



What's new with CAUSEWeb and MERLOT?

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Journal of Statistics Education Volume 19, Number 1 (2011),
www.amstat.org/publications/jse/v19n1/eversontb.pdf

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Spring is finally in the air, and it's now time to start thinking about opportunities to renew our creative energy, learn about new ideas, and visit with friends in the Statistics Education community.

Registration is now open for the biennial United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) <http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/>. USCOTS is a “hands-on” conference for undergraduate and AP statistics teachers, and it offers many opportunities for participants to engage in activities, demonstrations, networking, and idea sharing. It is also a great opportunity to receive the latest information on research and best practices in teaching statistics. This year, USCOTS is taking place from May 19th through 21st at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Raleigh-Durham (Research Triangle), North Carolina. The previous three USCOTS were held at The Ohio State University. We hope you'll join us as we explore “The Next Big Thing” in Statistics Education and focus on teaching methods, technologies, resources, and curricular directions that are on the horizon. Plenary speakers for USCOTS 2011 include: Allan Rossman and Beth Chance, Dennis Pearl, Wayne Stewart, Bob delMas, and Rob Gould. You can learn more about these plenary speakers on the CAUSEweb site: <http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/speakers/>.

Please also note a special USCOTS 2011 Facebook group has been set up for those who would like opportunities to network and talk about the conference before, during, and after our meeting in May. We hope you'll consider joining this group if you are on Facebook!



One of the best parts of USCOTS is the on-going cluster interest groups. Cluster groups meet at USCOTS and share ideas, and they continue to interact after the conference in order to maintain connections and support and encourage collaborations in particular areas of interest. Ongoing cluster groups from previous meetings of USCOTS include: Teaching Statistics in the Online World, Study of Fun, Student Attitudes and Motivations, and the Post-Intro Course. New clusters debuting at USCOTS 2011 include: Introductory Statistics, AP Statistics, and Statistics Education Research. More information about these clusters and how to become involved can be found here: <http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/cluster/>.

There are also several free pre-conference workshops being held May 17th through May 19th at the SAS campus in Cary, NC. This year, the workshops include: Teaching Statistics with R, Computationally Intensive Methods in Teaching Introductory Statistics, Teaching the Big Ideas in Introductory Statistics, and Facilitating Student Projects in Elementary Statistics. More information about these workshops can be found at <http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/workshop/>.

Just about two months after USCOTS, from July 11th through July 13th, the Emerging Technologies for Online Learning International Symposium will be hosted by MERLOT (<http://taste.merlot.org/mic.html>) and the Sloan Consortium (<http://sloanconsortium.org/et4online>) in San Jose, CA. Allan Rossman and Beth Chance will be honored at this conference with the 2011 MERLOT Classics award for their extensive collection of applets (<http://www.rossmanchance.com/applets>). We are excited about this well-deserved award, and we hope you will join us in congratulating Allan and Beth and thanking them for a wonderful resource that many of us use routinely in our statistics courses.

If you are searching for new activity ideas, or for guidance about how to teach certain concepts or topics, we encourage you to check out the latest webinars that are now posted on the CAUSEweb site:

- “FREE CLICKERS!: Using PollEverywhere for Formative Assessment in the Classroom” by Michael Posner (Villanova University) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2011-02/>
- “Building a Statway to Heaven” by Uri Treisman (University of Texas at Austin) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2011-02/>
- “Golfballs in the Yard: Using Simulation to Teach Hypothesis Testing” by Randall Pruim (Calvin College) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2011-01/>
- “Introducing Informal Inference Using Data-Centric Lab Exercises” by Rakhee Patel (University of California, Los Angeles) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2011-01/>
- “Facilitating Student Projects in Statistics” by Dianna Spence and Brad Bailey (North Georgia College and State University) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2010-12/>
- “This Little Piggy Teaches Probability” by Stacey Hancock (Reed College), Jennifer Noll (Portland State University), Sean Simpson (Westchester Community College) and Aaron Weinberg (Ithaca College) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2010-11/>
- “Developing a Statistics Teaching and Beliefs Survey” by Jiyo Park and Audbjorg Bjornsdottir (University of Minnesota) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2010-11/>

There is also now a new edition of the Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT) available for view on the MERLOT website (<http://jolt.merlot.org/currentissue.html>), and there are always opportunities for you to become involved in reviewing resources for both MERLOT and CAUSEWeb. MERLOT Grape Camp is a great way to learn about how MERLOT works and how to become a peer reviewer of electronic resources that can be used in the statistics classroom. There are many upcoming sessions of Grape Camp, and you can learn more here: <http://taste.merlot.org/peerreviewer.html> .

We hope to see you soon at USCOTS!