

From the Vineyard

 MERLOT

ISSUE 54, May 2022 | JANE MOORE - EDITOR

From Your Wine Steward - Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Community,



Can you believe we're about to complete another COVID academic year? Many have transitioned back to more on-site education but life has not transitioned "back to normal". There are still many challenges facing students, faculty, staff, and their families. Affordability of education is still a significant barrier for many and affordability is not just about money. Can I afford the time for education while I have to provide child care or elder care? Can I afford the additional psychological stresses of college while I try to manage my health risks? Alternative modes of instruction using alternative instructional materials can be instrumental in providing affordable educational pathways for many in need. At MERLOT, we continue to work as a community providing free and open educational resources, a free and open educational community of almost 200,000 people worldwide, and a suite of free and open educational services that empower people to design their learning for themselves and others in ways that align with their needs.

With the massive move to various forms of online education, a new requirement for the education profession has descended on us all, being an instructional designer. Our subject matter expertise has often not prepared us to have the blend of technology skills and instructional design skills to create a learning experience we so want to deliver to our students. With little support from our overwhelmed institutions, faculty struggle and are burning out. To help support these challenges facing faculty, MERLOT has partnered with O'Donnell Learn+ISG to provide their Concierge instructor services and technology platform to the MERLOT community. In short, you contact Concierge and describe your challenge with designing the curriculum you want and they will provide a skilled instructional designer to help overcome your challenges using MERLOT and other resources. The cost is affordable (under \$100 per month) and it is designed to solve your immediate problems immediately. We have more information about this new service in a feature article below. We will be providing more information about this Concierge access through MERLOT in the near future as well.

Finally, I'd like to finish my letter to you with personnel updates. The first is that our wonderful and dear Jane Moore has decided to fully retire and enjoy life with her wonderful husband, children, and grandchildren. Jane has been a cornerstone in the MERLOT community for 20 years and her loving care for our editorial boards is one of the major reasons why MERLOT has kept a foundation of dedicated leaders in our community. Jane has also been the face of MERLOT in all the work with our terrific partner, the Online Learning Consortium. Jane has done so much for so many for so many years in helping make MERLOT more personal to everyone. We are so grateful for all the contributions Jane has made and wish that her dreams about retirement come true. We are also so grateful that Catherine Honig, one of our long-time editors and an outstanding MERLOT leader has agreed to take on the MERLOT position supporting our editorial boards and continuously grow the MERLOT community. Catherine brings such positivity, passion, and patience along with deep knowledge of MERLOT to enable MERLOT to serve the worldwide community of learners. Please welcome her as she becomes a member of the MERLOT Leadership Team.

I, along with the entire MERLOT Leadership Team, wish you a successful end of the Spring 2022 semester/quarter and a restorative summer.

Cheers,
Gerry Hanley
Executive Director, MERLOT & SkillsCommons

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MERLOT Awards

The Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service award is reserved as MERLOT's highest honor. The recipient of this award demonstrates the vision that brings MERLOT members together to create the MERLOT community and our services.

Recipients of this award have exemplified, through their dedication and leadership, the highest values MERLOT holds. The recipients of this award are selected by the previous winners with consultation from MERLOT management.



This year's recipient is our own **Cris Guenter, Ed.D.**, Associate Editor of the MERLOT Teacher Education Board. Cris has been a member of MERLOT from the very start in the late 1990's. Cris is Professor Emerita at California State University-Chico, where she taught art education for decades and retired in 2021. Cris has created award winning materials for MERLOT, and been an active, treasured member of that Board. She has been a Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire since the inception of that award. Cris is an [amazing artist](#) as well as an integral part of the National Art Education Association, currently serving as National Trustee on the National Art Education Foundation.

The Innovative Use of MERLOT Award

The Innovative Use of MERLOT Award is given to an individual, department, or program that demonstrates novel, comprehensive, or creative usage and/or application of MERLOT materials and services. Nominees must provide evidence of an impact on students that can be demonstrated through qualitative or quantitative research or anecdotal evidence. The impact on learning is valued above the impact on student interest.



