



## What's New with CAUSEweb and MERLOT?

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Many new things are going on with CAUSEweb and MERLOT, and the purpose of this short article is to share some important updates with the greater statistics education community.



[www.causeweb.org](http://www.causeweb.org)



[www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org)

### USCOTS 2013

On May 16-18, 2013, more than 400 statistics educators met for the 5<sup>th</sup> biennial United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS, <https://www.causeweb.org/uscotts>) at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. The theme was “Making Change Happen.” The opening session included 13 exciting presentations. In the Pecha Kucha style, each presenter was asked to share 10 slides and talk no more than 30 seconds per slide. All 13 presenters (Bob delMas, Chris Wild, Christine Franklin, Dalene Stangl, Daniel Kaplan, Daren Starnes, Hollylynne Stohl Lee, Mary Parker, Nicholas Horton, Rob Gould, Robin Lock and Shonda Kuiper) encouraged us to make change happen whether it is in our classes or beyond. The slides from many of these presentations, and other presentations at USCOTS, can be found online at <https://www.causeweb.org/uscotts/program/>.

The opening session also included entertainment by “The Fifth Moment,” a statistical band from North Carolina State University. They sang well known statistical song hits, including, “The Line” and “I think I’m a Bayesian.”



**Plenary Speaker Hollylynn Stohl Lee**

Over the next two days, plenary talks were given by Xiao-Li Meng, Chris Wild, Hollylynn Stohl Lee, Nicholas Horton and Danny Kaplan. On Friday, Nicholas Horton (Amherst College) and Danny Kaplan (Macalester College) explored the belief that students in introductory courses should see how statistics can be used to make decisions in real life situations. Hollylynn Stohl Lee (North Carolina State University) started her plenary talk by

introducing the Common Core Standards and then inviting USCOTS attendees to anticipate what this means for K-12 teachers in the next few years. On Saturday, Xiao-Li Meng (Harvard University) discussed, among other things, the benefits of discussions among undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors both early and late in their careers. The final plenary talk was given by Chris Wild (University of Auckland) who discussed the need for ways of visualizing data and showed examples of two software packages to help us do that.

The conference included 24 breakout sessions on everything from curriculum to online teaching to teacher preparation. There were also 57 “Poster and Beyond” sessions to visit across the two days of the conference.

The banquet on Friday evening was hosted by SAS/JMP at the SAS campus in Cary, NC. The 2013 USCOTS Lifetime Achievement Award, an award given to an individual who over an extended period of time has made a lasting and broad impact on statistics education, was given to Christine Franklin from the University of Georgia. Past winners of the award include Dick Scheaffer (University of Florida), Roxy Peck (California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo), Joan Garfield (University of Minnesota), and George Cobb (Mount Holyoke College). After the award ceremony, the USCOTS participants were entertained by the statistical musical talents of Larry Lesser (The University of Texas at El Paso) and Michael Posner (Villanova University).



**2013 USCOTS Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Chris Franklin presented by Dennis Pearl, CAUSE Director**

USCOTS ended with six panelists who once again ignited a passion for change in another Pecha Kucha style presentation. The panel included Beth Chance, Dennis Pearl, George Cobb, Jessica Utts, Roger Woodard and Roxy Peck. The panel and the conference ended with Roxy Peck reminding participants of the “change fee” of the airline industry. She encouraged us to avoid the “no change fee” for our courses by not going more than two semesters without making changes happen in our teaching.

Out of the 151 people who completed the post conference survey, 98.67% said that they would recommend USCOTS to a colleague, and 93.37% said that they planned to attend USCOTS 2015.

## eCOTS 2014

Planning is now underway for the next Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS). After the success of the first conference (see <https://www.causeweb.org/ecots/> for more details), we are excited to announce that the next eCOTS will take place from May 19-23, 2014, through CAUSEweb. As more details become available, they will be shared with the greater statistics education community. Look for more about this soon after the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in August, 2013.

