



From the Vineyard



Issue 12, September 2007

Cathy O. Swift - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Leadership Community,

Thank you all for your contributions and participation in another outstanding 2007 MERLOT International Conference. Many heartfelt thanks to Diane Didier and her Louisiana Team for their wonderful hospitality and hard work in Jazzing MIC Up in New Orleans. Ray Purdom and the MIC program team deserve a standing ovation for the high quality program – the most frequent comment I receive about the MIC was the consistently excellent presentations. The MIC is a real professional development program for all participants. The MIC is a community effort and the outstanding quality of the MIC could have been achieved in no other way than by the MERLOT community.

The MIC is also the watershed for continuously growing and adjusting MERLOT to the needs of the education community. The powerful theme that emerged from the many conversations and presentations that I heard at MIC 2007 was breaking down of barriers between people who share a passion for improving people's lives through education. How do we make MERLOT a more multi-lingual community? How do we make MERLOT a more multi-disciplinary community? How do we make MERLOT a community where usable technology serves quality pedagogy? How do we make MERLOT a community where students and faculty both share and learn from their learning experiences? Our job on the MERLOT Administrative Team is to listen to you and plan for making MERLOT better. Without your voice, MERLOT could not continuously improve. Thank you all for your thoughtful insights.

As we start our 8th year as a consortium, I'd like to thank you all for your time and talents that you dedicate to MERLOT and hope this next year brings you benefits that you have brought to the world of education through MERLOT.

Cheers,
Gerry



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Feature Article – MIC07

MERLOT International Conference a Success

The 2007 MERLOT International Conference (MIC07) was held August 7-10 in New Orleans, LA. There were over 400 registrants for the conference, coming from 12 countries, 37 states and 254 organizations.

Attendees were entertained, intrigued and educated by 170 presentations as well as our 3 spectacular keynote speakers.



Bruce Chaloux, in the opening keynote, “The Coming of Age of Online Learning – Now What,” reviewed how online education has progressed and challenged us to speculate on how we will educate and communicate with today’s toddlers. To view the keynote address, go to <https://admin.acrobat.com/a48491121/p36743367/>



Our own **Dave Megill** (MiraCosta College) and his identical twin, Don, in “Teaching Blue,” entertained us by tickling our creativity as we tried to “imagine” tunes in our memories which they had created for us on their authentic Irish penny whistles. This can be viewed at <https://admin.acrobat.com/a48491121/p15872139/>



On the last day of the conference, Barbara “Bee” Dieu, from Brazil, introduced us to social networking, as she chatted with colleagues from around the world in real time by using Second Life and another conferencing system. This was a fascinating presentation and introduction to the virtual worlds becoming more and more popular. Take a look at <https://admin.acrobat.com/a48491121/p67812527/>

Conference Program



There were over 170 presentations at the conference and attendees kept busy going from session to session. There was plenty of time to also visit poster sessions, Editorial Board tables, network with colleagues, and interact with sponsors at their booths in the Connections room. Equally popular were the MERLOT “Dine-arounds” in which small groups of people visited some of the more popular restaurants in New Orleans.

There were a number of innovations this year that included 15 minute mini-sessions, Learning Circles, and MERLOT Community breakfasts. All of them provided opportunities to try something new. We’re currently waiting for the conference evaluations to determine whether they were successful or not.

As we do every year, all presenters were asked to provide their PowerPoint presentations to us at the conference. The presentations of those authors who did provide them have been uploaded to the conference website and are accessible by linking to them from the title of their presentations.

Additionally, the keynote speakers were videotaped and the tapes are available in case you want to hear it again or were unable to attend. The Program and links can be found at:

<http://conference.merlot.org/2007/ProgramGrid.htm>

Community Awards

Each year, MERLOT presents a number of Awards at the Awards Ceremony at the MIC. These include Classics Awards, Editors' Choice Awards, Volunteer of the Year Awards and Distinguished Service Awards.