This year's recipient is **The National Skills Development Corporation of India**. NSDC aims to promote skill development by providing free and low-cost access to workforce training materials to individuals, education centers, as well as career & technical education centers throughout India. NSDC has adopted over 250 open mini-courses from the SkillsCommons-MERLOT collection in industry sectors that will produce sustainable employment for people, including programs designed to support women preparing

for employment in non-traditional industries. Though a half a world away, **Preeti Arora, Meghna Puri, and Niharika Bhayana** at NSDC have been wonderful collaborators to bring free access to SkillsCommons resources in innovative ways.

The Institutional Stewardship Award



The Institutional Stewardship Award recognizes efforts to promote MERLOT at an institutional level. MERLOT seeks to identify models that can be used to sustain support for MERLOT, and demonstrate the value of MERLOT. Recipients of the award are judged by the MERLOT Management Team. This year's recipient is **The HBCU Leadership Team: Tennessee State University, Central State University, Morehouse College, Bethune Cookman University, Edward Waters University, Southern University Shreveport, and Arkansas Baptist College.**

The HBCU leadership team from Tennessee State University (**Drs. Robbie Melton, Deborah Chisom, Effua Ampadu**), Central State University (**Dr. Arletha McSwain**), Morehouse College (**Dr. Monique Earl-Lewis**), Bethune Cookman University (**Dr. Clarissa West-White**), Edward Waters University (**Dr. Jean-Jacque Medastin**), Southern University Shreveport (**Dr. Veronica McEachin**), and Arkansas Baptist College (**Dr. Jacquiline McGehee**) have promoted and supported MERLOT use in Affordable Learning Solutions Initiatives for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Their on-going work will result in quality materials that can be used, remixed, and revised to suit their students in all HBCUs. Working together, they are building a cultural collection of over 500 free and open educational resources about issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusiveness, about the histories of HBCUs, about HBCU leaders, and about Black History Month.



MERLOT Classics Awards

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

The winner of the **2022 MERLOT Biology Classics Award** was **Jagpreet Chhatwal** for **The COVID-19 Simulator**
<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=773410553>

The Biology Board had this to say about the material:

The COVID-19 Simulator is set of tools designed to help policymakers decide how to respond to the novel coronavirus. The tools can be used to explore the impact of different social distancing interventions (by varying their intensity and timing) to reduce the spread of coronavirus. The information presented can help policymakers understand consequences such as the rate of new cases, potential strain on the healthcare system, and projected deaths. The tools are useful in educational contexts to allow inquiry-based activities.

The winners of the **2022 MERLOT Health Sciences Classics Award** were **Paula Stover** and **Debbie Amason** of Highlands University for **Introduction to Nursing**. The material can be found at <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=773404701>.

The Health Sciences Board had this to say about the material:

This text is an overview of key aspects in nursing. Major core areas are provided in general detail. The learner has the potential to identify major components of nursing history and practice. This would be a great resource for learners to get an understanding of historical figures in nursing and key nursing concepts. This interest can be further satisfied by seeking additional information from other resources.

The winner of the **2022 MERLOT Instructional Design and Technology Classics Award** was **23 Things** by **Stephanie Farley** from University of Edinburgh. You can find her site at <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=1379985>.

The Instructional Design and Technology Board had this to say about the material:

Each chapter (professional development, digital curation, copyright, OERs, etc.), covers specific concepts and tools. The site is well organized. There really are twenty-three things that the learners will cover.

The **Mathematics** Board awarded its Classics Award to **Akihiro Imai** for the **Keisan Online Calculator for Math and Science**,
<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=1378937>.

The Mathematics Board had this to say about the material:

This site contains a very accurate user-friendly online mathematical and scientific calculator with usage website technical guide and summaries, as well as, user feedbacks and discussion. In addition, it has an optional Japanese language site and a free app for smart devices. Each topic in the mathematics is listed related to its disciplines, so students can easily access their topic of interest related to their math courses, projects, or assignments. Overall, there are an enormous number of options and applications.

The winner of the 2022 MERLOT **Psychology** Classics Award was **A Toolkit for Teaching Communication Skills in Social Work** by **Kelly Allison** and **Marie Nightbird**. It can be found at <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=773403300>.

The Psychology Board had this to say about the material:

This particular resource is most useful as a demonstration tool for students who are learning skill sets that are critical in counseling. The collection of videos (and supporting resources) can support both undergraduate and graduate students in defining, identifying/recognizing, and applying/practicing key communication skills.

