018 an Affordable Learning Solution (AL\$) portal in French language dubbed BON4ED** (Bibliothèque Ouverte Numérique Pour L'Éducation - bon4ed.uvs.edu.sn ----- English translates as “Digital Open Library for Education”.)



bon4ed.uvs.edu.sn

MERLOT and VUS launched in December 2018 an Affordable Learning Solution (AL\$) in French language dubbed BON4ED

Moustapha Diack (Mous), Associate V. P. for Online Learning Services and Director of the MERLOT Africa Network traveled to Senegal for the inaugural launch of BON4ED. Inaugural events included initial project kickoff training organized on December 12, 2018, at the Virtual University of Senegal (VUS), commended by Professor Moussa Lo, UVS coordinator. The Kickoff featured presentations by Professor Diack and the Project leaders, Professor Alassane Diop, Dr. Alpha Dia and Mr. Djibril Diallo in presence of the BON4ed Project Team (See Leadership Team: <http://www.bon4ed.uvs.sn/about.html>), UVS faculty, researchers and librarians. (Please See Here for BON4ed Kick off at VUS: <http://www.uvs.sn/?p=7031>)

A national forum, “the VUS Forum on Quality and Assurance and Open Education Resources” was subsequently organized in December 18 -20, in the Resort city of Toubab Dialaw, near the capital city of Dakar, inviting eLearning Practitioners of the seven national universities of the Republic of Senegal. The 3-days meeting agenda of the national forum featured presentations from researchers from the universities, national exchanges on the status of eLearning and OER, the launching of Bon4ed and the critical review of current national and international standards for eLearning Quality Assurance.



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Feature Article – Community College Summit by Michelle Pacansky-Brock

Community colleges play a major role in improving the social mobility of Americans and meeting the changing needs of the workforce. With a commitment to open access and a mission that supports 2-year associate degrees, transfer pathways to 4-year universities, and certificate programs, community colleges serve as the gateway to higher education and career advancement for roughly [six million students](#) each year.

As online and hybrid course enrollments continue to increase access to community college for underrepresented student populations, they are also exacerbating equity gaps. Access alone is not a pathway to serving all students equitably. And while institutions have quantifiable equations to measure success, these formulas do not reflect the nuances and complexity of success as defined by our own students.

This April 3, community college educators will convene at the 2019 OLC Innovate Community College Summit. With a student-centered focus, the Summit is designed to encourage deep reflection, dialogue, and collaboration as we collectively explore the role of online learning in social mobility. How might we re-imagine our traditional notions of access and success to create new opportunities to best serve the needs of all

students? We hope you will join us for this important event to learn and grow as educators and connect in community with our peers.

[Learn more about the 2019 OLC Innovate Community College Summit](#)

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Feature Article – Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2019 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 Denver, April 3-5, 2019. Awardees also receive certificates of merit at the Awards ceremony on April 2nd. 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 30, 2018 and **March 15, 2019**.

By the end of December, 17 reviewers have achieved PRE status: **Juville Dario-Becker, Michael Plotkin, Marty Zahn, Whitney Holden, and Crystal Peirce** of the Biology Board, **Liza Mayeux** from Health Sciences, **Arthur Finkle** from History, **Lesley Farmer** from ICT Literacy, **Leila Halawi** from Information Technology, **Sergey Belyi** and **Larry Green** from Mathematics, **Catherine Honig** from Psychology, **Jane Moore, Elaine Lawrence, Cris Guenter, Esperanza Zenon, and Tammy Garren** from 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, 48 MERLOT reviewers have signed up for Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire.

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Feature Article – MERLOT at Innovate 2019

Multiple MERLOT members are presenting at Innovate 2018. Here's a list so you can connect while at the conference. Additionally, the Classics Award Winners will also present Emerging Ideas sessions at the conference.