Distinguished Service

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



The 2007 Distinguished Service award went to **Bruce Mason** (University of Oklahoma), Editor of the Physics Editorial Board. Bruce is the PI for COMPADRE which is filling a stewardship role within the National Science Digital Library for the educational resources used by broad communities in physics and astronomy. COMPADRE is a partnership of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), the American Astronomical Society (AAS), the American Institute of Physics/Society of Physics Students (AIP/SPS), and the American Physical Society (APS).

Additionally, Bruce was one of the original MERLOT "Leaders" and also served as the Editorial Board representative on the MERLOT Advisory Board. The award was a surprise for Bruce, but well-deserved!

Volunteers of the Year

The *Volunteer of the Year Award* honors the hard work and generous donation of our members' time, energy and enthusiasm that they direct towards the growth and development of MERLOT. These individuals do not receive any support from our partners for completing these responsibilities. We really rely on our Peer Reviewers to help expand the MERLOT collection and perform the Peer Review process. These individuals are nominated by the Editorial Boards and then selected by our Project Directors.



This year there were two awards. As Associate Editor of Marketing, **Michelle Kunz** (Morehead State University) is responsible for triaging all of the Marketing collection (which currently numbers 477 Learning Materials). She is responsible for recruiting and supervising all Marketing volunteer Peer Reviewers, a group which currently numbers 22 people. Most of these individuals have committed to completing 5 or more Peer Reviews per year. This means that Michelle has to make close to 100 assignments of reviews, coordinate those reviews, and then consolidate them. This past year, Michelle completed 27 Composite Reviews which were then posted to MERLOT.



Elizabeth Smith (Southwest Virginia Community College) has a unique approach to peer review as she involves her students actively in the examination of each learning object she reviews in French and Spanish. They are then in a better position to judge quality of online learning materials, giving her valuable user perspectives to include in her peer review. Their testing also serves a pedagogical purpose in that they spend more time on task with the materials. Elizabeth Smith has been a solid supporter of MERLOT and a great help to the World Languages Editorial Board.

Exemplary Learning Materials

This year, there were 13 Classics award winners selected by each Editorial Board. Two of these then went on to be the Editors' Choice awards. Of the thirteen award recipients, ten were able to attend the MIC to receive their awards and do a presentation on their learning materials. This is the highest percentage of Classics Award winners to ever attend the MIC. All of the winners were introduced in the latest edition of the *Grapevine* which can be read at <http://portals.merlot.org/grapevine/index.html>

MERLOT Community Service Project

Being in New Orleans offered an unusual opportunity for the MERLOT Community to help with the reconstruction taking place. We contacted the Recovery School District to find a project that we could assist with and over 40 conference participants came a day early to the MIC so they could participate in our work day on August 6th. Working in two shifts, we were assigned to the John Dibert School which was due to open September 4th. The classrooms and hallways were in need of paint, so we got to work taping and painting. Although we were not able to finish the second floor, we were assured that there would be volunteers to finish the job.



There is a slide presentation on the activities that can be viewed at: <http://www.photoshow.com/watch/SZ3eE2Je>

Some of the participants brought books, book bags and other supplies for donation to the school. Those who were unable to participate but would still like to donate can send these to:



Wiley Ates (Principal)
John Dibert Elementary School
4217 Orleans Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70119

John Dibert classes started on Tuesday, September 4th. You can see their activities on the school website (and maybe even see some of our painted doors):

<http://ed.uno.edu/Faculty/rspeaker/Dibert/DibertNet/About.html>

Feature Article - JOLT



If you've been part of the MERLOT Community for awhile, you've undoubtedly heard about JOLT. What is JOLT? Is it "a carbonated soft drink" "targeted towards students and young professionals" that stresses "its use as a stimulant in a similar manner to energy drinks?" (Wikipedia).

Hopefully you answered no to that question. JOLT is an acronym for *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, an online publication that addresses the scholarly use of multimedia resources in education. The journal was dreamed up over a cup of coffee by **Tracy Penny Light** (CLOE) and **Ed Perry** (University of Memphis) who wanted to leverage their connections with the MERLOT Community to create an online journal. The first

issue was published in July 2005 and included a number of invited papers from a variety of disciplines. JOLT is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Submission deadlines for these issues are November 30th, February 28th, May 31st, and August 31st, respectively.