The winner of the **2022 MERLOT Sociology Classics Award** was **Heather Griffiths** for **Introduction to Sociology 2e**
<https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=501320048>.

The Sociology Board had this to say about the material:

This is an open resource textbook covering material typically found in any introductory Sociology course. It offers comprehensive coverage of core concepts, foundational scholars, and emerging theories. It is a second edition with current research information and examples to help students better understand the concepts covered. Instructor Resources and Student Resources are provided along with the textbook to provide additional tools to incorporate into a course using this textbook.

The **Teacher Education** Board named **Nearpod** as their Classics Award winner for 2022. The award was accepted by **Amy Young** of Nearpod. <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=773404759>.

The Teacher Education Board had this to say about the material:

Nearpod provides the user with the opportunity to make any lesson interactive through the use of formative assessments. Teachers can use a resource they already have such as a slide presentation or video, or they can use a Standards aligned, pre-made lesson from the robust Nearpod library.

The Awards were presented at the virtual Innovate conference in March, 2022. Congratulations to all the winners.

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, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Teacher Education.**

This year's winner was the **Health Sciences Board** which made 4486 contributions to MERLOT, including 239 individual reviews, 128 composite reviews, and 705 material submissions to MERLOT. The award was presented at Innovate 2022.

This is the second year that the Health Sciences Board has won the House Cup.

The Editorial Board for Health Sciences includes:

Nancyruth Leibold - Editor of the Board - Southwest Minnesota State University

Mary Bemker - Walden University

Mwafaq Haji - Shelton State Community/Technology College

Colleen Nevins - California State University, Channel Islands

The Rising Star Board

The Rising Star award was new to MERLOT in 2020. It recognizes the board comprised of 2-4 members that contributed the most per capita reviews during the year. The award can be won only one time. The annual Rising Star award went to the **Psychology Editorial Board**. The editor of the board is **Catherine Honig**, retired, National-Louis University. Members of her board include **Julie Evey**, Kent State University, **Jean Mandernach**, Grand Canyon University, and **Sherri Restauri**, AST/Verbit, Coastal Carolina University. The Psychology Board made 384 contributions to MERLOT including 24 individual reviews, 18 composite reviews and 34 material submissions.

From the Innovate Conference



Recognition for Outstanding Service to MERLOT and OLC

Jane Moore, Director of MERLOT Editorial and Professional Development Services, received awards from both MERLOT and OLC at the Dallas Innovate Conference. Angela Gunder, OLC Chief Academic Officer and Gerry Hanley, MERLOT Executive Director presented the unique "AWESOME" (Amazing, Wonderful, Energetic, Superlative, Outstanding, Miraculous, Empathetic) Award to Jane as she retires from MERLOT after 20 years of participation. Jane has been the liaison to OLC Conferences since 2013.



MERLOT's booth at the in-person Innovate conference featured lots of swag and three old friends (Cathy Swift, Editor of Business, Gerry Hanley, and Jane Moore, Editor of Teacher Education).

Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire 2022

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 submitted a minimum of 5 materials to the MERLOT collection during that period. Our 2022 MERLOT Peer Reviewers Extraordinaire are:

- **Juville Dario-Becker**, Biology, Central Virginia Community College
- **Pankaj Mehrotra, Biology**, University of the People
- **Martin Zahn***, Biology, Thomas Nelson Community College, retired
- **Diane Bandow**, Business, Troy University
- **Tharuma Rajan (Mark) Pillai**, Marksman Consulting
- **Cathy Swift***, Business, MERLOT/Skills Commons
- **Henry Chan***, Computer Science, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- **Joseph So**, Computer Science, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- **Tak-Lam Wong**, Computer Science, The Hong Kong Institute of Education
- **Paul Bowdre***, Criminal Justice, Oakland City University
- **Eduardo Montero***, Engineering, University of Burgos, Spain
- **Luz del Carmen Vilchis Esquivel**, Faculty Development, National Autonomous Univ. of Mexico
- **Mwafaq Haji**, Health Sciences, Shelton State Community/Tech College
- **Mary Bemker**, Health Sciences, Walden University
- **Nancyruth Leibold***, Health Sciences, Southwest Minnesota State University
- **Robin Squellati**, Health Sciences, Walden University
- **Arthur Finkle***, History, Kean University
- **Lesley Farmer***, ICT Literacy, California State University, Long Beach
- **Carlou Letigio**, ICT Literacy, Cebu Normal University, Philippines
- **Leila Halawi**, Information Technology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- **Edmundo Tovar***, Information Technology, Universidad Polytechnica de Madrid
- **Carol Edwards**, Instructional Design and Technology, Kaplan University
- **Irene Knokh***, Instructional Design and Technology, University of Michigan
- **Sergey Belyi**, Mathematics, Troy University
- **Larry Green***, Mathematics and Statistics, Lake Tahoe Community College
- **Shanda Hood**, Mathematics, University of Arkansas
- **Mohammed Kaabar**, Mathematics, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **Sherri Restauri***, Professional Coaching, AST/Verbit & Coastal Carolina University
- **Julie Evey**, Psychology, Kent State University
- **Catherine Honig***, Psychology, National Louis University, retired
- **Loretta Driskel**, Teacher Education, Clarkson University
- **Cris Guenter**, Teacher Education, California State University-Chico
- **Kelly Jackson-Charles**, Teacher Education, University of the West Indies
- **Elaine Lawrence**, Teacher Education, SUNY Oneonta
- **Jane Moore***, Teacher Education, MERLOT
- **Aida Sermeno Cornejo**, Teacher Education, Binghamton College

*indicates that recipient is Editor of his or her board.

MERLOT Concierge: Partnership with O'Donnell Learn+ISG



With the massive move to various forms of online education, a new requirement for the education profession has descended on us all, being an instructional designer. Our subject matter expertise has often not prepared us to have the blend of technology skills and instructional design skills to create a learning experience we so want to deliver to our students. With little support from our overwhelmed institutions, faculty struggle and are burning out.

To help support these challenges facing faculty, MERLOT has partnered with O'Donnell Learn+ISG to provide their Concierge instructor services and technology platform to the MERLOT community. In short, you contact Concierge and describe your challenge with designing the curriculum you want and they will provide a skilled instructional designer to help overcome your challenges using MERLOT and other resources. The cost is affordable (under \$100 per month) and it is designed to solve your immediate problems immediately. We will be providing more information about this Concierge access through MERLOT in the near future as well.

Leveraging the abundant resources from MERLOT and SkillsCommons OER library and O'Donnell Learn+ISG's instructor services and technology platform, Nectar, the partnership will provide purposeful faculty support to identify resources and implement them into their courses in a way that makes sense and adds value to the learning experience.

O'Donnell Learn+ISG will offer an affordable, fee-based service for MERLOT members and users which will include:

- Personalized & on-demand support
- Affordable learning resources
- Expert instructional design

Support from O'Donnell Learn+ISG through the Nectar program will appropriately contextualize the content for the specific instructor, course, region, and student population. [Matt Gurney](#), O'Donnell Learn+ISG's Senior Vice President of Strategy and Product Innovation, sees this as an opportunity to provide humanized, inclusive, and engaged learning to a global community of instructors. "Through humanized navigation of the MERLOT and SkillsCommons libraries, we'll be able to provide structured support to ease the discovery of the resources specific to instructors' needs - whether that be finding resources to supplement existing content or develop new content - to help instructors purposefully activate that content in their courses in a meaningful and contextualized way."

MERLOT can now able to offer our members affordable one-on-one personalized support from experienced and specialized learning design experts that will help faculty implement their vision for their courses effectively and efficiently. Collaboratively assisting faculty to design ways they reuse, revise, remix, retain, and redistribute free and open educational resources will help fulfill the promise of OER and customize the learning resources to meet the learners' needs."

Jumpstart to Successful Instruction:

Designed to improve how education attracts and retains industry experts as classroom instructors

Maria Fieth, Director, MERLOT-SkillsCommons



The [SkillsCommons](#) online course, [Jumpstart to Successful Instruction](#) was built out of need. The need to support industry experts who are new to the teaching experience. The need to help this population of instructors quickly and effectively get up and running in the classroom. The need to better serve students and workforce development efforts. To meet this need, a [SkillsCommons IMPACTcommunity](#) built the first *Jumpstart to Successful instruction* course which supports workforce development programs across all industry sectors preparing industry experts to become excellent teachers. This *IMPACTcommunity's* specific focus was to deliver an open access library of videos, tools, and resources for exemplary teaching practices that community college, technical college, and university instructors can easily and freely adopt and adapt to produce successful transitions of industry experts to expert teachers. This initial course filled with open educational resources (OER) was smartly designed with the instructor and trainer in mind.

