MERLOT

From the Vineyard

Issue 9, September 2006

Cathy O. Swift - Editor

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From Your Wine Steward – Gerry Hanley

Dear MERLOT Leadership Community,

Thanks to all your efforts all year long and your dedication to MERLOT, the MERLOT International Conference was another outstanding success. Let's raise

our glasses and give three cheers to Kevin Harrigan and Michael Clarke for co-chairing the conference and Deb Smith, Jenn Cummings, Amber Smelker and Laura Banfield for all their wonderful coordination and management of the event itself. Let's also give three cheers to the MERLOT Project Directors and Editorial Boards for all their guidance in continuously planning improvements to MERLOT.

We have a wonderful year ahead of us, with our new MERLOT website, more new services in the works, and the planning for the MIC 07 in New Orleans! The Workforce Development group in Fire Safety achieved its milestone for building its collection and we'll be starting the next workforce development taskforce in applied health/nursing. IT will be on the way as well.

Thanks again and it was great to see many of you in Ottawa.

Cheers,
Gerry

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Update on MERLOT Community

MERLOT International Conference a Success!!
According to our registration figures, there were 437 attendees representing 238 organizations from 33 states and 10 countries. We have truly become an international conference.

Our thanks go out to our hosts, CLOE and University of Ottawa who provided transportation to the campus, wonderful weather, a friendly and gracious city and many staff members to assist in presenting the conference

We also want to recognize the MIC 06 Conference Committee who labored throughout the year to plan the conference. Thank you, Co-Chairs Kevin Harrigan and Michael Clarke, and committee members Ray Purdom, Bill Paquette, Bob Sproule, Jim Bidlack, Bob Vawter, Moustapha Diack, Dawn Mercer, Irene Mueller, Michael Laurence, Rong Sun, Sarah Wickett, Regan Caruthers, Debbie Smith and Jenn Cummings.

Additional thanks go to our Gold Sponsors Adobe, Blackboard, Cisco Systems, Desire2Learn, eInstruction, Pearson Learning Systems, Thomson and UNICON.

And of course, where would we be without all of the System and Campus Partners and representatives who participated by attending the MIC, acting as facilitators, presenting papers, stuffing registration packets, helping at the registration desk, and above all, being great Ambassadors for MERLOT.

Finally, the lovely ladies who always had bright smiles and helpful hands for all attendees, the Concentra crew at the registration desk: Laura, Amber, Jenn and Debbie. Thank you for making sure the conference was a success.
Despite some "minor" complications (programs being held up in Canadian Customs, wine-tasting falling through, terrorists threats affecting people's journeys home - some without hair spray, shampoo or lipstick) the MIC was a great success because of you.

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Presentations Posted

You may not have known, but Lou Zweier from the Center for Distributed Learning at CSU filmed the presentations of all three of our keynote speakers: Diane Laurillard, Melvyn A. Goodale, and Tom Carey. Links to these can be found on the Conference homepage: http://conference.merlot.org/2006/

Did you miss some presentations that you wish you had been able to see? Well, thanks to all the presenters that allowed us to put them online (and the facilitators that collected them during each session) most of the PowerPoint presentations for the Concurrent Sessions are available from the online program: http://conference.merlot.org/2006/program.html. Simply click on the title of the presentation to view what the author presented.

Japanese Connections Made at the MIC

MERLOT already has an agreement with NIME, the National Institute of Multimedia Education and our Federated Search now searches their collection. However, in a totally unrelated manner, we are also forging relationships with Japan in other ways. This from Bill Paquette, Editor of the History Editorial Board: "*During the MIC I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Koichi Nakajima, Director of the TIES e-Teaching Support Center at Tezukayama University. I introduced him to the sites I use on MERLOT that I have incorporated in my World Civilization unit on Japan. He was fascinated by them and did not know they existed. After the conference Dr. Nakajima emailed me to inform me that he was going to use several of the Japan sites, particularly Edo Japan A Virtual Tour and my assignments for it, in presentations he is*

planning for the future. Unfortunately, I do not know Japanese and cannot help him with the TIES project, but I (think) this is a good example of how we are learning from each other and promoting the internationalism of education that MERLOT offers."