Manuscripts may include Research Papers, Theoretical Papers, Position Papers, Case Studies, and Instructional Design Notes. Topics may include, but are not limited to: learning theory and the use of multimedia to improve student learning; instructional design theory and application; online learning and teaching initiatives; use of technology in education; innovative learning and teaching practices. Readers are encouraged to submit manuscripts at any time by following the **Guidelines for Authors**.

Ed Perry (University of Memphis) and **Michelle Pilati** (Rio Hondo College) serve as Editors, with a full Editorial Board and a group of Reviewers. As more and more papers are submitted, they continue to seek people to review manuscripts. If you are interested in being a Reviewer for the journal, please send an email to: **jolteditor@merlot.org**



Special JOLT issue

Call for Papers

JOLT Special Issue - June 2008
Next Generation Learning/Course Management Systems

The June 2008 issue of JOLT will be a special issue, centered on the topic of next generation learning/course management systems (L/CMS). The world of learning has rapidly changed since CMS 1.0, and new technologies present diverse ideas and opportunities for engaged e-learning. A reflection of this change is demonstrated in the framework for the special topic June issue which will include JOLT's traditional, peer-reviewed topical exploration as well as a new experiment in social software. In conjunction with the L/CMS issue, JOLT will invite readers to venture into distributed knowledge with comment, critique and feedback on each of the articles via a Wiki site dedicated to creating new knowledge related to the topics.



Update on MERLOT Community

MERLOT Staff Addition



The MERLOT Administrative Staff is very fortunate to finally have someone in place who will handle our paper work, budgets and other tasks at the CSU Chancellor's Office. Hopefully you had a chance to meet **Judi Spiegel** at the MIC. She left the MIC early as she was busy planning her wedding that has now taken place. Judi has Chancellor's Office experience and is now learning about MERLOT and what we do. We welcome her as part of the team and look forward to her getting things done quickly for us!

Lynn Aaron receives Promotion

Lynn Aaron (SUNY-Rockland) was recently promoted to Associate Professor. We think that her role as Portal Editor for Information Technology Editorial Board may have had something to do with that!



Editorial Board News

Fire Safety

This fall, two Editorial Boards will begin the Peer Review process. Fire (found under Science and Technology) is our first Workforce Development Taskforce. Fire Safety has a collection of 189 learning materials that have triaged. **J.D. Brown** (Oklahoma State University) is the Editor and also as Portal Editor. You can find their portal under Workforce Development Communities at: <http://firesafety.merlot.org/>. JD attended the Editorial Board meeting at the MIC and has recruited a number of individuals to serve on the Editorial Board. If you know of anyone who would like to help with Peer Review as a volunteer or serve on the board, please let us know by contacting JD.



Safety
been
serves

Criminal Justice



The Criminal Justice Taskforce is also turning into an Editorial Board this fall. **Jennifer Grimes** (Indiana State University) is the new Editor. Jennifer was also able to attend the Editorial Board meeting at the MIC as well as learning all she could at the Peer Reviewer Workshop. Criminal Justice has been completely triaged with 365 learning materials and 92 members. With the popularity of television shows such as CSI and others that involve forensics, this has become a very popular field. If you know of someone in that field who will serve on the Editorial Board or be a volunteer Peer Reviewer, let Jennifer know.

5-Minute eClips and Brief Hybrid Faculty Development Workshops

One barrier to the effective use of new options for improving teaching and learning is that most faculty members don't have the time to learn them. Traditional approaches to "faculty development" have relied on workshops lasting an hour or a day or a week - on one's own campus, at a regional event, or a national or even international conference.



Several years ago, Todd Zakrajsek, Central Michigan University, developed the 5-Minute Workshop to address this issue. This past year, Steve Gilbert, President of the TLT Group; **Ray Purdom**, (UNC – Greensboro) Editor of the MERLOT Faculty Development Board; Todd Zakrajsek; and others have explored the expansion of the face-to-face 5-Minute Workshop concept to an online or hybrid format. The result has been the compilation and development of short video clips (eClips) and brief hybrid workshops. For more information, see: <http://www.tltgroup.org/tlt5.htm>

To promote the sharing of these eClips and workshops, the MERLOT Faculty Development Board has encouraged submissions of these resources to MERLOT and has begun organizing them by using personal collections. See, for example: <http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewPortfolio.htm?id=268934>

If you have any faculty development eClips or brief hybrid workshops, please contribute them to the MERLOT Faculty Development discipline on MERLOT.