Since that time, *Jumpstart to Successful Instruction* has grown and now consists of three separate courses each designed for varying audiences: higher education instructors, industry trainers, and CTE teachers at the secondary level. Each course is separated into three sections with each section diving more deeply into the complexities of proven practices in teaching. There are 10-13 modules per section with each module taking an average of 20 minutes to complete. Users can directly access and complete the course sections from SkillsCommons free of charge. Institutions may also download the files and embed them into their LMS platform of choice. Win-Win!

SkillsCommons user and proponent, Donna Hanks, oversees new instructor induction and instructor support efforts at Western Dakota Technical College (WDT). After learning about *Jumpstart* at a conference several years ago, Donna knew it could be the tool that solved her challenges regarding onboarding and supporting instructors in the classroom. With Donna's expert guidance, WDT now requires all instructors to complete a two-year course whose foundation is based in *Jumpstart* designed for higher education. Donna has created supplemental materials such as assessments and discussion activities that help increase engagement and instructor efficacy. Thanks to the generosity by WDT and Donna Hanks, these custom created OER are included in the *Jumpstart to Successful instruction* Showcase in SkillsCommons and are ready for revision and reuse by others.

Instructor attrition is expensive and time-consuming. Greater adjunct and instructor retention rates often times reflect the level to which instructors perceive themselves as effective teachers. Through the skills and practice provided by *Jumpstart* and the coaching support offered by Donna, WDT instructors are feeling more confident and better prepared for teaching. The *Jumpstart* course collection can help institutions and industry organizations improve pedagogy and efficacy in delivery of instruction. WDT did it! You can too!

Whether you are new to the classroom or training lab or are supporting others in this capacity, *Jumpstart to Successful Instruction* interactive modules provide free and open solutions. Watch a [SkillsCommons archived webinar](#) with special guest Donna Hanks as she describes her journey using *Jumpstart to Successful Instruction*. Visit [SkillsCommons](#) today for more details or reach out to us at Support@SkillsCommons.org. Our team is here to support adoption and adaptation in workforce development OER.

Innovation Marketplace



Over the years, MERLOT and SkillsCommons has worked with a variety of commercial partners as part of our Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative. This spring, we launched the [INNOVATION MARKETPLACE](#) with [Partner in Publishing](#) who, like MERLOT & SkillsCommons, has for many years helped bridge the gaps between commercial and academic perspectives on academic technology. Recently, [USDLA](#) (United States Distance Learning Association) has joined as partner in the [INNOVATION MARKETPLACE](#). Together we will be focused on strategic priorities for higher education, such as Affordable Learning Solutions, Learning Loss due to COVID pandemic, Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Strategies, (and more) and create a variety of forums and projects that productively and respectfully facilitate collaborations between academic and commercial enterprises to design, deploy, sustain, and scale effective educational innovations.

MERLOT and Nearpod



MERLOT and [Nearpod](#) launched a collaboration to provide educators easy to use tools that for educators to revise and remix OER into customized curriculum that meet their students needs. Nearpod provides FREE Access to individual users of this very user-friendly platform. Institutions can purchase very affordable licences to Nearpod's premium services as well.

You can learn more about Nearpod's many capabilities by viewing the [recording of our recent collaborative webinar](#). If you missed it, we're planning another webinar in June so stay tuned..

MERLOT Technology



Don't forget about the **MERLOT Content Builder**, our web authoring tool. With the sudden need to teach online, do you need a quick, easy, and free platform to create a website? Want to assign a web-building exercise but are stymied about which tool to use to minimize the learning curve? Or maybe you simply need to create a site for a project you are running. Well look no further! MERLOT has redesigned and rebuilt the Content Builder, its popular web development and authoring tool, free to MERLOT members. To access the Content builder, when logged in to MERLOT, click your name in the top right corner and select My Content Builder. Its that easy!