And in true MERLOT collaboration, Laura Franklin, Editor of World Languages Editorial Board says, *"This is great news. I am pretty sure we can accommodate Dr. Nakajima in Japanese and in other languages he needs. We recruited some Japanese reviewers at the MIC. "*

We want to thank Mark Fleming from the University of Ottawa and Ken Marshall, who volunteered to take photographs at the MIC…over 500 of them! Want to see if you were caught on camera? Go to Mark's site where they are posted at https://qshare.queensu.ca/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-204179_1-t_p4zpC3Mw There aren't any captions for them, but we're sure you will think of some!

Feature Article – The New MERLOT

Have you seen the **NEW MERLOT?** We released it just in time for the MERLOT International Conference, on July 28th. Doesn't it look professional? There are a lot of new functions. You can now access the Discipline Portals right from the homepage There is a short "tour" available. You can link directly to Learning Materials, Colleagues, Personal Collections, Assignments and Guest Experts, all in your discipline and right from the home page. Even better, you have an automatic update on the homepage of the Total Number of Materials and the Total Members as well as those same numbers for the last 30 days.

Thank you to the Development Team, some of whom are pictured: Alyssa, Philip, Michael, Andy, and Barbra.

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About Us

Remember the Tasting Room? Have you noticed that it is no longer there? It has been replaced by the tab, *About Us.* The format is new, as well as the types of information listed there. This is an opportunity to tell people "About Us."

While you're there, you may want to see two new postings –

- The Learning Management System Initiative
  http://taste.merlot.org/lms.html
- Audio/Video Recording Policy
  http://taste.merlot.org/audiopolicy.html

Feature Article - Distinguished Service Award goes to David Ernst

The fourth annual Distinguished Service Award was presented to **David Ernst**,

Assistant Vice Chancellor and CIO for the California State University System. David was the CSU leader who began shaping the system's "multimedia repository" initiative in 1995, later to became MERLOT. It is through David's leadership in the CSU and his delivery of consistent funding and political support, that MERLOT has had a strong environment to develop its capabilities and services now reaching around the world. Without his vision and leadership within the CSU, MERLOT would have become just another experiment that faded away a few years after it was started. David was the lead member of the MERLOT Advisory Board since its inception and has provided critical strategic direction for MERLOT's services and innovations. As an internationally recognized leader in information technology, David has also been instrumental in bringing corporate and organizational partners into the MERLOT community.

With this award, we wish our very best to David Ernst and thank him for his distinguished leadership in MERLOT.

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Editorial Board News

Peer Reviewer Workshop

Kudos to Nancy Kerner, Editor of the Chemistry Editorial Board, who along with Darrell Pearson, Editor of the Teacher Education Board planned and conducted the first Peer

Reviewer Workshop at the MIC. The workshop was designed to be multidisciplinary, starting with an overview of the Peer Review process. Then the new "trainees" met with the Editorial Boards which with they would be associated. There were 27 trainees, which was a marvelous accomplishment. Thanks to all of the Editors who helped out with this endeavor.

New Health Sciences Editor

When Pam Scheibel stepped down from her position as Editor of the Health Sciences Editorial Board earlier in the year, we turned to Jeanne Sewell at Georgia College and State University. Jeanne is a long time member of the HS Board. After attending the Editors Meeting in Savannah, Jeanne decided to step in and serve as Editor. She is off to a great start because, since the MIC06 theme emphasized Medicine, Jeanne was able to recruit several potential Peer Reviewers for the Editorial Board. Way to go, Jeanne!

Volunteers Can Step Up

The Business Editorial Board has had several changes this year, both from the Volunteer Ranks.

Michelle Kunz (Morehead State University) has stepped up to fill in for Theresa Flaherty as Associate Editor of Marketing. Michelle served as a volunteer Peer Reviewer for Marketing for several years and has taken on this task. She works with 20+ volunteer Peer Reviewers in the Marketing area.