Student Comment

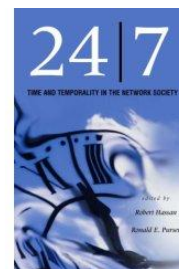
Jim Rutledge (St. Petersburg College), Editor of the Mathematics Editorial Board, asked to share a comment he received from one of his students. You may not be aware, but Jim has created Personal Collections for a number of different disciplines so that instructors at his college can use them. Jim uses MERLOT a great deal in his classes as well as in his textbook. At the end of the semester, Jim's student emailed him, "Thank you. And I think I said it in my webliography project but I will say it again: thank you for introducing me to MERLOT. I have found some incredible social studies resources there (I know, not math, but is the subject I am preparing to be a teacher in).

Thanks again." Jim says that, "Students who are planning on a teaching career are especially appreciative of what MERLOT has to offer!" Thanks for continuing to spread the word about MERLOT, Jim!



Ron Purser Co-Editor of New Book

Ron Purser (San Francisco State University), Associate Editor of Management for the MERLOT Business Editorial Board, is a co-editor of a book that is a collection of essays, entitled, "24/7: Time and Temporality in the Network Society." >From the book description, the book "brings together leading thinkers from a variety of disciplines to analyze the differing relationships to time in an accelerated society. Offering much-needed insight and perspective into new issues and problems, this unique volume is the first to offer a wide range of cutting-edge thought on the new economic, cultural, and political world of the networked society. The book includes contributions from the leading scholars in this area, such as Barbara Adam, Mike Crang, Thomas Hylland Erikson, and Geert Lovink."



Congratulations, Ron....now get back to those Peer Reviews!!!



Out and About with MERLOT

Accounting Professors Present MERLOT



Susan Moncada (Indiana State University), Associate Editor of Accounting in the Business Editorial Board, organized a panel presentation on MERLOT for the American Accounting Association in Chicago, August 7th. Pictured with Susan are volunteer Peer Reviewers, Mike Seda (Shaw University), Ingrid Ulstad (University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire), Carol Jessup (University of Illinois at Springfield), **Susan**, and Tom Moncada (Eastern Illinois University). The title of their panel discussion was "How Accounting Educators in Two-Year Schools Can Benefit from MERLOT."



MERLOT Miscellaneous

LOUISiana Digital Library



audio recordings of Cajun and Creole folk music, Civil War photograph albums, paintings by Louisiana artists, and early Century maps of Louisiana.

The LOUISiana Digital Library is a state-wide digital archive of over 84,000 digitized photographs, artwork, audio recordings, maps, letters, and other objects from over 19 Louisiana libraries, archives, museums, and historical centers. Examples of items in the collections include photographs of great 1927 Mississippi River



many the flood, 18th

Visit the LOUISiana Digital Library online at www.louisianadigitallibrary.org

ELXIR Gets Publicity

A big thank you goes to **Lynn Aaron** (SUNY-Rockland) for her eagle eyes in finding publicity about the MERLOT ELXIR Project. The following article was published in The Chronicle of Higher Education, describing the videos being produced by this project. You can read the article at:

<http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/index.php?id=2138>

From the Vineyard Changes Schedule

Did you read the June 2007 issue of *From the Vineyard*? Probably, not! The MERLOT Management Team made the decision not to publish the internal newsletter anymore during the summer. We held the spring meetings for both the Editors and Project Directors online in June and we were sending out a lot of communications regarding the MERLOT International Conference during that time period. We hope you didn't miss it. If you have any comments regarding the change in timing, please email the Editor at cswift@calstate.edu

New Awards Announced



At the MERLOT International Conference, several new awards were announced. Of particular interest to the MERLOT Leadership Community is the **MERLOT House Cup**. Just as The prestigious Hogwarts House Cup is awarded to the house that has the most the points at the end of the school year in the Harry Potter books, we will have two House Cups, one for Editorial Boards and one for Academic Partners. Each Editorial Board that has the most contributions (Learning Materials contributed, Learning Assignments submitted, Member Comments made and Personal Contributions added) each year will win the Editorial Board House Cup for that year. Similarly, the Academic Partner that has the most contributions will win the Partner House Cup for the Year. The academic year being measured is July 1 through June

30th. So get those contributions going!!!

