

# From the Vineyard

## *Special 2005 MERLOT International Conference Issue*

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### ***From Your Wine Steward - Gerry Hanley***

Dear MERLOT Community,

The 2005 MERLOT International Conference is fast approaching and is always a time of celebration, inspiration, and building plans for improving education. We are so grateful for the time, talents, generous contributions, and financial support from a broad community of MERLOT supporters. Without them, this conference would not be possible and would not be the celebration of education and innovation that you will experience.

- Our Conference Host, Chancellor Charles Manning and the Tennessee Board of Regents staff, have redefined the meaning of outstanding hospitality and commitment to excellence. We want to sincerely thank them and the many Tennessee leaders they have brought into the MERLOT community:
  - The Renaissance Center and Tennessee State Senator Doug Jackson for hosting dinner for MERLOT Partners
  - The Nashville Public Library for providing the meeting space for the MERLOT Executive Planning Forum
  - The University of Memphis for the donation of laptop computers
  - DELL Computers for the donation of computers for the Cyber Café Bar
  - Tennessee State University Agricultural Department for the beautiful plants used to decorate the *Connections Room*
  - The Tennessee Wineries for the donation of wines for the Wine Tasting Reception
  - The Jack Daniels Organization for a contribution to the welcome packet for the MERLOT partners

- Tennessee Board of Regent's contribution of balloons for the *Connections Room*
- Tennessee Board of Regent's Staff who volunteered their time to collate registration packets and work on-site at the conference
- Thanks Tennessee Board of Regent campuses for supporting MERLOT and the MERLOT International Conference with over 125 attendees!
- Program Committee for their guidance on content selection.
- California Virtual Campus for coordinating vendor support.
- Premier Corporate Sponsors for your generous financial support
  - Blackboard
  - Macromedia
  - Sun
  - WebCT
  - White Hat Management/Lydialearn

*We all look forward to seeing you in Nashville!*

### ***MIC-05 Highlights***

The schedule is packed and we're ready to go! We've already surpassed the MIC-04 attendance (438 and still growing) and we've got a program jam-packed full of great sessions, opportunities to network, make and renew friendships with colleagues and learn about new products. New to the program are the Design Reviews, sessions designed for the maximum interaction and maximum learning. To see the conference program, go

to: <http://conference.merlot.org/conference/2005/program.html#full>

Our plenary speakers, Sir John Daniel (Commonwealth of Learning) and Dr. Larry Johnson (New Media Center) promise to introduce us to new ways of thinking about learning, our global presence and new and exciting tools to help us expand our reach and our vision. Gerry (our very own wine steward) will chart our course for the upcoming year and our future.

Here's a quick guide to some the 'must-do's' while at the conference - Print this and go - it's a handy reference to all the meetings and sessions of special interest to our Project Directors, Editors, Editorial Board Members, Advisory Board Members and Staff.

### ***Plenary Sessions – Live via Breeze***

For those people who cannot attend the MERLOT International Conference, the Plenary Sessions will be able to be viewed online, thanks to Macromedia's contribution of Breeze. What do you need to do? Go to <http://conference.merlot.org/conference/2005/program.html> for a list of the three General Plenary session speakers. The day and time (central time zone) of the Plenary Sessions are listed. Click on the URL for the presentation and it will be delivered to the desktop.

### ***Sunday, July 24, 2005***

#### **11:00 a.m. Brunch for the MERLOT Community**

*Renaissance Hotel Fisk Room*

Join us for a MIC-05 kick-off brunch, hosted by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) for the MERLOT Project Directors, Editors and Editorial Board Members, Advisory Board Members, MERLOT Staff and special guests from the Tennessee system colleges and universities. After brunch we will proceed to the *Nashville Convention Center Room 108-109*, for Gerry's Update.

**12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Update on the MERLOT Vineyard**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 108-109*

Gerry provides the Community with an overview on how we've grown, new features, services and opportunities, and future directions for MERLOT

**2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Project Directors Meeting**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 108-109*

**2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Editorial Board Meetings**

NCC=Nashville Convention Center and RNH=Renaissance Nashville Hotel

NCC Room 107	Biology
NCC Room 110	Business
NCC Room 111	Chemistry
NCC Room 201	Engineering
NCC Room 209	Health Sciences
NCC Room 210	History
NCC Room 211	Mathematics
NCC Room 212	Music
NCC Room 213	Physics
NCC Room 214	Teaching and Technology
NCC Room 215	World Languages
RNH Blues	Teacher Education
RNH Classical	Psychology
RNH Jazz & Rhythm	Statistics

**4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p. m. A Visit to Opryland**

The TBR is providing **shuttle transportation to Opryland** for all conference attendees, shuttle service from the Nashville Renaissance Hotel to Opryland Hotel every 1/2 hour beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 6:30 p.m. To learn more about Opryland, go to:

<http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordopryland/>.

