



## What's New with CAUSEweb and MERLOT?

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In each issue of JSE, we like to highlight new activities and resources from CAUSEweb ([www.causeweb.org](http://www.causeweb.org)) and MERLOT ([www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org)).

### eCOTS 2012

From May 13-18<sup>th</sup>, the first biennial Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS) was hosted by CAUSE. Most recordings from this conference are now available at [www.causeweb.org/ecots](http://www.causeweb.org/ecots).



A total of 420 statistics educators and students registered to participate live in the eCOTS program offerings. The conference focused on three themes: Debating the Big Ideas of Teaching Statistics, Statistics for the Modern Student, and Commercial Resources for Teaching Statistics. The week-long conference included 14 break-out sessions (each about 30 minutes in length), 22 shorter audio-visual virtual poster presentations, a series of panel presentations with the break-out session speakers, and keynote presentations from Hans Rosling and Webster West. The

conference also included a short workshop about the CATALST project at the University of Minnesota ([www.tc.umn.edu/~catalst/](http://www.tc.umn.edu/~catalst/)).

eCOTS came together through a great team effort. There are many people we want to thank who helped to make this conference a success. Behind the scenes, Jean Scott and Justin Slauson (both from The Ohio State University) made sure the conference ran smoothly. Justin worked tirelessly on the eCOTS website. Leigh Slauson (Capital University) helped to organize the recording of the virtual poster presentations and the CATALST workshop. Student volunteers from Ohio State (David Kline, Erin Leatherman, Staci White) and North Carolina State University (Sam Morris) were on hand to help Leigh host and record the different poster presentations. Rebekah Isaak, Laura Le, and Laura Ziegler from the University of Minnesota led the CATALST workshop. The eCOTS planning committee consisted of Michelle Everson (University of Minnesota), Ellen Gundlach (Purdue University), Megan Mocko (University of Florida), Georgette Nicolaides (Syracuse University), Dennis Pearl (The Ohio State University), and Michael Posner (Villanova University). eCOTS was sponsored by JMP, W.H. Freeman, Minitab and Pearson.

We are already excited about planning eCOTS 2014. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the next eCOTS, please let us know.

## Upcoming CAUSE Workshops

CAUSE is pleased to announce "Identifying and Addressing Difficult Concepts for Students in the Introductory Statistics Course." This is a one-day workshop geared toward instructors at two-year colleges and instructors new to teaching statistics. The workshop will be led by Marjorie Bond of Monmouth College. The workshop is being offered on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in Monmouth, Illinois and again on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, in Jacksonville, Florida, as a pre-AMATYC conference workshop. There is no registration fee to attend. More details and registration information can be found at [www.causeweb.org/workshop](http://www.causeweb.org/workshop). The workshop is supported by NSF DUE #0942924 & 0942456.

## Recent CAUSEweb Webinars

As always, there are new webinars now available for view on the CAUSEweb site:

- "Synthesis through Service Learning in Statistics" with Gina Reed (Gainesville State College) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2012-03/>
- "Lessons Learned from Teaching Introduction to Statistics to Learning Disability Classes" with Megan Mocko (University of Florida) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2012-04/>
- "Simulation Activities for Large Classes: Using Clickers to Collect Data" with Jennifer J. Kaplan (University of Georgia) <http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2012-04/>

We are always looking for suggestions for new webinars. We hope you'll consider delivering a webinar about some of your own favorite activity ideas or about topics related to teaching and

learning statistics. If you have an idea for a webinar, please contact Dennis Pearl ([dkp@stat.osu.edu](mailto:dkp@stat.osu.edu)).

## The Emerging Technologies for Online Learning Conference

Each summer, MERLOT and the Sloan Consortium sponsor the Emerging Technologies for Online Learning conference (<http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2012/et4online/welcome>). The conference will take place from July 25-27 in Las Vegas, NV. The program for this conference can be found at <http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2012/et4online/program>. A nice feature of the conference is that those who cannot be there in person can attend online. More information about virtual conference attendance can be found here: <http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2012/et4online/virtual-attendance>.

As we mentioned in our March column, this year, the MERLOT 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>. More information about these materials, and the peer reviews the materials received, can be found on MERLOT: <http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=447977>.

## Sharing Resources and Reviewing Resources

Please keep in mind we are always looking for great new resources to add to the CAUSEweb and MERLOT collections, and we are always in need of reviewers for resources. Please contact Michelle Everson ([gaddy001@umn.edu](mailto:gaddy001@umn.edu)) or Ellen Gundlach ([gundlach@purdue.edu](mailto:gundlach@purdue.edu)) if you would like to participate more in the work we do through CAUSEweb and MERLOT.