Day	Time	Presenter	Title	Location
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4/2	9am-4pm	Moustapha Diack, Robbie Melton, Leslie Kennedy, Gerry Hanley	HBCU Affordable Learning Summit 2019: Reaching Back for Others as We are Reaching the Summit	Cottonwood 10-11
4/3	8:30-10am	Sorel Reisman Barb Sperling	MERLOT Content Builder III: Developing Web-Based OERs for the 21 st Century	Cottonwood 1
4/3	8:30-10am	Vera Kennedy Ana Leon	Remixing and Reusing OER	Cottonwood 7
4/3	10:30am-noon	Gerry Hanley	Opening Workforce Development with OER Today: Resources and Strategies	Cottonwood 1
4/3	10:30am-noon	Ben Scragg Angela Gunder	Boldly Awakening the Ordinary: Visual Design for Human-Centered Learning	Cottonwood 9
4/3	1-1:45pm	Jean Mandernach, Sherri Restauri, Julie Evey, Catherine Honig	Maximizing the Impact of Online Course Content: Publisher vs. OER vs. CYO (Create Your Own)	Maple 1-2
4/3	2-2:45pm	Liza Mayeux, Colleen Nevins, Kelly Massey	Create, Review, Release: An Opportunity with the MERLOT Health Sciences Community	Aurora Ballroom Corridor
4/3	2-2:45pm	Jane Moore, Cris Guenter, Angela Gunder, Elaine Lawrence, Bruce Bennett, Tammy Garren, Esperanza Zenon	Breaking Free: An OER Primer on Creating a Cost-Free Course	Juniper C
4/3	3:30-4:15pm	Michael Plotkin, Marty Zahn, Jim Bidlack, Crystal Peirce, Juville Dario-Becker	Online Biology Labs: Yes We Can!	Aurora Ballroom Corridor
4/3	3:30-4:15pm	Gary Ackerman	Interaction in Online Courses: Debating Four Statements	Maple 4
4/4	9:45-10:30am	Colleen Nevins, Jaime Hannans, Ben Hyrek	See It, Hear It, Feel It: Virtual Reality Immersive Learning	Cottonwood 8
4/4	9:45-10:30am	Leslie Kennedy Gerry Hanley	Increasing Equitable Access and Success for All	Juniper B

	m		Students With Open Educational Resources!	
4/4	9:45-10:30am	Lesley Farmer	Many Heads are Better than One: Enhanced Collective Intelligence Online	Maple 4
4/4	11:15am-noon	Harriette Spiegel	Two to Tango: Implementing Effective Pedagogy while Practicing Sound Digital Accessibility in Your Online Course Design	Juniper B
4/4	2:15-3:00pm	John Stewart, Angela Gunder, Cathy Russell, Keegan Long-Wheeler, Jessica Knott	Establishing Epic Heroes: Narrative in Online Course Design	Maple 3
4/5	9:45-10:30am	Jane Moore	Developing a Critical Eye for OER: Become a MERLOT Peer Reviewer	Aurora Ballroom Corridor
4/5	9:45-10:30am	Sherri Restauri, Katherine Quinnell	Lessons Learned from Initial OER Implementations: Moving the Needle Forward	Aurora Ballroom Corridor
4/5	9:45-10:30am	Gerry Hanley	Blending Apprenticeships and Online Education	Juniper A
4/5	10:45-11:30am	Jessica Knott, Tina Rettler-Pagel, Angela Gunder, Gary Chinn	Climbing Mount Confidence: Scaling the Cliffs of Impostor Syndrome	Maple 4
4/5	11:45-12:30pm	Michael Plotkin, Whitney Holden, Jim Bidlack, Juville Dario-Becker, Crystal Peirce	Life Science Education using MERLOT	Aurora Ballroom Corridor

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Feature Article – HBCU Summit – by Moustapha Diack

3rd Annual Meeting - Practitioners Summit for Advancing Affordable Learning Solutions and Quality Online Education for HBCUs

“Reaching Back for Others as We are Reaching the Summit”



3rd Annual HBCU Affordable Learning Summit

Please join us at the OLC/MERLOT INNOVATE Conference in April 2019

MERLOT in partnership with the Southern University System (SUS) of Louisiana and Tennessee State University (TSU) is glad to announce the 3rd Annual meeting of the “Practitioners Summit for Advancing Affordable Learning Solutions and Quality Online Education for HBCUs”. The Summit is an integral part of the program of the international INNOVATE conference co-sponsored by the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) and MERLOT to be held this year in Denver, Colorado, April 2-5, 2019.