## Recent CAUSEweb Webinars

A new webinar series has been added to the CAUSEweb lineup. This new series will highlight articles from the most recent issue of the Journal of Statistics Education. This series joins the “Teaching and Learning” and “Activity” series. Below is a list of the most recent webinars from all three series. The slides of the presentations, as well as the recorded webinars, are currently available for viewing at the websites listed below.

### Activity Webinar Series

- “Using Climate Science Data to Teach Introductory Statistics” by Gary Witt, Temple University (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-03/>)
- “TigerStat: An Immersive 3-D Game for Statistics Classes” by Rod Sturdivant, John Jackson, and Kevin Cummiskey, United States Military Academy, West Point (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-04/>)
- “Using Simulation to Introduce Inference for Regression” by Josh Tabor, Canyon del Oro High School (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-05/>)

If you have ideas for an Activity webinar, please contact Leigh Weiss at [lslauson@capital.edu](mailto:lslauson@capital.edu).

### Teaching and Learning Webinar Series

- “Evaluating Innovative Courses in Introductory Statistics: Resources from the eATLAS Project” by Elizabeth Fry and Rebekah Issak, University of Minnesota (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2013-03/>)
- “Teach how to teach, communicate how to communicate, and learn how to learn” by Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard University (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2013-04/>)
- “Teaching data analysis to 10,000+ at a time” by Jeff Leek, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2013-05/>)
- “Reaching Students with Passion-Driven, Project-Based Statistics” by Lisa Dierker, Wesleyan University (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2013-06/>)

If you have ideas for a Teaching and Learning webinar, please contact Ellen Gundlach at [gundlach@purdue.edu](mailto:gundlach@purdue.edu) .

### **Journal of Statistics Education Series**

- “A Study of Faculty Views of Statistics and Student Preparation Beyond an Introductory Class” by Kirsten Doehler and Laura Taylor, Elon University (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/jse/2013-07/>)
- “Teaching Principles of One-Way Analysis of Variance Using M&M’s Candy” by Todd Schwartz, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and “The Cleveland Clinic Statistical Education Dataset Repository: Examples and More Examples” by Amy Nowacki, Cleveland Clinic (<https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/jse/2013-06/>)

### **CAUSEweb Resource Highlight**

This issue’s highlight is an older resource and one that may not be familiar to newer instructors. The Statistics Teaching and Resource (STAR) Library (<https://www.causeweb.org/repository/StarLibrary/activities/>) was an online journal published between 2001 and 2003. Contributors produced 15 peer-reviewed classroom activities for introductory statistics courses. These activities cover most of the topics in an intro course and are still freely available for instructors. Approximately half of the activities require the use of a computer, and most can be completed in an hour or two of class time.

### **Upcoming Free Merlot Webinars**

Merlot also offers free webinars to introduce its website and the MERLOT organization. Below is a list of upcoming webinars.

- Merlot 101 (Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm Eastern)
- Special Session – Encouraging Faculty to Use MERLOT (Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm Eastern)

For more information, please go to <http://taste.merlot.org/MERLOTFreeWebinars.html>

### **Quality Matters Conference 2013**

The Quality Matters Conference 2013, with the theme “Quality Assurance in Online Learning,” will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Sheraton Music City on October 1-4, 2013. More information can be found <https://qualitymatters.org/registration-5th-annual-conference> .

### **The Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT)**

The latest issue of the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT) is now available at <http://jolt.merlot.org/currentissue.html>. Included in this issue are six research papers, three case studies, two position papers, and one concept paper. Studies of student attitudes towards statistics

are ongoing in the statistics education community, and the concept paper “Technology Acceptance and Performance in Online Learning Environments: Impact of Self-Regulation” by Filiz Tabak and Nhung T. Nguyen ([http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/tabak\\_0313.pdf](http://jolt.merlot.org/vol9no1/tabak_0313.pdf)) may be of interest to those following this research topic.

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