Dr. Jackie Gilbert

Jackie Gilbert (Middle Tennessee State University) has been reviewing in the Management area this past year. She attended the MIC and was so anxious to get more involved that she asked Robbie Melton (PD for Tennessee Board of Regents) if she could be supported. Robbie said yes, so welcome to the new Associate Editor for International Business!

New Editorial Board Members

Meet the new Editorial Board Members for the 06-07 Academic Year. Most of these people are replacing retiring Board Members. We will have more information about them in future newsletters.

Dorothy Fuller – Black Hills State University – Teacher Ed
Ron Hughes – CSU – Bakersfield – Teacher Ed
Catherine Martin-Dunlop CSU – Long Beach – Teacher Ed
Sara McCormack-Hoffman - Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical – Psychology
Josh Pauli – Dakota State University – Information Technology

Two new Project Directors Named by our Partners.

Victor Wong replaces Kim Bayer as the University of Michigan's Project Director. Victor is the Director of IT Campus Initiatives & CARAT (Collaboratory for Advanced Research and Academic Technologies) as well as a Professor of Physics at UM. Victor's introduction to MERLOT was at the MIC where he brought 11 potential Peer Reviewers for the Peer Review Workshop.

Inez Farrell replaces Bob Vawter as the Virginia Community College System's Project Director. Since her first day on the job, Inez has been actively working with her campuses to ensure the support of Editorial Board Members. Inez is Director of Instructional Technology for the VCCS and has an extensive background in curriculum design using technology both in the classroom and in staff development environments.

Welcome, Victor and Inez!!!

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Out and About with MERLOT

Tom Carey will be VERY busy this year. Tom has applied for a FIFPSE grant and has asked that any systems representatives who would like to have their faculty participate should contact him. Below is the abstract of the grant proposal:

"Project Goals: To develop and test new social and technology infrastructures that will enable nationwide collaborations amongst faculty development centers and online resource repositories, for the innovative development and efficient sharing and use of discipline-oriented resources which illustrate exemplary teaching practices. Leveraging existing centers and programs across a wide range of higher education institutions will enable us to demonstrate the replicability and sustainability of a project which improves teaching and student achievement. **The Challenges:** The typical campus culture of teaching insulate faculty from learning exemplary teaching practices from model colleagues in their institution and/or discipline. Furthermore, the exemplary teaching practices are multidimensional and complex to capture for sharing; they must take into consideration the diversity of students' readiness for learning, the differences in the knowledge and skills that defines the discipline, and the differences in the institutional priorities that distinguishes campuses from each other. All these challenges reduce the likelihood of scaling, sustaining, and replicating effective and efficient faculty development for student success. **The**

Solution Model: We proposed to develop new ways for faculty development centers from a wide range of higher education institutions and online discipline repositories (e.g. MERLOT) to collaborate on engaging faculty with exemplary teaching practices. Discipline repositories can provide the discipline-based examples and the shared resources for faculty to re-use and adapt to implement exemplary teaching practices. The discipline-based examples will be video narratives of faculty and students demonstrating and reflecting on their teaching and learning, capturing the rich, multidimensional nature of education. Integrating ELIXR into existing consortium projects will enable sustainability."

Tom will also be making a number of presentations at meetings this Fall. If you are attending any of the following meetings stop by Tom's presentation. Also, if you are sending faculty to any of the meetings, have them support Tom when he speaks at the following engagements:

- Sept 28 - SREB Educational Technology Cooperative Annual Meeting, Clearwater FL; "MERLOT: Update and Next Steps"
- Sept 29 - Open Ed 2006, Utah State University; "Extending Community Engagement for Open Content Re-use"
- Oct 27 - POD Network Annual Conference, Portland OR; "Extending Re-usable Learning Resources to Support an Online Teaching Commons"
- Nov 10 - International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Washington DC; Working Session: "First Steps Toward an Online Teaching Commons: Perspectives on Integrating Scholarly Resources on the Web" Presentation & Dialog session: "Making Scholarship Explicit in Peer Reviews of Online Learning Objects"