This year theme, “Reaching Back for Others as We are Reaching the Summit”, speaks to our relentless efforts during the last two years to build a practitioner and research community around the adoption of Open Education Resources (OER) to increase college access and success at these minority institutions. As our community grew these two years to include 30 HBCU institutions, our ultimate goal this year is to reach back to the 105 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the United States and higher education institutions in Africa, all of which are invited to participate to the 3rd Annual meeting.

The Practitioners Summit at INNOVATE serve as an international forum enabling HBCUs and Higher Education partners in Africa to share their strategies and outcomes, along with other online education initiatives that emerge as priorities.

As we begin the 3rd Annual HBCU Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) Summit, our focus will be on sharing the pioneering efforts of HBCU’s implementing their AL\$ programs. There are many factors that affect the success of campus AL\$ programs and by sharing lessons learned and enabling colleagues to incorporate exemplary practices into their own programs will help advance the HBCU community’s goals. We will also share the innovations being explored and provide the social support for the campus leaders to be successful on their campus.

The 3rd Annual HBCU Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) will feature a preconference focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and strategies to use AL\$ as a mean to address DEI at minority institutions. Please visit the Summit site for more information about agenda and pre-conference event (<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2019/innovate/program/hbcu-summit/>).

Feature Article – MERLOT in Sweden – by Lesley Farmer

Hej Svenska Bibliotekarier!

I was awarded a sabbatical this fall to work with school librarian educators at the University of Borås in Sweden. This university, which is located about an hour east of Gothenburg, offers the most extensive school librarian preparation in the country. I wanted to explore the school librarianship situation in Sweden first hand. Here are some of my findings.



Sweden has about 4000 school libraries, which are funded and managed by local authorities. The first national library law did not exist until 1996 with the Act on Library Services, which focused on public libraries. Many library associations lobbied for legislation that would support school libraries, and the National Authority for School Improvement funded pilot school library development. As a result, the Education Act of 2010 made the school library mandatory. Additionally, all Swedish curriculum was revised in 2017 to strengthen digital competence, and school librarians are responsible for supporting and empowering student in their linguistic and digital skills, including media and information literacy.

Five universities in Sweden offer library science programs, and Borås is the biggest, as well as the leader in school librarianship; they have twenty faculty members who teach courses for school librarians. The faculty are overhauling their curriculum so I worked with them, with special attention to preparing school librarians and strengthening their media literacy efforts. To that end, I guest lectured in three courses, conducted a research seminar on fake news, presented about school librarian preparation and media education a regional library conference, and presented a workshop on actively engaging students, especially in online learning environments.

What were some of my findings, especially in terms of ICT literacy?

- A strong emphasis on källkritik: source evaluation
- Discussion about disinformation, larger than fake news
- Attention to online algorithms and their impact on searching and filter bubbles
- Awareness and concern about GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)
- Lack of collaboration with classroom teachers, thus limiting the librarian's role in teaching ICT.

