



From the Vineyard



Issue 7, March 2006
Cathy Owens Swift - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Leadership,

As you'll read in this 7th issue of the **Vineyard**, MERLOT continues to grow and advance the effective use of academic technologies for teaching and learning. Whatever the size of your efforts in advocating for MERLOT, your efforts are helping accelerate the momentum of MERLOT's visibility and use. Thank you.

There are many exciting initiatives in MERLOT that have been designed to serve the needs we hear from you. Two such initiatives are the Workforce Development Initiative and the Institutional Teaching Commons Initiative.

The Workforce Development Initiative is building the communities and collections of online materials to support the growing curricular needs of workforce development programs. We will begin our efforts in the areas of Protective Services (e.g. fire safety and emergency services), Allied Health, Information Technology, Employability Skills, and Early Childhood Development. We are grateful to our MERLOT partners who are taking the lead in these areas. More to come on this topic in the next *Vineyard*.

MERLOT's Institutional Teaching Commons Initiative is extending our use of the MERLOT-Discipline Portals to create a customized, institutional context for finding and using MERLOT resources, as well as creating a disciplinary context for institutional projects. We have created our prototype of the MERLOT Institutional Teaching Commons at http://www.cdl.edu/projects/csu_teaching_business for you to explore. The *Teaching Business in the CSU* (California State University) website provides a forum or "commons" for campuses, departments, and individual faculty to share exemplary practices that work with their students and faculty in their institutional context. The CSU Teaching Commons will be managed by a "faculty council" so the local faculty community can shape the content of the website while MERLOT provides the technical templates and support services for delivering the Teaching Commons. In summary, you will be able to create a campus –branded web site, powered by the many MERLOT services. The theme of this initiative is "building locally, linking globally".

Thank you once again for all you do for the world of MERLOT users.

Cheers,
Gerry



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Feature Article – Project 2061 Digital Library work draws accolades

The **MERLOT Teacher Education Review** of [Harvard-Smithsonian Digital Video Library \(HSDV\)](#) was recognized on the website of 2061 Connections, Excerpted from the site, "An education review panel



has given a digital video library web site that was co-developed by Project 2061 an impressive [4.9 overall rating out of a possible 5](#). Termed HSDVL for Harvard-Smithsonian Digital Video

Library, the web site is the result of collaboration between Project 2061 and the Science Media Group of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The high rating was awarded by the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT), which applauded the site for providing visitors with access to "more than 1,000 videos that can be identified by the AAAS *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, the *Atlas of Science Literacy*, *National Science Education Standards*, and/or all state standards." MERLOT further noted that "the [site] user can be confident that this material represents the current state of our knowledge about teaching and learning based on education research." The HSDVL site has also drawn accolades in the International Communications Film and Video Competition [receiving the silver plaque](#)—the highest awarded for an educational Web site—at INTERCOM 2005. One can access the site for further information at:

<http://www.project2061.org/publications/2061Connections/2005/2005-11b.htm?txtRef=&txtURIId=%2F051229%2F2061Connections%2F2005%2F2005%2D11b%2Ehtm>.

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MERLOT/TLT Group Workshops Offered

Free MERLOT Webcast

A free webcast, "MERLOT Teaching with Technology Webcast," sponsored by [MERLOT](#) and the TLT Group, will explore how MERLOT's online learning objects and other resources can assist faculty in teaching with technology. Members of the MERLOT Teaching and Technology discipline board will facilitate this interactive presentation, which will feature UNC faculty actively using MERLOT. The TLT Group, led by Steve Gilbert and Steve Ehrmann, works with institutions around the world to improve teaching and learning by making more appropriate and cost-effective use of information technology. The live webcast will occur at the UNC Teaching with Technology conference in Raleigh, NC on March 15, 2006 from 1:30 to 2:30 PM Eastern time. The program will be led by **Ray Purdom, Editor of Teaching and Technology Editorial Board** and will feature **Cathy Swift, Editor of Business Editorial Board**, **Roger Woodard, Editor of Statistics Editorial Board**, and **Laura Franklin, Editor of World Languages Editorial Board** who will showcase award winning materials from their disciplines. For information on how to access this free workshop, contact Joanna Beiter at beiter@tltgroup.org.