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New Promotion Mode for MERLOT

Bill Paquette, Editor of the History Editorial Board has co-authored, "Suffolk: A Celebration of History." The book will have a foreword by Governor Kaine of Virginia and will be part of the publication frenzy to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement next year. It will be available in December. The following is a brief bio of Bill that will appear on the cover of the book: *"William A. Paquette, Ph.D., is a Professor of History with Tidewater Community College. Dr. Paquette earned his doctorate in Educational Studies and History at Emory University in Atlanta. He has published over one hundred articles and six*

books and is annually listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in the World. ***Dr. Paquette represents the Virginia Community College System as History Co-Editor for the internationally based Multimedia Education Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (Merlot) Project*** *and is on the Advisory Board for the United States Government Committee for World Food Day.*

A descendant of three Mayflower passengers, Dr. Paquette has served the Virginia Mayflower Society as Historian, Deputy Governor, and was recently elected Governor. A member of the Sons of Union Veterans, Professor Paquette is collaterally related to Presidents John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, and both President Bushes. Dr. Paquette has received numerous federal grants, serves as a consultant to publishers Houghton-Mifflin, Prentice-Hall, ProQuest, and Gale Group Thomson. He has held offices in the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Community College Humanities Association. The latter organization honored Professor Paquette in 1997 with its National Humanities Award. Dr. Paquette is a recognized donor to the Crown Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation, The Washington, DC Shakespeare Theatre, and Spelman College (Atlanta)."

Congratulations, Bill!! We didn't know we had such a celebrity among us.

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SERC/MERLOT Collaboration

As part of the Editorial Board Workshop, Scott Cooper, Jeff Bell, and Jim Rutledge explained how they are collaborating with SERC Science Education Resource Center. SERC has developed pedagogical content in Geosciences to help departments improve their academic programs. http://serc.carleton.edu/index.html

Jeff and Scott have also worked this year on expanding the materials in the Biology area, while Jim Rutledge is working on expanding the materials in Math. Each learning activity includes Learning Objectives, Contexts, Teaching Notes and Tips, Assessments, and References. You can view some of these activities (still on the development site) at:
http://serc.carleton.edu/dev/introgeo/interactive/examples/14297.html
http://serc.carleton.edu/dev/introgeo/teachingwdata/examples/14296.html
http://serc.carleton.edu/dev/introgeo/interactive/examples/14298.html

SERC has also proposed a site within MERLOT where all of these materials will appear as well as being cross-listed on the SERC site. We will be looking for more Editorial Boards to begin working on this project this year. Having sat through the SERC presentation at the MIC, Bob Sproule (Waterloo) and Business Editorial Board Member is already developing some for Accounting. Other interested Board Members, contact Cathy Swift.

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Workforce Development Off to a Great Start!

Have you heard people talking about MERLOT and Workspace Development? Are you wondering what we're doing? The MERLOT community (primarily through Project Directors) has recognized that there is a significant and growing need for many institutions of higher education to develop and deliver high quality academic programs that serve regional and national workforce development demands. Workforce development programs that cover such areas as computer operations and electronics, trades, allied health, protective services, automotive, and hospitality are increasingly important for community colleges and extended education programs to fulfill their missions and receive state funding.

Several of our System Partners have expressed interest in supporting what we are calling Workforce Development Task Forces. This past spring, the Fire Safety Task Force was formed, with members from three of our partners. They have added modules, assignments, and comments in the Fire Safety area. To view these, click on Science and Technology on the left of the homepage, and Fire Safety will appear on the list. As of the latest view, there are 124 modules in that area. The Taskforce Members worked hard on developing these materials and at the Project Directors meeting it was decided that they are ready to form an Editorial Board. JD Brown, from Oklahoma, will be working on the portal for Fire Safety.

The next Workforce Development Taskforce is Allied Health which may be sharing a number of materials with our Health Sciences Editorial Board. Project Directors, who have identified individuals for this Task Force, please contact Cathy Swift with their names and contact information.