The MERLOT Team has created a helpful [how-to video](#) to help you create great Content Builder sites.

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, with a few exceptions
- 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
- Introduce participants to the editorial board in their discipline.

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](#).

You can attend GRAPE Camp Orientation three ways:

1. You can attend the live webinars at the dates and times listed below
2. You can sign up for the asynchronous session in which the recording of the live session is sent out right afterwards
3. You can opt for our self-study which you complete on your own.

Live sessions are scheduled on the following dates and times:

- May – Tuesday (10,17, 24) at 11 am Eastern, 10 am Central, 9 am Mountain, 8 am Pacific (4 PM GMT)
- June – Tuesday (7, 14, 21) at 3 PM Eastern, 2 PM Central, 1 PM Mountain, Noon Pacific (7 PM GMT)
- July - Thursday (7, 14, 21) at 11 AM Eastern, 10 AM Central, 9 AM Mountain, 8 AM Pacific (3 PM GMT)
- August – Tuesday (2, 9, 16)) at 3 PM Eastern, 2 PM Central, 1 PM Mountain, Noon Pacific (7 PM GMT)

You can sign up for any of these sessions at the following site:

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/22bpAlKL>

Comments from GRAPE Camp Participants:

“A great experience. I learned more than just about the peer review process. The review process also helps me think about my own class materials and activities and how I should be able to articulate responses to the review questions about my materials.”

“I found it to be an excellent learning experience and would recommend it to others wishing to become peer reviewers or to understand the background and context of Merlot and the quality of the peer-review process.”

“I think it was very comprehensive and efficient way to explain the material.”

“This was an exceptionally valuable experience. The time was well utilized in the synchronous sessions, and the pace of instruction worked well. The progression from week to week makes perfect sense for the end goal. I appreciate the feedback given on my sample peer review work; that kind of feedback is important for those of us learning how to do this process. Dr. Swift answered all questions expediently when I emailed her, invited participation from the group during work sessions, and clearly made an effort to include our specific areas of interest when teaching the peer review process. I would highly recommend GRAPE Camp (especially the synchronous version) to other faculty!!”

Comments from GRAPE Camp Participants (continued):

"Thank you so much for the excellent training."

"Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the GRAPE Camp, the information presented was clear and useful. The presenter was quite knowledgeable and made good use of the technology. I am able to go back and watch sections of the video for clarity."

"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."

"I didn't realize that peer reviewers normally receive awards. This definitely interested me."

"It is apparent that MERLOT is a fine organization that appreciates its reviewers and operates as a team."

"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."

"I realized that we can learn a lot by communicating with others who are in the same field with you and MERLOT just provides us this great platform to upgrade ourselves."

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

"Cathy is prompt in responding to me (once time zones have been factored in),and has been a useful contact point throughout."

"Well-designed orientation."

"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."

Recent Graduates of GRAPE Camp include:

NAME	BOARD	INSTITUTION
Vicki Towne	Teacher Education	University of the People
Angelica Brooks	Music	University of Southern California
Natasha Haugnes	English	California College of Arts and Crafts
Dana Rethwisch	Psychology	Paloverde College
Becky Bonarek	English	University of Illinois Chicago
Steph Mielcarek	Teacher Education	University of Illinois Chicago
Fatima M'Hamdialaoui	Engineering	Abdelmalek Essaâdi University
Trischa Duke	English	University of Illinois Chicago
Noreen Daley	English	Northern Caribbean University

News

Editorial Board News

We are looking for those interested in becoming editors in **Agriculture, English, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Physics, and World Languages**. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone, please contact [Catherine Honig](#).

Thanks!

Meet the New Editor - Loretta Driskel, Teacher Education



Loretta Driskel is senior instructional designer at Clarkson, collaborating with faculty and staff to create engaging, diverse teaching and learning experiences for students and faculty. Although New York State certified to teach secondary education at the 7-12 level in 2000, her passion has been instructional design in higher education and her mission to help faculty to balance student success with efficient class management.

She has presented at a wide variety of venues (ADEIL, OLCs, ECCC, SOL, DOODLE, TLC and CIT) focusing on various topics that support her mission for student success and efficient class management.