Webcast Workshops

MERLOT and TLT will sponsor three workshops on April 5, 12, and 17. These are more comprehensive workshops and will explore how to:

- Become a MERLOT member (**membership is free**)
- Move beyond simple browsing of the vast MERLOT resources to explore ways MERLOT supports community-building within the disciplines
- Contribute Materials – the first step MERLOT disseminates instructional resources and confers professional recognition through peer review
- Create Personal Collections - individualized and annotated listings of online instructional resources
- Employ Personal Collections to identify other members who share specific interests
- Use the Member Directory to contact potential collaborators
- Invite others within the discipline to join in a collaborative activity

The audience for these workshops includes Faculty, Faculty Development Professionals, Instructional Designers and Technologists, and Directors and Staff at Teaching and Learning Centers. The cost for these 3 workshops is \$160 for TLT Group Subscribers, \$175 for MERLOT Partners, and \$250 for the General Public. The price of registration for the workshop includes all three sessions, access to all resources, and access to the discussion forum. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Joanna Beiter at beiter@tltgroup.org.



This is an excellent opportunity to help spread the word about MERLOT on your campus or through your system. Please encourage your teaching centers to invite faculty to these workshops.



Update on MERLOT Community

MERLOT International Conference - 2006

Hurry! Only a Few Weeks Left to Submit Proposals for the MIC

MERLOT announces the upcoming International Conference on “**Working With and Learning from the World’s Best.**” This year’s annual meeting (MIC06) will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from August 8-11, and is hosted by the Co-operative Learning Object Exchange (CLOE) and the University of Ottawa.



The Westin Ottawa and
Parliament Hill
Photo courtesy of the Ottawa
Tourism and Convention Authority

The MIC06 Conference Committee invites participants to submit proposals in any of six conference tracks broadly devoted to faculty development in the design, creation, utilization and evaluation of online teaching and learning materials. Complete conference details, including further information about the six thematic tracks, can be found at the MIC06 website: <http://conference.merlot.org> or via e-mail inquiries to: merlotconference@merlot.org. Proposals will be due by March 20 via online submission. We encourage all Editorial Board Members and Project Directors to consider submitting proposals to the conference. This year, even Board-sponsored sessions will need to have a proposal submitted to the conference committee. Let’s all work on coming up with some dynamic panel discussions and presentations!

Have you Taken Advantage of the MERLOT Seedling?

The MERLOT *Seedling* is a template MERLOT partners can use to create their own MERLOT-related newsletter for distribution to their own campus communities. It has been designed to be

an extension to MERLOT’s newsletter, the *Grapevine* which is distributed to more than 30,000 members of the MERLOT community. As MERLOT Partners, you have the ability to change any part of this template to fit the needs and audience of your institutions. The *Seedling* can then be distributed via email.

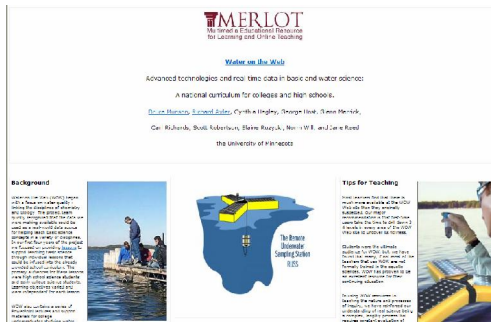
The *Seedling* can be customized by adding a logo or links to the template. With limitations to space in a newsletter, it’s very important to choose content

wisely and ensure that it is brief and to the point. Each article should aim to make one major point. It might describe a new item or highlight developing trends. Articles put in the *Seedling* should also provide readers with an idea that they might want to implement in their own teaching and learning activities.

If you have questions about how to use the MERLOT *Seedling*, please contact the MERLOT webmaster at webmaster@merlot.org

Are you an author of a MERLOT Material? Create a From the Author Snapshot!

