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)   (www.merlot.org)

USCOTS 2013

The United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) is just a few weeks away. It will be held May 16th through May 18th at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. The overall theme this year will be "Making Change Happen." The conference will concentrate on curriculum, pedagogy, resources, and educational research through plenary sessions, breakout sessions and "poster and beyond sessions."

The plenary speakers at the conference and the titles of their planned talks are as follows:

- Xiao-Li Meng (Harvard University): *Energizing Higher Education for Statistics and Beyond T=(IE)^2*
- Chris Wild (University of Auckland): *The Need for Speed in the Path of the Deluge*
- Hollylynne Stohl Lee (North Carolina State University): *Envisioning a Future Teacher of Statistics in K-12 Classrooms*
- Nicholas Horton (Smith College) and Danny Kaplan (Macalester College): *All Statistics are Wrong, but Some Statistics are Useful*

More information about USCOTS can be found at http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/.

USCOTS Pre- Conference Workshops

A total of ten workshops will take place this year in conjunction with USCOTS. Some of these are multi-day workshops and some are short mini-workshops that will take place the afternoon before USCOTS officially kicks off. NSF will also be hosting a post-USCOTS workshop on grant writing on Sunday morning, May 19th. More information about the workshops can be found at http://www.causeweb.org/uscots/workshops/ and registration is now underway at https://www.causeweb.org/uscots/register/. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

Multi-Day Workshops
- "Teaching Statistics with R" by Danny Kaplan (Macalester College), Nick Horton (Smith College) and Randy Pruim (Calvin College).
- "Identifying and Addressing Difficult Concepts for Students in the Introductory Statistics Course" by Deborah Rumsey (The Ohio State University) and Marjorie Bond (Monmouth College).
- "Interactive Probability Instruction" by Dennis Pearl (The Ohio State University), Kyle Siegrist (University of Alabama) and Ivo Dinov (UCLA).
- "Teaching the Statistical Investigation Process with Randomization – Based Inference" by Nathan Tintle (Dordt College), Beth Chance, Allan Rossman and Soma Roy (Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo), Todd Swanson and Jill VanderStoep (Hope College) and George Cobb (Mount Holyoke College).
- "Implementing Discovery Projects in Elementary Statistics" by Dianna Spence (University of North Georgia).
- "Playing Games with Purpose: A New Approach to Teaching and Learning Statistics" by Shonda Kuiper (Grinnell College) and Rod Sturdivant (West Point Military Academy)

Mini-Workshops (Thursday afternoon only)
- "How to Implement a Randomization-based Introductory Statistics Course: The Catalyst Curriculum" by Bob delMas (University of Minnesota).
- "Innovation in Online Instruction in Statistics: Engaging and Challenging E-Learners" by Michelle Everson (University of Minnesota)
- "Teaching Statistical Concepts Using Dynamic Visualization and Bootstrapping in JMP" by Mia Stephens (SAS, JMP Division)

Recent CAUSEweb Webinars

Most months, CAUSEweb offers free webinars in their two webinar series: The Teaching and Learning Series and the Activity Series. Below is a list of the most recent webinars. The slides of the presentations and recordings are available for viewing.

Activity Webinar Series

- "Hands-On Distributome Activities for Teaching Probability" by Ivo Dinov, UCLA; Dennis Pearl, The Ohio State University; and Kyle Siegrist, University of Alabama (http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-02/)
- "Cancer Clusters by Random Allocation" by Jeff Witmer, Oberlin College (http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-01/)
- "Guided Discovery Using Applets and Video Tutorials in Statistics" by Lisa Green and Scott McDaniel, Middle Tennessee State University (http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2013-02/)

Teaching and Learning Webinar Series

- "Evaluating Innovative Courses in Introductory Statistics: Resources from the eATLAS Project" by Elizabeth Fry and Rebekah Isaak, University of Minnesota (https://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2013-03/)
- "ENABLEing Student Choice and Instructor Flexibility: Hyflex in Action" by Jackie Miller, The Ohio State University (http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2012-12/)

If you have ideas for webinars, please contact Leigh Weiss at lslauson@capital.edu (for Activity webinars) or Ellen Gundlach at gundlach@purdue.edu (for Teaching and Learning webinars).

CAUSEweb Resource Highlights

One new feature we'd like to try in this column is to highlight some of our favorite CAUSEweb resources. This month, our focus is on the **Social Science Data Analysis Network**. This resource is found at http://www.SSDAN.net, and it is a website based at the University of Michigan that includes several valuable resources for teaching statistics at all levels. Two of those resources are explained in more detail below.

DataCounts! (http://ssdan.net/datacounts/) includes collections of recent American Community Survey, US Census, General Social Survey, and Current Population Survey data. It includes a web-based statistical analysis tool called WebCHIP that students and instructors can use to access these data sets. Of particular interest is a collection of over 100 modules that can be used as self-directed student activities or as supplemental classroom lecture material.

KidsCount in the Classroom (http://ssdan.net/content/kids-count-classroom) uses information from the KIDS COUNT website in a series of modules and data analysis tools designed to integrate data on the status of children in the US into social science courses.
Another great website to look for is **TeachingWithData.org** (http://teachingwithdata.org/). This site includes many data sets and instructor resources that can be adapted to be used in the statistics classroom.

Recent Merlot Webinars

On February 14, 2013, a webinar entitled "Merlot 101" was posted for the public to view. It gives a great introduction to what MERLOT has to offer. The webinar gives a quick tour of the MERLOT homepage and explains how to browse and search the website for resources. For more information, please go to http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=732513 .

Emerging Technology Conference from Merlot

The 2013 MERLOT/SLOAN –C Conference on "Emerging Technologies for Online Learning" will be held at Planet Hollywood, Las Vegas, NV from April 9-11, 2013. You can attend this conference in person or as a virtual attendee. More information can be found http://taste.merlot.org/mic.html and http://sloanconsortium.org/conference/2013/et4online/welcome.

The Journal of Online Learning and Teaching (JOLT)

The latest issues (Vol. 8, No. 3 and Vol. 8, No. 4) of the MERLOT *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching* (JOLT) can be found at http://jolt.merlot.org/. In Volume 8 (No. 3), there is an article that may be of general interest to online statistics instructors. Lorna R. Kearns discusses student assessment in online teaching across a variety of disciplines. While not every assessment tool is of equal value or even practical in every discipline, learning about different approaches to assessment can impact teaching both online and in face-to-face teaching. For more details about this article, please visit: http://jolt.merlot.org/vol8no3/kearns_0912.htm.

Volume 21 (2013) | Archive | Index | Data Archive | Resources | Editorial Board | Guidelines for Authors | Guidelines for Data Contributors | Guidelines for Readers/Data Users | Home Page | Contact JSE | ASA Publications

4