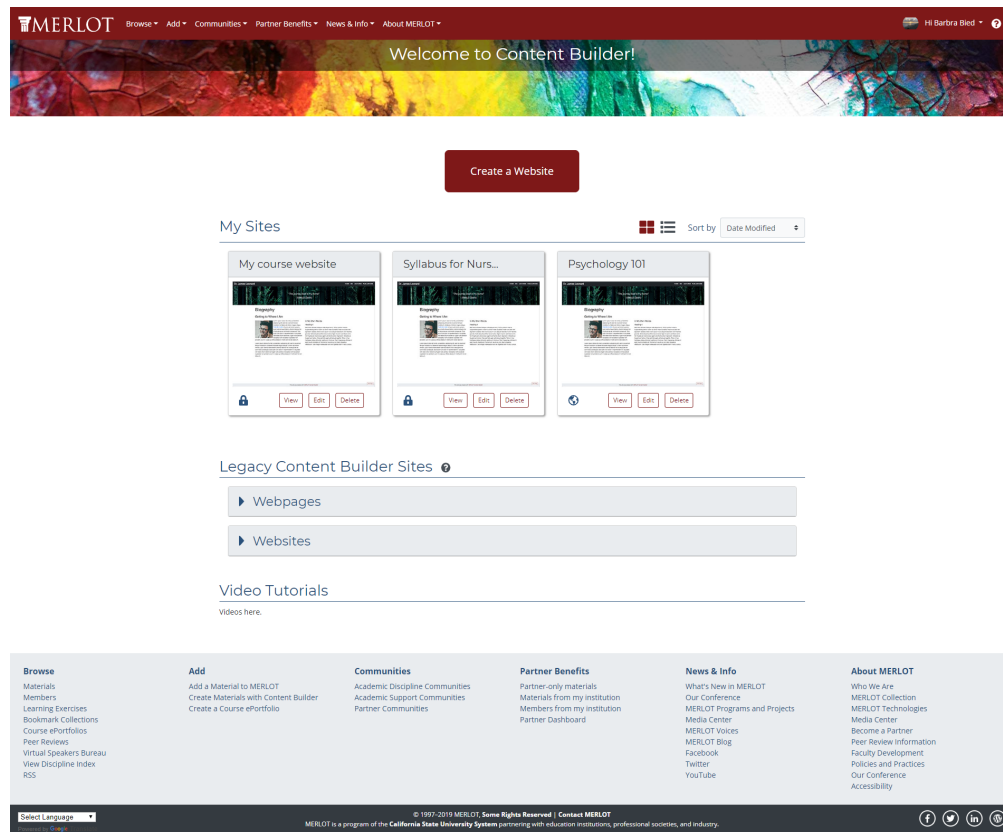
In sum, our exchanges have the potential to improve both Swedish and California's ICT efforts.

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MERLOT Technology

MERLOT Content Builder

The MERLOT Content Builder is turning 10 years old this year! Over the years, it has gone through a few facelifts to improve the user experience. Now the MERLOT development team is working on its biggest upgrade since acquiring the KEEP Toolkit from the Carnegie Foundation. We are designing a new user interface complete with a design center which will enable users to develop web sites quickly and easily and make global changes to the look and feel. Look for the new Content Builder release in the Spring. Below is a sneak preview of the new simplified home page.



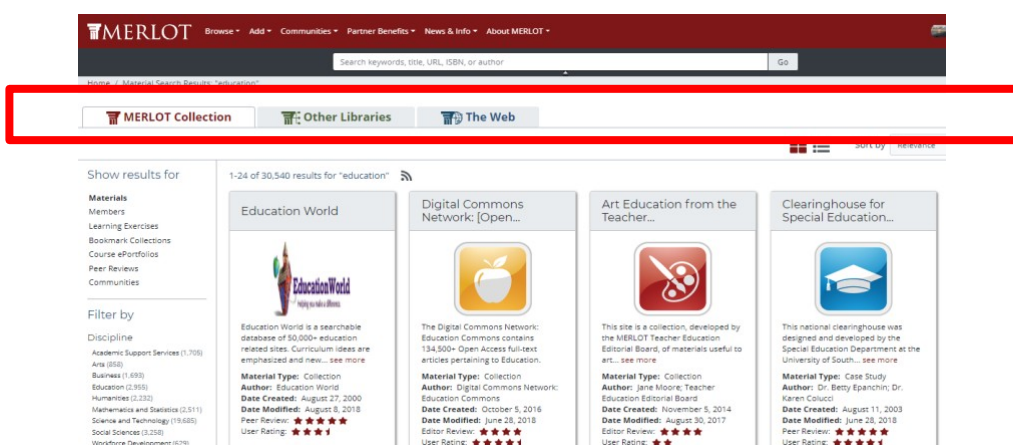
MERLOT Smart Search

For those new to MERLOT, with the MERLOT Smart Search, finding materials in MERLOT is easier than ever! The **MERLOT Smart Search** not only searches the MERLOT collection, but goes beyond that to search other digital libraries (over 40) and also the World Wide Web! Using a proprietary MERLOT user profile, the web search looks specifically for the newest and most popular higher education learning materials. While these resources are not peer reviewed, users can contribute materials that show

up in the results hit lists, to the MERLOT collection for subsequent curation and peer review by our 25+ MERLOT Editorial Boards. And materials discovered by Smart Search can be added to users' MERLOT Bookmark Collections and Course ePortfolios.