From the Author Snapshots enable authors of learning materials to publish a short reflection on the development and use of their learning materials. **From the Author Snapshots** are a joint



project with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and are created using software called the KEEP Toolkit. In the Snapshot, authors reflect on and share their scholarship of teaching with technology. If you have authored material and posted it to MERLOT, we encourage you to complete the **Snapshot** and help others understand more about teaching with technology. You can find directions for completing the Snapshot at <http://www.merlot.org/help/HelpAuthorComments.po>

Editorial Board News

New Idea for Spreading MERLOT Use on Your Campus

MERLOT Is Part of Weekly Forum

On February 6 an **Ad Hoc Member of the Statistics Editorial Board, Jamie Ridenhour**, gave a presentation entitled “Providing Statistics Education Resources on the Web” during the weekly seminar meeting of the Quantitative Psychology group at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The weekly forum is intended to give faculty and graduate students of the program to address current research issues as well as professional development and teaching concerns. Her presentation focused on the added value that the collaboration between MERLOT and CAUSEweb gives to statistics education materials available on the web. She illustrated to the group the importance of the peer review process and the contributions from the community made through the additional information tags and user comments.



The information was very well-received with the group asking questions about ways for graduate students to get involved and the possibility of publicizing this information further into other disciplines that utilize, and often teach their own statistics courses, like psychology. Several faculty members already use internet resources in their classroom but typically found their materials with Google. Many commented that they would go to the digital library next time they wanted to incorporate internet resources into their courses.

Jim Rutledge, Editor for MERLOT Mathematics, presented a proposal to the Quality Enhancement Committee chairman at St. Petersburg College (SPC) concerning the use of MERLOT resources throughout the college to promote active learning. SPC has been required by the SACS accreditation committee to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan and then implement it over the next five years. Jim is hoping to involve faculty throughout the college in designing, developing and implementing active learning activities using MERLOT resources in order to enhance student learning. SPC faculty already have a direct link to MERLOT within the college-wide ANGEL LMS interface.



Out and About with MERLOT

Continuing MERLOT Response to Katrina-Impacted Instructors

Several members of the MERLOT community from Louisiana are taking their “show on the road.” They have organized several professional development workshops as a post-Katrina initiative for this semester and next. The workshops are entitled, “Effective Integration of Electronic Resources to Support Online Course Delivery.”



Moustapha Diack



Patrick Mensah



Sobiya Qadri

Moustapha Diack (Chemistry Editorial Board), Patrick Mensah (Engineering Editorial Board) and Sobiya Qadri (Member of MERLOT) are conducting 2-hour workshops focusing on:

- Introducing the functionalities of the MERLOT Repository.
- Discussing modalities for selecting effective online resources to support departmental/collegial and Institutional e-learning initiatives.
- Identifying strategies for effectively integrating the MERLOT digital resources in online courses using Blackboard as Course Management System.

The workshops are sponsored by the Southern University Office of Graduate Studies and the Louisiana Board of Regents and take place in the Office of Technology and Network Services at Southern University. We urge you to contact anyone you know in Louisiana who needs information about MERLOT. The next two workshops will take place on March 17th 2006 and April 19th 2006 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. You can obtain a registration form by contacting Sobiya Qadri at (225) 771-5390.

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MERLOT Publications

Cafolla, R. (2006). *Project MERLOT: Bringing Peer Review to Web-Based Educational Resources*. **Journal of Technology and Teacher Education**. 14 (2), pp. 313-323. Chesapeake, VA: AACE.



Ray Cafolla is not a Board Member (Florida Atlantic University), but is a [Member](#) of MERLOT. The abstract of the article reads as follows: “The unprecedented growth of the World Wide Web has resulted in a profusion of educational resources. The challenge for faculty is finding these resources and integrating them into their instruction. Even after the resource is found, the instructor must assess the effectiveness of the resource. As the number of educational web sites mount into the millions, this task is becoming

increasingly difficult. To address the problems of finding instructional sites, evaluating their educational value, determining their accuracy and assisting professors to integrate the resource in a learning environment, the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and On-line

Teaching (MERLOT) was established. The MERLOT virtual repository (www.merlot.org) of learning objects is hosted by the California State University System. The project also provides a peer review process to ensure the quality of the educational resource.”