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MERLOT Miscellaneous

Educause Reception

MERLOT will be hosting a reception at the Educause meeting in Dallas, TX on October 9th. This will be a forum to talk to top academic officers about the benefits of partnering with MERLOT. We will be inviting current partners as well as prospective partners. If you know of someone you would like to have invited to this meeting, please contact Cathy Swift. Also, if a CIO or Provost from your institution will be attending, please let us know.

New Digital Libraries

MERLOT is pleased to announce that two additional digital libraries have been added to its "Search More Digital Libraries" page (http://fedsearch.merlot.org/search.jsp.) The new MERLOT federated search provides MERLOT members with direct access to the collections of the IEEE Computer Society and to LORNET.

The IEEE Computer Society (www.computer.org), the largest of the IEEE's 39 societies is the world's leading organization of computer professionals with nearly 100,000 members. The IEEE Computer Society's vision is to be the leading provider of technical information, community services, and personalized services to the world's computing professionals. The Computer Society collection contains more than 150,000 computing articles and papers from 23 peer-reviewed periodicals archived from 1988, and more than 1700 conference publications archived from 1995.

LORNET (www.lornet.org) is a network of expertise grouping over one hundred researchers, research associates and professionals, and graduate students. The LORNET Research Network was founded in 2003 on the basis of a $7.5 million grant for a 5-year period awarded to Télé-université and its university and industrial partners. Other university partners include the University of Waterloo, the University of Ottawa, École Polytechnique de Montréal, University of Saskatchewan, and Simon Fraser University.

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MERLOT Meeting Notices

Mid Year Meeting

Editors and Project Directors, we will be meeting for the Midyear meeting in Atlanta prior to the Educause ELI Conference. As soon as hotel arrangements have been made, we will let you know. We will be meeting January 17 through January 21, first with PD's and then with Editors, so save the dates.

Cathy's Corner

Hey, Cathy: I attended the MIC and at both the Wednesday night and Thursday night receptions we had to buy our own drinks. What gives? How come MERLOT can't foot the bill for at least one drink? - Thirsty in Ottawa

Hi, Thirsty: First, I'm glad you were able to attend the conference. We would love to be able to offer alcoholic beverages for free. However, CSU and most other educational institutions will not reimburse, nor pay, for alcoholic beverages. There is just no way that we can have the bar products invoiced to the conference. In the past we had a wine-tasting reception. It fell through at the last minute in Ottawa, but it is normally part of the MIC tradition. The merchants for the wine tasting reception provide their own beverages for free, which is why we can have the service. Now, Thirsty, if you were willing to donate some bottles or find someone who will, we'd be glad to offer them at our receptions! You'll have to wait for MIC 07 in New Orleans. - *Cathy*

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JOLT – the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching

The March 2006 issue of *JOLT* has been released thanks to Editors-in-Chief, Tracy Penny Light and Ed Perry, and 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 its selection of articles. Congratulations to the *JOLT* team for their hard work and effort!

If you have an article 'in the making' be sure to contact Tracy Penny Light (tracy@temagami.uwaterloo.ca) or Ed Perry (eperry@memphis.edu) to learn how to publish in *JOLT*. *JOLT* also welcomes new reviewers. For more information about the journal and to view the Guideline for Authors, visit http://taste.merlot.org/portal/jolt/ .

The MERLOT Partner Reserve

Have you 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 assist you. To always be logged in to MERLOT when you go to www.merlot.org, click the *Remember* link at the top of the page.

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MERLOT Statistics

MERLOT Collection as of August 31, 2006

14,839	# items in Collection
2,041	# of materials w/ a Peer Reviews
812	# of materials w/ an assignment
37,067	# of Registered Users

Usage Statistics for January – August 2006

363,704	Total # of visits
1,579	Avg. # visits a day
19.2%	Avg. visitor repeat rate
11	Avg. # pages/visit
6 min, 28 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, 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!