**Monday, July 25, 2005**

**8:30 a.m. - Noon - Workshop for Editorial Boards**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 201*

This year we are bringing together the MERLOT editorial boards to continue our process of sharing information, ideas and plans about our future and learning from one another about how best to accomplish those plans. This workshop is designed to provide Editorial Board members with the tools and knowledge necessary to further their work in terms of peer review, collection building and community building.

**8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Project Directors' Council Part 2**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 102*

We will discuss the barriers and enablers for implementing MERLOT within our campus/system cultures and practices. We'll also discuss what MERLOT needs to do to help your campus/system implement MERLOT and what changes we need to make to MERLOT's services. We will also draft institutional targets that each project director would like to achieve by the end of the year as well as MERLOT targets for Project Directors.

**1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Librarian and Faculty Developer Orientation to the Workshops**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 103-104*

The Faculty Developer and Librarian workshops are designed to bring our Partners' Library and Faculty Development professionals together to learn more about MERLOT and how to share that information with others to build a truly engaged membership.

**2:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. MERLOT for Librarians Workshop**

*Nashville Public Library*

The Nashville Public Library is just a block away and can be accessed via the Renaissance Hotel's covered bridge and through the parking garage.

**1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. MERLOT for Faculty Developers Workshop**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 201*

Facilitators request of all attendees: please bring your own laptop to this session -

**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Session Chair Orientation Meeting**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 208*

Are you joining us as a Session Chairs for the conference sessions? If so, please attend this meeting to learn about your responsibilities - there's still room for volunteers! Contact Diane Didier ([DDidier@bormail.regents.state.la.us](mailto:DDidier@bormail.regents.state.la.us)) if you would like to help introduce and facilitate sessions.

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Opening Reception**

*Renaissance Hotel West Ballroom*

The Tennessee Board of Regents has invited a special guest to greet you at the reception, just don't step on his blue suede shoes or call him a Hound Dog!

***Tuesday, July 26, 2005***

**7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Breakfast**

*Renaissance Hotel Fisk 1 Room*

Breakfast for Project Directors, Editors, Editorial Board Members, Advisory Board Members and Staff.

**9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Connections Room**

*Nashville Convention Center West Exhibit Hall*

The Connections room is the place to network. Open all day, with refreshments served during each break, this is the place to get caught up on the activities of our Editorial Boards, meet our MIC sponsors and MERLOT corporate partners and check out the innovative work of our members during the poster sessions. Join us at the MERLOT booth to learn more about the new look, new functions as well as the 'tried and true'!

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Faculty Developers Workshop Debrief**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 202*

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Librarian Workshop Debrief**

*Nashville Convention Center Room 203*

***Wednesday, July 27, 2005***

**7:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. Breakfast**

*Renaissance Hotel Fisk 2 Room*

Breakfast for Project Directors, Editors, Editorial Board Members, Advisory Board Members and Staff.

**9:30 p.m. - 10:00 a.m. JOLT - The MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching**

*Nashville Convention Center West Exhibit Hall*

Join Co-editors, Tracy Penny Light and Ed Perry and the JOLT Editorial Board in the inauguration of JOLT! Learn how you can participate on the Editorial Board, and submit and publish your scholarly work on online teaching, technology, and learning.

**9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Connections Room**

*Nashville Convention Center West Exhibit Hall*

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Faculty Developers Workshop Debrief**  
*Nashville Convention Center Room 202*

**4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Librarian Workshop Debrief**  
*Nashville Convention Center Room 203*

**Wednesday Evening -Kick up your Heels at the Wildhorse Saloon!**

TBR has alerted the management of the Wildhorse Saloon that a number of MERLOT Conference attendees may stop on by for dinner and a bit of line dancing. Grab a Group and spend this evening with a big steak and a little Cotton-eyed Joe!

**Thursday, July 27, 2005**

**Noon - 1:00 p.m. Faculty Developers and Librarian Workshop Luncheon**  
*Renaissance Hotel Belmont Two Room*

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Faculty Developers Workshop Wrap-up Session**  
*Nashville Convention Center Room 202*

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Librarian Workshop Wrap-up Session**  
*Nashville Convention Center Room 203*

**MERLOT Statistics**

**Collection**

The statistics reported here are totals as of June 30, 2005

12,114	# items in Collection
1,697	# of Peer Reviews
26,405	# of Registered Users

**Usage Statistics June 2004 – June 2005**

258,604	# unique visitors
22%	Visitor repeat rate
1,161	Avg. # visits/day
9	Avg. # pages/visit
4:47 min	Avg. length of visit

Interested in writing something for *From the Vineyard* or adding news and updates? *From the Vineyard* is published every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December). Getting your information in print is easy. Send your submission to [webmaster@merlot.org](mailto:webmaster@merlot.org) by the first Wednesday of the month in which you wish it to be published. We appreciate copy ready materials - 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!