What’s New with CAUSEweb and MERLOT?

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As always, we want to update you on the latest CAUSEweb (www.causeweb.org) and MERLOT (www.merlot.org) news. A lot is going on as we head into a summer full of great conferences and professional development opportunities!

Coming Soon: eCOTS 2012

Just a little over a month from now, the first biennial Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS) will take place through CAUSEweb. From May 14-18, 2012, conference attendees will be able to participate in interactive webinar style sessions on topics that include some of the following: the second statistics course, “big data” in the introductory statistics course, introducing inference with bootstrapping and randomization, storytelling in the statistics classroom, statistical computing, online games for teaching statistics, online teaching issues, and using advertisements to teach statistical literacy. Over 20 electronic posters will also be shared during the conference, and the conference will culminate in panel discussions by the different
session leaders and keynote talks by Hans Rosling and Webster West. Be sure to keep an eye out on our eCOTS site (www.causeweb.org/ecots) for more information about conference logistics. The conference registration fee will be $15.

Recent CAUSEweb Webinars

Many terrific webinars have been shared in the past few months on CAUSEweb. If you are in search of new activity ideas or want to know more about what is going on within the Statistics Education community, please check out the following:

- “Trashball: A Logistic Regression Classroom Activity” with Chris Morrell (Loyola University) http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2012-02/
- “Teaching Statistical Concepts in an Inverted Classroom” with Bill Rayens (University of Kentucky) http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2012-01/
- “Setting the Tone from Day 1” with Larry Lesser (The University of Texas at El Paso) http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2012-01/
- “Successful Long-Distance Affairs: Conducting Cross-Institutional Statistics Education Research” with Georgette Nicolaides (Syracuse University) and Leigh Slauson (Capital University) http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2011-11/

If you have suggestions for new webinar topics, contact Dennis Pearl (dkp@stat.osu.edu). We are always in search of great new ideas!

Jackie Miller (The Ohio State University) has been hosting the “Teaching and Learning” webinars since they began in 2006, and she recently stepped down from this position. CAUSE would like to thank Jackie for her 6 years of leadership, humor, and community-building. Jackie always made everybody—presenters and webinar attendees alike—feel welcome. Ellen Gundlach (Purdue University) took over the hosting duties for Jackie starting in March, and Leigh Slauson (Capital University) continues to host the “Activity Series” webinars.

Congratulations to Shonda Kuiper

Every year, MERLOT presents a Classics Award within each discipline to an outstanding web resource, and this year, the Classics Award in Statistics will be presented to Shonda Kuiper for the excellent activities she has made available at http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/kuipers/stat2labs/Labs.html. Congratulations, Shonda! Shonda’s Stat2Labs site contains a wealth of great activity ideas for the introductory and intermediate statistics instructor. The site includes interactive games and descriptions of lab
assignments that can turn a more traditional statistics classroom into an exciting and motivating learning environment where students work through interesting, real-world problems. Shonda’s work has been showcased in a variety of venues and conferences (including a webinar delivered on CAUSEweb:  http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2010-04/), and recently, she has co-authored a textbook based on this work called “Practicing Statistics.” Shonda’s creative and engaging games and labs exemplify reform efforts in Statistics Education, and she is definitely highly deserving of a MERLOT Classics Award.

Shonda will receive her award this summer at the Emerging Technologies for Online Learning conference (http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2012/et4online/welcome). Each summer, this conference is sponsored by MERLOT and the Sloan Consortium, and this summer, the conference will take place from July 25-27 in Las Vegas, NV. Registration for the conference is now open, and the program will soon be available online.