

Welcome to Bringing Guests to your Courses with Virtual Speaker Bureaus

Maricopa Center For Teaching and Learning

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Presented by Alice Bedard-Voorhees

Greetings and Welcome to this Session!



Questions for Today's Participants

Have you had a guest participate in either f2f or online classes?

In what way did they participate? Lecture?
Panelist? Discussant? Other?

Great Reasons for Inviting Guests

- Real-World or unique expertise
- Reinforcement for course concepts
- Complement to the instructor's knowledge
- Opportunity to bring learners to a larger context
- Provide continuous learning for a larger community

Types of Audiences and Tech Needs for At-A-Distance Visits

- Face-to-Face Class (Will likely need to arrange for the technology.)
- Hybrid (Chances are good some technology is already provided.)
- Fully-Online Course (Technology is more than likely available.)
- Multiple Class Sections (Can have an “auditorium” created or use an open discussion board.
- Campus or Community Events (Can have learners register, or can use a discussion board that allows participants to self-enroll.)

Guest Discussant Events for One Class Section or Several

Sources: Your Networks, CCCOnline VSB,
MERLOT VSB

- Contact Speaker
- Set up the Discussion Board or “Auditorium”
- Prep Class or Participants
- Provide Guest Access and Lead Time
- Provide for Extra Technical Help: Phone Number, Contact
- Thank the Guest
- See also pp. 23 – 25 in Cross Papers #8

CCCOnline VSB

- **History:**

http://www.ccconline.org/faculty/resources_vsb.htm

- **To view and contact guest members:**

<http://www.ccconline.org/faculty/speakers/speakertopics.htm>

“How would you get Robert Redford to visit your class?”
OR Birth of the MERLOT Virtual Speaker Bureau

A Brief History



Basic Search for a Merlot Guest Expert

- Go to <http://www.merlot.org> or <http://www.merlot.org/person/VSBDirectory.po>
- Click on “Member Directory.”
- Click on “Virtual Speaker Bureau” link located beneath the “Search Member Directory” area.
- Enter a term in the search field and click on “go”, OR click on a subject/discipline area under “Browse.”
- Click on the person’s name to view Virtual Speaker contact information, topics, and technology formats.
- Quickest Link:
<http://www.merlot.org/person/VSBDirectory.po>

VSB Listings January 2006

<http://www.merlot.org/person/VSBDirectory.po>

[All \(83\)](#)

[Arts \(6\)](#)

[Business \(13\)](#)

[Education \(32\)](#)

[Humanities \(15\)](#)

[Mathematics and Statistics \(5\)](#)

[Science and Technology \(27\)](#)

[Social Sciences \(8\)](#)

Once You've Found a Guest

- ✓ Contact Speaker, get references.
- ✓ Discuss dates, times and fee arrangements (if any).
- ✓ Arrange for any technology support and logons as needed.
- ✓ Prep Class: http://taste.merlot.org/initiatives/vsb/vsb_using.htm
- ✓ Email the guest with time to try the technology. Provide a phone number as well as email contacts for the guest.

Are You a Potential Guest ?

- **Guest Defined:** You have content expertise, professional or life experience that you are willing to share with a class or community, face-to-face or at a distance.
- **Helpful:** You can specifically list topics and availability, and types of technology you would use for at-a-distance visits. You indicate languages also.
- **Becoming a Guest Expert:** Join MERLOT, then complete the Virtual Speaker Bureau Profile. For more detail, view <http://taste.merlot.org/initiatives/vsb/becoming.htm>

**Additional Experiences?
Suggestions? Questions?**

Thanks for joining us today!

Guests for Today: 2 -3 online

Jo Tomalin—Theater Faculty from San Francisco State U: Storytelling expert. Belongs to both VSB's.

Conxita Domenech: Spanish Faculty from Colorado Community Colleges. Belongs to both VSB's. Has been a guest expert in Virtual Auditorium Events.

We hope you will enjoy your interactions: We'll return to this room at 3:00 to conclude the session. Further Questions or Comments can be sent to Alice.Bedard-Voorhees@cccs.edu or bedard-voorhees@earthlink.net.