In addition to being a member of the MERLOT Teacher Education Editorial Board as well as Peer Reviewer Extraordinaire, Loretta is recognized as an Open SUNY Fellow Expert Online Instructional Designer, is a certified Quality Matters Master Reviewer and general peer reviewer, having reviewed or observed hundreds of online and blended course using various checklists including the OSCQR.

Recent awards include her campus Phalanx Distinguished Service Award, 2021 (As Clarkson TLC staff), the Online Learning Consortium Effective Practice 2021 and USDL Award for Teaching Effectiveness.

Recent publications include *Teaching an Immersive Experiential Introductory Biomedical Engineering Course in the Land of COVID (Or in Different Words: An Old Dog Has to Learn New Tricks)* (2021) and *Class exercises involving ethical issues reinforce the importance and reach of biomedical engineering (and the impact of the Coronavirus on teaching strategy and measures of assessment)* (2021)

Loretta lives in Colorado with her husband and cat family, and their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter are within a few hours' drive. Loretta enjoys reading fictional novels and spending time in the wilderness.

Meet the Board Member - Kelly Jackson-Charles



Dr. Kelly Jackson Charles is a lecturer at the University of the West Indies and teaches in the School of Humanities and Education. She has a PhD in Higher Education Education and master's degrees in Special Education and School Administration. She is currently enrolled in the Masters of Computer Information Technology program at UPenn. Her research interests include media and technology in the classroom, outcomes assessment and specialized and regional accreditation. Originally from North Carolina, Kelly lives on the beautiful island of Antigua and Barbuda, twin islands in the Caribbean."

Out and About with MERLOT

Congratulations to **Esperanza Zenon**, Associate Editor of the Teacher Education Board for achieving promotion to full Professor. Esperanza is the Division Coordinator for Math, Physical Science, and Chemistry at River Parishes Community College in Gonzales, LA.

Dr. Mwafaq Haji, Health Sciences Associate Editor, has been recently recognized by Marquis Who's Who as a top educator in America. Dr. Haji's commitment is to provide the best patient healthcare quality and safety through Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity (IED) in student access and success in the medical laboratory sciences field in the American higher education system.

Dr. Mary Bemker, Health Sciences Associate Editor, received the Excellence in Nursing Award from the Omega Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International in March of 2022. Dr. Mary Bemker was nominated for her extensive scholarship to advance the discipline of nursing! Congratulations, Dr. Bemker!

Dr. Nancyruth Leibold, Health Science Editor and Chair of Nursing at Southwest Minnesota State University, recently published her research, *The Effects of Forest Bathing (Walking in the Woods) on Anxiety in Adults*, at the Sigma Repository (open access repository). Dr. Leibold is also currently leading the efforts to develop a Master's in Nursing program at Southwest Minnesota State University.

Arthur Finkle, History Editor, has reached new milestones in research read via Research Gate.

Mohsen Kashavarz, Business reviewer has published "[Design and Validation of the Virtual Classroom Management Questionnaire.](#)"

Irene Knokh, Editor of Instructional Design and Technology and on the Boards of Professional Coaching and World Languages - Russian has been named an Educause Scholar 2022 and scholarship winner. She also had a presentation, "MERLOT: Your Door to Open Education" accepted at the Peralta Online Equity Conference.

Leila Halawi, Information Technology Board has published along with colleagues Kelly Whealan and Amal Clarke, [Harnessing the Power of Analytics](#) She also had an article published: Andrew Ishmael & Dr. Leila Halawi (2022) Retention of Qualified Cybersecurity Professionals: A Qualitative Study, *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, DOI: 10.1080/08874417.2022.2049018

Pankaj Mehrotra, Biology Editorial Board reports that In 2021 he directed The STEM Science Summer Camp for Aquinas International Academy as a STEM Science Instructor. It was a great success with students from across the globe who participated with great enthusiasm. The virtual and hands-on teaching, learning and assessment experiences engaged students to gain knowledge and skills. Students earned a credit by submission of a worksheet. Students were engaged in:

- Science and Arts,
- Biology and Literature
- Cell Biology - Technology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics
- Genomics and Bio-informatics
- Biotechnology and Bio-business

Pankaj reports, "It is a pleasure to work for Aquinas International Academy as an Advanced Placement Teacher and in Summer of 2022 as an Advanced STEM Science Instructor I am directing another Advanced STEM Science Camp which I certainly believe will be a great success and attracting students from North America, Europe and almost every country. More details will be shared by end of Oct. 2022."