Once you perform a search, just click on one of the 3 tab that describes the universe of resources you want to explore (MERLOT, Other Libraries or The Web) and MERLOT will present you with results! For more information on the MERLOT Smart Search, go to

http://info.merlot.org/merlohelp/topic1.htm#basic_merlot_search.htm=&t=MERLOT_Smart_Search.htm



Social Networking and MERLOT

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



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

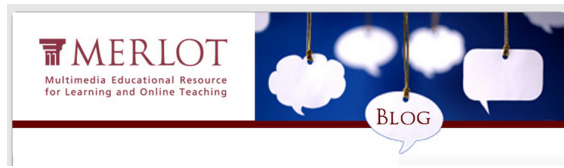


You can also [follow us on Twitter](#).



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

MERLOT Blog



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](#).

2019 GRAPE Camp Orientations are scheduled for Spring in:

- February - Thursdays (7, 14, 21) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific
- March – Wednesdays (6, 13, 20) at 11 AM Eastern/ 8 AM Pacific
- April – Tuesdays (2, 9, 16) at 5 PM Eastern/ 2 PM Pacific
- May – Thursdays (16, 23, 30) 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](https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/8H20cQ25#!/0) (<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/8H20cQ25#!/0>)

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. The Self-Study was created using MERLOT's Content Builder.

You can also participate in the discussions about GRAPE Camp in [MERLOT Voices](http://voices.merlot.org/group/grapecamp/forum/topics/grape-camp-orientation-winter-spring-2019) (<http://voices.merlot.org/group/grapecamp/forum/topics/grape-camp-orientation-winter-spring-2019>)

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."

"This was a really enjoyable training experience. I'm quite excited at the prospect of applying the skills I learned toward (potentially - hopefully!) improving the OER experience for educators in search of materials."

"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."

Recent graduates of GRAPE Camp include:

Name	Institution	Board
Jens Lechtenborger	University of Munster	Computer Science
Teri Herron	Ashford University	Music
Virginia Desouky	West Virginia University	Library

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). Thanks!

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



Bucks New University's **Barbara Nicolls**, reviewer in World Languages was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) today (30 August) in recognition of her 'outstanding' impact on student learning and outcomes.

The Learning Development Tutor, based at the Uxbridge Campus, is one of 54 people across the UK to receive the accolade this year.

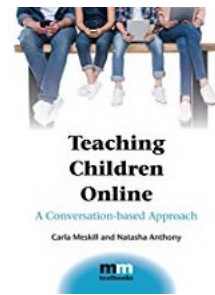
The NTF recognizes, rewards and celebrates individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student learning and the teaching profession.

Irene Knokh, Editor of Instructional Technology and **Jane Moore**, Editor of Teacher Education are presenting at the [Star Symposium](#), February 8th. Their topic is “Take a Sip of MERLOT and Save Your Students Money.” **Irene** was on the panel for the ELearning Brothers [discussion of Generational Learning](#).

Larry Green, Editor of Mathematics, Department Chair at Lake Tahoe Community College and leader of the California statewide effort for OpenMath and the MyOpenMath platform received the CCCOER Award. Larry has maintained an index to all the OER recommendations by discipline made on the CCCOER community email list for years. The index has proven invaluable to the community members.

Gerry Hanley was mentioned in an [article](#) on OERs in higher education in the *Chronicle*.

Carla Meskill (World Languages) has a new book out *Teaching Children Online: A Conversation-Based Approach*. The book has a much-needed framework for a conversational-based approach to teaching and learning. It emphasizes the use of information and communication technology to promote sound learning.



Mike Pouraryan (Business) was commended for his service to the City of Lagunas’s Military Support Committee and Traffic and Transportation Commission. He received the Mayor’s Challenge Coin.

Luz del Carmen Vilchis Esquivel (Faculty Development) received the National University Award, the highest recognition granted by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). It is a reward for the teaching and research trajectory.

Ed Nelson (Editor of Sociology) is involved in a group called the Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC). It is made up of one representative from each of the California State University campuses. They include a number of resources on their website: <https://ssric.org/trd>. A number of the resources are included in MERLOT.

Esperanza Zenon (Teacher Education) conducted an OER workshop at Fletcher Community and Technical College and used MERLOT as a resource.