Two other awards will also be given:

- Innovative Use of MERLOT
- Institutional Stewardship.

Innovative Use of MERLOT can be awarded to the person, department, or program that demonstrates through qualitative or quantitative research or anecdotal evidence some unique use of MERLOT. This award will be judged by the Editors' Council. Instructions for nomination can be found in "About Us."

Institutional Stewardship can be given to the institution that demonstrates evidence of the diffusion of MERLOT by promotional activities of that institution. This award will be judged by a panel of professional organization representatives. Information about the award can be found in About Us.



MERLOT Meeting Notices

Midyear Meeting in San Antonio

The Midyear Meeting will be held in San Antonio January 24th to 27th at the St. Anthony Hotel, close to the Riverwalk. Project Directors will meet Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 AM and concluding at noon on Friday the 25th. Then, Project Directors and Editors will enjoy lunch together and meet together Friday afternoon until 5:00 PM. Editors will then continue meeting until noon on Sunday, January 27th. Information regarding reservations at the hotel will soon be sent to Editors and Project Directors.



Cathy's Corner



Dear Cathy:

*We have tried to get people to volunteer to be a Peer Reviewer. We talk to people at conferences or on our own campuses and they say they really want to. We try to train them and assign them reviews. However, they always seem to lose interest after awhile. What are we doing wrong?
Stymied Board Member*

Dear Stymied:

A number of Editorial Board Members have expressed the same problem to me. Additionally, they claim that it is hard to train these individuals and still be expected to complete your own Peer Reviews. Based on these types of comments, I have decided to train these individuals in a central manner.

For the time being, I am calling this effort the MERLOT Peer Reviewer Boot Camp. (Can you think of another name? If so, please let me know!) When you have an interested person, you will send that person's contact information to me. I will take charge of them to begin with and "indoctrinate them" as a group. My plan is to have a three week online session with them using Adobe Connect. This will be a class of people who will attend the sessions online as a group. We will also record the sessions for them to refer to.

My plan for the three sessions is as follows:

- Session 1 – Introduction to MERLOT's Peer Review and complete homework of completing Peer Review Tutorial.
- Session 2 – Practice doing a Peer Review as a group and complete homework of a "general" Peer Review for Session 3.
- Session 3 – Work through the Peer Review and receive assignment of Peer Review in discipline.

The prospective Peer Reviewers will have assignments to complete as well as information to read about the MERLOT Peer Review process during the training. By the time they are "turned over" to the Editorial Board, they will have completed a trial Peer Review in their discipline. Additionally, we will follow through

with monthly conference calls for each of the “classes.” This will hopefully generate a close group of interdisciplinary people who are all new to MERLOT and can share their experiences with each other, similar to the fraternity “pledge class.”

This will hopefully take the pressure of getting these individuals up to speed off the Editorial Boards. As more and more materials are added to MERLOT we realize that we are going to have to rely on these volunteer Peer Reviewers to complete the Peer Review process.

I plan to start the first Boot Camp in October. I will be contacting you for names of individuals to participate. If you have any comments or questions, please let me know at cswift@calstate.edu

Cheers,
Cathy



MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of August 31, 2007

17,500	# items in Collection
2,299	# of materials w/ a Peer Reviews
894	# of materials w/ an assignment
49,916	# of Registered Users

Usage Statistics for the period January 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007

679,606	Total # of visits
2,797	Avg. # visits a day
16.8%	Avg. visitor repeat rate
5	Avg. # pages/visit
6 min, 29 sec	Avg. length of visit

Are you interested in writing for *From the Vineyard*, or adding news and updates? *From the Vineyard* is published December, March, and September. Getting your information in print is easy. Send your submission to Cathy Swift 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!

Cheers,

Cathy

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