Eduardo Montero Garcia, Editor of Engineering: Members of the Engineering Editorial Board have developed and are sharing resources and strategies for engaging students in learning about the impact of engineers and engineering on society and can be very useful and productive for educators across many levels, K-12 to higher education, and across many disciplines. Explore their initial website at: <https://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewSite.htm?id=9164223>

The website is in development and includes a landing page, team members page, and a list of case studies (two at present; next cases are coming soon). Every case study includes the context of the case, open question for discussion, a video with the short explanation, a self-assessment test (computer and mobile by QR), and external links to additional information. [Check out the case study on Horsepower!](#) The website is targeted to teachers of secondary (K-12) and college engineering courses. The website is intended as a repository of case studies that teachers can easily adopt for their instruction and will showcase the E for Engineering in the STEM acronym.

The Engineering team creating these wonderful resources are:

Eduardo Montero Garcia (lead researcher), Universidad de Burgos, Spain.

Ana Pavani (researcher), Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Jennifer Baptiste (researcher), University of Trinidad and Tobago

Natalia Muñoz-Rujas (researcher), Universidad de Burgos, Spain

Fatima Ezzahrae M'Hamdi Alaoui (Abdelmalek Essaadi University of Tetouan, Morocco),

Meeting Notices



Online Learning Consortium/MERLOT - Accelerate 2022

<https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2022/accelerate/>

The Online Learning Consortium's Accelerate conference emphasizes the most impactful research and effective practices in online, blended, and digital learning. This year's conference will take place both virtually (November 1 - 3, 2022) and onsite (November 14 -17, 2022) at the Walt Disney Swan & Dolphin in Orlando, FL.

The call for proposals ends **May 18th** - <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2022/accelerate/present/> .

Quality Matters Annual Conference



[Quality Matters QM Connect Conference](#), Expanding Possibilities

Workshops: November 6, 2022

Sessions: November 7-9, 2022

In-person, Loews Ventana Canyon

Tucson, Arizona

Learn from and exchange ideas with the community that is breaking boundaries and trying new things every day, all with a laser focus on student success. **The call for proposals is open. Help your colleagues see what is possible. Submissions close May 13.**

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. We are happy to see increased interest in MERLOT due in part 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. Check out the MERLOT [YouTube Channel](#) for fascinating and helpful videos.

Moore Musings

This is my last issue of From the Vineyard as I retire from MERLOT. I joined MERLOT in 2002, which seems like yesterday in some ways, and like two decades ago in others. I was on the Teacher Education Board with Cris Guenter and our Editor, Darrell Pearson, along with many dear friends as time went on. When Darrell retired, I took over as Editor of Teacher Education. MERLOT has taught me so much - in the beginning it was a lifeline to me as an early adopter of technology with no support at my institution. Later, it became a professional development network bar none. In 2012, I retired from my teaching position at National Louis University and joined the MERLOT staff the following March. I've worked remotely since 2013 and found that technology allowed me to become colleagues and friends with so many MERLOTians. The Teacher Education Board has always been dynamic, resourceful, and close. I have both colleagues and friends in Nicole Arrighi, Loretta Driskel, Cris Guenter, Kelly Jackson-Charles, Elaine Lawrence, and Esperanza Zenon. I am thrilled that Loretta Driskel, a long time member of the Board, has stepped up as Editor. The Board is in good hands.

MERLOT is a community like no other - as Gerry Hanley says, "it's about the people." I am grateful to MERLOT for showing me that distance is not a barrier to collaboration and friendship, and grateful to all of you for what you do for MERLOT!

Jane



MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of April 30, 2022

98,911	# items in Collection
5,910	# of materials w/a Peer Review
16,189	# of materials w/an Editor's Review
13,441	# of materials w/a Comment/Discussion
1,472	# of materials w/a Learning Exercise
192,601	# of registered users

Usage Statistics for 2022 to date

8,041,673	# of Material Views
713,215	Total # of visits
2.97	Avg. # pages/visit
2:25	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 [Catherine Honig](#). 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!