Other MERLOT Presentations

- **Moustapha Diack (Chemistry Editorial Board and Linda Fanis (Chemistry Co-Editor)** presented "A Taste of MERLOT" to high school teachers (and even some 2 year college professors) at the Educator's Day session at the American Chemical Society's 40th Western Regional Meeting in Anaheim, California. During their session they focused on the functionality of MERLOT and highlighted the creation/use of personal collections, all in an effort to help align a teacher's chemistry curriculum to the National Science Standards using MERLOT modules. More than half of the participants became a MERLOT Chemistry Member since then and they even have a new ad hoc reviewer!
- **Ron Purser, George Schell and Cathy Swift** presented “A Taste of MERLOT on the Information Highway” at the Decision Sciences Institute meeting in San Francisco in November. Attendees expressed an interest in learning more about the peer review process. Several Ad Hoc Reviewers were recruited. Ron is **Associate Editor of Management in Business**, George is an **Ad Hoc Reviewer in Information Systems**, and Cathy is **Editor of the Business Editorial Board**.
- **Jim Rutledge, Editor for MERLOT Mathematics**, gave a presentation entitled *Enhance and Improve your Teaching/Learning Environment with MERLOT Mathematics* at the Mathematical Association of America's Suncoast Regional meeting at New College in Sarasota, FL, in December. Jim also gave this presentation at the MAA Florida section meeting at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, FL, in February. The PowerPoint slides are available in the MERLOT Partner Reserve.
- **Jeanne Sewell (Health Sciences Editorial Board)** presented “Using MERLOT Web Application in Athletic Training Education” at SEATA (Southeast Athletic Training Educators) 1st Biennial Conference in Atlanta on February 10th . .

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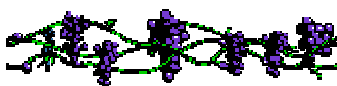
JOLT – the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching

The December 2005 issue of *JOLT* has been released thanks to its Editors-in-Chief, Tracy Penny Light and Ed Perry, and its Editors: Kurt Cogswell, Carla Meskill, Glenda Morgan, Michelle Pilati, Ray Purdom, Michael Rothkopf, Jim Rutledge and Joe Tront. The acceptance rate for this issue is 50%, an indicator that our journal is quite discriminating in the selection of articles to publish. Congratulations to the JOLT team for their hard work and efforts!

If you have an article ‘in the making’ be sure to contact Tracey Penny Light or Ed Perry to learn how to publish in JOLT at: tracy@temagami.uwaterloo.ca or eperry@memphis.edu. They also would welcome new reviewers for the Journal. For more information about the journal and to view the Guideline for Authors, please go to: <http://taste.merlot.org/portal/jolt/> .

The MERLOT Partner Reserve

Just finished a successful workshop or seminar promoting MERLOT? Remember to add your materials to the MERLOT *Partner Reserve*. It's simple; login to MERLOT as you always do, and go to the Communities page. Scroll to the bottom to find the link to the *Partner Reserve*. Catalogue the item (assuming it is an online resource) just as you would any learning object. If there is not a link to the *Partner Reserve* on your Communities page, you are either not logged in to MERLOT or have not been assigned privileges to access it, in which case contact Barb (MERLOT Webmaster) at barb@merlot.org and she will take care of your access. To always be logged in to MERLOT when you go to the site, click the Remember link at the top of the page.



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MERLOT Miscellaneous

MERLOT Upcoming Meeting dates

Project Directors Meeting – April 4-5, Minnesota

Attendees: Project Directors

Hosted by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities - Deborah Proctor

Hotel: [Radisson City Center Hotel St Paul](#)

411 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101 (651)291-8800

Meeting Time: Tuesday 4/4/06 @ 8:00am – Wednesday 4/5/06 @ 4:00pm

Hotel reservations can be made with the Radisson by calling the hotel at 651-292-1900 or 800-333-3333. Use the group name MERLOT for the rate of \$109.00.

Cutoff date is March 3, 2006

Transportation from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport is available through SuperShuttle 612-827-7777 Ext 2; Current charge is \$11/pp each way

Editors Meeting – April 28-30, Savannah

Attendees: Members of the Editors' Council

Hosted by University System of Georgia - Cathy Owens Swift

Hotel: [Hampton Inn Savannah-Historic District](#)

201 East Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401 (912)231-9700

Meeting Location: on-site at the Hampton Inn, Habersham and Pulaski Rooms

Room Rate: \$149 (includes full breakfast and free internet)

Available Thursday – Saturday, April 27th – 29th, 2006.