Sherri Restauri (Editor of Professional Coaching and member of the Psychology Board) was awarded Volunteer of the Year for the Myrtle Beach Alzheimer’s Association. She served as co-chair for this year’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

Julie London (Health Sciences) was promoted to Associate Professor at the School of Nursing, State University of New York, Delhi.

Meet the Editor

Henry Chan, Computer Science Board Editor

Henry Chan received his BA and MA degrees from the University of Cambridge, England, and his PhD degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada. He is currently an associate professor and associate head of the Department of Computing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). His research interests include networking/communications, cloud computing, electronic commerce, and computing education. He was the recipient of the 2015 IEEE Computer Society's Computer Science and Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award for his outstanding contributions to computing education through teaching, mentoring students, and service to the education community. He was the general chair of the IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment, and Learning for Engineering (TALE) 2012. He received four President's Awards from PolyU. He was the chair of the IEEE Hong Kong Section in 2012, and the IEEE Hong Kong Section Computer Society Chapter from 2008 to 2009. He is currently the editor of the Computer Science Editorial Board of MERLOT.

Currently, the Computer Science Editorial Board has ten members from Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, Pakistan and USA. Through the Computer Science Community Portal, users can find resources such as animations, video lectures, online courses, open textbooks etc. for teaching/learning computer science. Note that the resources are categorized based on the ACM/IEEE Computer Science Curricula 2013. Some examples are:



- Algorithm Visualization – animations for various algorithms
- Intensive Introduction to Computer Science – a popular online course on introduction to computer science
- Video Lectures on Discrete Mathematics – a collection of video lectures covering different topics of discrete mathematics
- How to Think like a Computer Scientist: Interactive Edition – an interactive open textbook for teaching Python programming

Meet the Board Member – Jody Paul, Computer Science

Dr. Jody Paul is a Professor of Computer Science at Metropolitan State University of Denver, an open-enrollment institution located in downtown Denver, Colorado. A dedication to humanity and equity is thematic throughout an eclectic mix of professional endeavors: performance musician, computer scientist, educator, fitness instructor, software engineer, locksmith/security consultant, software development manager, and notary public. Dr. Paul's approach emphasizes the development of collaborative and diverse teams to create humanitarian outcomes that afford universal and equitable access. Explorations typically bridge multiple technical disciplines

including human-computer interaction (User eXperience design), cognitive science, software engineering, artificial intelligence, and humanitarian free open source software (HFOSS).

“I joined the MERLOT team to help raise the visibility of, and access to, materials available to Computer Science educators. I see MERLOT as adding significant value through the incorporation of peer reviews and quantitative scoring. While accessing materials found in MERLOT, I often discover other related resources which MERLOT makes easy to contribute to the collection.”

Monthly Reviewer Incentive Awards

Congratulations to our monthly reviewer incentive award winners!

September – Mohammed Kaabar, Mathematics, Universiti Sains Malaysia

October – Jane Wilde, Teacher Education, Linfield College

November – Leila Halawi, Information Technology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

December – Crystal Peirce, Biology, Harper 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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Meeting Notices:

QM Connect Conference



Learner Success Through Quality Initiatives – April

25 & 26, 2019, Berkeley College, NYC

Registration now open: <https://www.qualitymatters.org/events/attend>

Open Education Global 2019 Conference



November 26-28, 2019

Find out more at <https://www.oeconsortium.org/2018/10/oec-announces-open-education-global-conference-2019/>

Moore Musings

Dear Jane:

Is it worth it to go to the Innovate Conference in person?

Signed,

Watching My Budget

Dear Watching,

The conference is a great opportunity meet with educators who are involved in online learning---there's a lot to learn from your colleagues across the world. Additionally, it's a chance to meet your fellow MERLOTians, and put faces to names you connect with online. This year's venue in Denver is brand new and promises to be a great conference center. Hope to see you in April,

Jane

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MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of December 31, 2018

81,704	# items in Collection
5,073	# of materials w/a Peer Review
13,000	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
6,313	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,016	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
157,188	# of registered users

Usage Statistics for 2018

1,699,428	Total # of visits in 2018
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2	Avg. # pages/visit
1:24	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!