



Teaching Bits: What's New with CAUSEweb and MERLOT?

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In our previous column, we gave an overview of CAUSEweb (www.causeweb.org) and MERLOT (www.merlot.org). These are two excellent resources for statistics educators who want to find new examples, activities, applets, videos, and other ideas for teaching statistics. We encourage you to think about ways you can use some of these resources in your own classrooms, and we welcome your suggestions about how we can continue to improve these collections of resources. In addition to adding some of your favorite resources to CAUSEweb and MERLOT, you can also help by signing up to review resources. If you would like more information about this, please contact us, and we'll be happy to get you started.

In this column, we would like to highlight some recent new additions to CAUSEweb and MERLOT.


Have your students ever asked, "What do statisticians do?" An "Advising" section has now been added to the Resources page on CAUSEweb (<http://www.causeweb.org/cwis/SPT--BrowseResources.php?ParentId=121>). A screenshot of this page taken on July 5, 2010 is given below. The websites listed in this section are useful if you have students who are (a) excited about statistics and want to know more about what statisticians do, (b) considering majoring in statistics, or (c) applying to graduate programs in statistics. Perhaps not surprising to those in the Statistics Education community, Actuary (#1), Mathematician (#6), and Statistician (#8) make the top 10 list of best jobs for 2010.

The screenshot shows the CAUSEweb.org website in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The page is titled "CAUSEweb.org" and displays a list of 17 resources under the "Advising" category. The resources are listed with their titles, descriptions, and full record links.

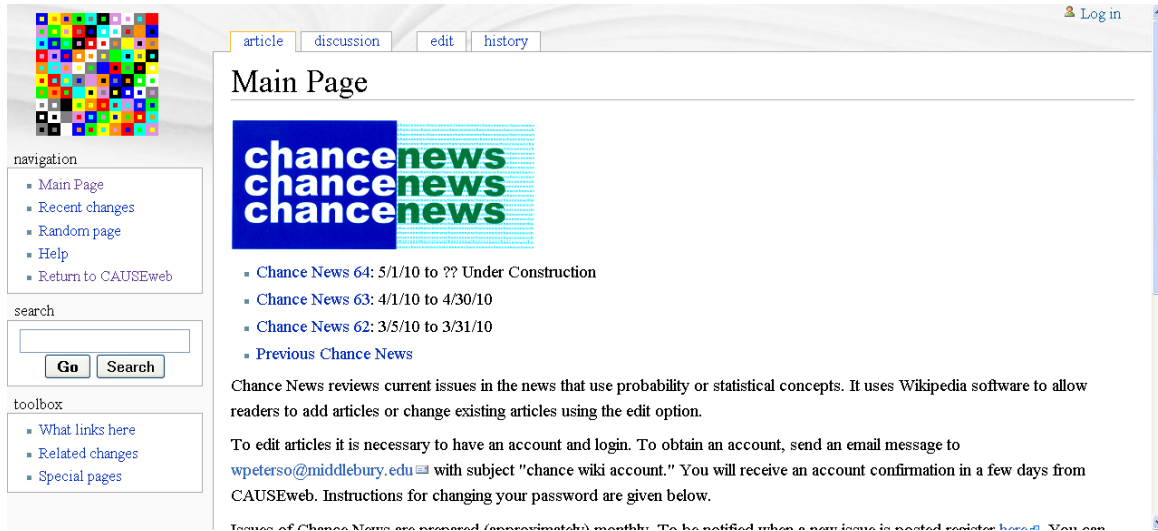
Resource Title	Description	Full Record
A Day in the Life of an Undergraduate Statistical Consultant	This article from the September 2009 issue of AMSTAT News provides a glimpse into some of the experiences of undergraduate statistics consultants at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.	Full Record
A Statistician's Life	In this September 2009 article from AMSTAT news, several statisticians share the stories of how they chose careers in statistics.	Full Record
American Statistical Association Career Center	The ASA Career Center serves as the main clearinghouse for information about jobs, careers, and employment for the statistical profession.	Full Record
Article on Careers in Biostatistics	This article is a good resource for those who might be considering careers in Biostatistics.	Full Record
ASA Brochure on Careers in Statistics	This brochure, put out by the American Statistical Association, includes information about fields that employ statisticians, how to become a statistician, and famous statisticians in history.	Full Record

Did you have the opportunity to attend last summer's United States Conferences on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 2009)? The speakers were inspirational, and there were so many good ideas shared at the conference that it was hard to absorb everything. If you missed the conference or would simply like another chance to hear the plenary session talks, the recordings are now available on CAUSEweb at www.causeweb.org/uscots/uscots09/program/. You can learn about innovative thinking from leaders in the Statistics Education community like George Cobb, Chris Wild, and Dani Ben-Zvi.

Thursday, June 25 th , 2009	
Time	Activity
3:00 - 7:00 pm	Registration / Posters & Beyond set-up materials available
6:30 - 8:00 pm	Mixer
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Posters & Beyond set-up

Friday, June 26 th , 2009	
Time	Activity
7:00 - 8:00 am	Registration / Continental Breakfast / Posters & Beyond set-up
8:00 - 8:20 am	Welcome to USCOTS / Conference Warm-Up!
8:20 - 9:20 am	Plenary Session George Cobb, Mount Holyoke College "Close Your Eyes and Click Your Heels: There's No Place Like Bayes" Watch video (H.264/MPEG-4) 
9:30 - 10:45 am	(9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) Posters & Beyond #1 Computer Lab Test-drives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (9:30 - 10:00 a.m.) Patti Collings, Brigham Young University; & Laura Capuano & Roland Cheyney, W.H. Freeman and Company "Test-drive the StatsPortal Learning Management System" (10:15 - 10:45 a.m.) Melodie Rush, JMP software - SAS Institute "Data Visualization with JMP"
session end to 11:00 am	Break
11:00 - 12:20 pm	Breakout Session #1

Chance News, a collection of statistics-related articles from the media and connected activities, has moved to a new home on CAUSEweb (http://www.causeweb.org/wiki/chance/index.php/Main_Page).



For an introduction to Chance News, see an April webinar in the Teaching and Learning series (recorded and posted on CAUSEweb): “Using (and contributing to!) the Chance News Wiki” (<http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2010-04/>). This webinar was delivered by Jeanne Albert and Bill Peterson, the new editors of Chance News. Another great webinar, “Using Chance [Magazine] to Engage AP High School and Undergraduate University Students in the Study of Statistics,” was delivered in March by Dalene Stangl from Duke University (<http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/teaching/2010-03/>). Although Chance Magazine (published by the American Statistical Association) is not connected to Chance News on CAUSEweb, both

webinars present interesting ideas about innovative ways to incorporate media articles and current topics of interest to students into the classroom.

Other new features on CAUSEweb include a series of Activity webinars that involve using games to teach statistics:

- “Using the Online Dice-Based Golf Game GOLO to Illustrate Probability” by John Gabrosek and Paul Stephenson from Grand Valley State University (<http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2010-03/>)
- “Using Games to Teach Design of Experiments” by Shonda Kuiper from Grinnell College (<http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2010-04/>)
- “A Guitar Hero Based Project in Mathematical Statistics” by Ivan Ramler from St. Lawrence University (<http://www.causeweb.org/webinar/activity/2010-05/>)

Links to some of Shonda Kuiper’s games (from the Stat2Labs website:

<http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/kuipers/stat2labs/>) are posted now on both CAUSEweb and MERLOT. We hope these resources, and several others, will soon be reviewed, and, again, we encourage anyone interested in reviewing resources for CAUSEweb and MERLOT to contact us.

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