The rate is subject to 12% tax and \$1.00 occupancy fee per night.

*For Reservations, call 1-800-426-7866 and request "MERLOT Editor's Meeting" group or go online to www.hotelsavannah.com; Click on Reservations and enter group code MEM on second page of Reservation process in the field "Group/Convention Code" under Special Accounts. **Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2006***

The MIC 2006 International Conference – August 8-11, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Hosted by: The University of Ottawa

Attendees: Editorial Board Members, Editors Council, Project Directors meetings (August 8)

Hotel: Ottawa Westin and the Ottawa Congress Centre. More information is available on the conference website at <http://conference.merlot.org/2006/hoteltravel.html>

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MERLOT Upcoming Presentation dates

- Wisconsin Educational Media Conference on March 7 - Learning Objects to Enrich Your Classroom * Susan Cramer, Professor, UW-Oshkosh and **Jo Ann Carr, (Teacher Education Editorial Board)** CIMC, UW-Madison. "Learning objects are a great way to infuse technology into your classroom, differentiate Instruction for your students as well as provide tutorial sites for out of class use. Simulations, tutorials, virtual field trips, guest authors, and more fall into the category of learning objects. This session will explore what learning objects are, great resources sites, and sample objects."
- Poster session at the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians Conference on March 29 - Point of View: Its Impact on Organization and Access **Jo Ann Carr (Teacher Education Editorial Board)**, Center for Instructional Materials & Computing, UW-Madison and Erica Harland, School of Library and Information Studies, UW-Madison "How does the point of view of specific discipline impact the ways our users organize and access

information. Results from a 2004-05 UW System Curricular Design Project will look at the impact of terminology and specific access points on the ways in which UW System teacher education faculty look for learning objects to support their work. This project included interviews with 20 faculty to determine their point of view, the development of a draft portal for which the structure reflected that point of view and the assessment of that portal by twenty other UW System faculty. A 2005-06 review examining the differences in materials submitted to the MERLOT learning objects depository by teacher educators and those of other disciplines will also provide a perspective on the importance of point of view on access and organization of information. Implications for ways in which the library profession organizes information and provides access tailored to the needs of specific populations will also be explored as well as the implications for indexing structures that are developed or amended by the end user."

- **Deborah Clarkston (Health Sciences Editorial Board)** will present "More than a Taste of Merlot" at the University of Memphis Creating Teaching for Nursing Educators – 31st annual nursing workshop on March 13th, 2006.
- On April 1, 2006, **Carol Jessup** (University of Illinois - Springfield), **Ingrid Ulstad** (University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire), and **Susan Moncada** (Indiana State University) will be giving a paper presentation at the 2006 Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Accounting Association in Chicago, IL. The title of the paper is "Introducing Accounting Educators to MERLOT." Both Carol and Ingrid are **Ad Hoc Reviewers** in accounting for the Business discipline. Susan is an **Associate Editor** of Accounting.
- **Gerry Hanley**, Executive Director of MERLOT, will be the keynote speaker at the Virginia Community College System's annual New Horizons meeting in Roanoke, Virginia on Friday, April 6, 2006. The 2006 New Horizon's conference theme is "Enhancing Student Success." New Horizon's showcases the use of technology in the classroom, hybrid, and online courses among the 23 community colleges comprising the VCCS system. The conference runs from April 5-7.

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MERLOT Statistics

The statistics reported here are totals as of February 28, 2006

Collection

13,500	# items in Collection
1,914	# of materials w/ a Peer Reviews
32,257	# of Registered Users

Usage Statistics for January – August 2005

Total # of visits
Avg. # visits a day
Avg. Visitor repeat rate
Avg. # pages/visit
Avg. length of visit

Are you interested in writing something for *From the Vineyard* or adding news and updates? *From the Vineyard* is published every third month (December, March, June, and September). Getting your information in print is easy. Send your submission to webmaster@merlot.org 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!

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