

WebSights features announcements and reviews of select sites of interest to physics teachers. All sites are copyrighted by their authors. This column is available as a web page at <http://PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/>. If you have successfully used a physics website that you feel is outstanding and appropriate for WebSights, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach or learn physics. macisadl@buffalostate.edu.

Free Online Articles from Journals of Note for Physics Teaching: The Royal Society and Science Education Review

As part of the 2010 celebration of the 350th anniversary of The Royal Society (founded 1660), 60 of the most memorable publications of *Philosophical Transactions* are available online in “Trailblazing: Three and a half centuries of Royal Society publishing” <http://trailblazing.royalsociety.org>. This free online exhibit includes original physics manuscripts by Newton (optics), Franklin (his kite experiment is recounted), Priestly (gas combustion), Volta (electric battery), Daguerre (photography), Faraday, Maxwell, Lockyer, Geiger and Marsden, Dirac, Crick and Watson, Taylor, Hawking and Penrose, and other scientific manuscripts concerning modern biology, meteorology, engineering and metrology. An audio slideshow on the Royal Society celebrations by the BBC is available at <http://tinyurl.com/y869w>.

The Science Education Review is an online quarterly journal for primary and high school science teachers, featuring some freely available and author-supported manuscripts. Of recent note is a free piece by Anton Lawson critiquing null hypothesis use in science education research at <http://tinyurl.com/yhxckqg>. An introductory free subscription is also available at <http://www.scienceeducationreview.com>.

The November 2009 issue of the *Newsletter of the International Commission on Physics Education* is now available at <http://web.phys.ksu.edu/icpe/newsletters/n58.pdf>. This particular issue of the free online newsletter includes an obituary for Dr. E. Leonard Jossem, a much admired and respected international figure in physics education and past president of the AAPT amongst many other achievements.

*Submitted by Dean Zollman,
Kansas State University Physics.*

DOI: 10.1119/1.3274375

U.S. Politics and Teaching

A teacher directed me to short recent remarks by President Obama on science and mathematics education, and inter-

national attitudes towards teachers and teacher salaries. See <http://tinyurl.com/y8zogxp> or go to <http://whitehouse.gov> and search for "teacher" and "pay"—it's the statement under the “Education to Innovate” campaign.

DOI: 10.1119/1.3274376

Science Oddity – The Symphony of Science: A Glorious Dawn (Cosmos Remixed)

My daughter directed me to a multimedia remix on YouTube using original music and beats, stills of scientists and lifted Cosmos audio quotes run through pitch-correction software (cf. wikipedia.com for "auto-tune" or much recent popular music). See <http://www.symphonyofscience.com/> for several of these compositions. Also <http://www.carlsagan.com> for original Cosmos video and book (and music) links.

*Submitted by Andromeda MacIsaac,
Dalhousie University Engineering*

DOI: 10.1119/1.3274377

The “Megawoosh” Bogus Waterslide Video

http://www.arborosci.com/CoolStuff/New_CoolStuff_Articles/Video_Followup.aspx
(Or Google "megawoosh")

A widely reported Internet viral video by German engineer Bruno Kammerl—this faked video purports to show a man in a neoprene suit sliding down what appears to be a multi-story slip-and-slide like plastic carpet on one side of an alpine valley, then flying over a hundred feet through the air to land in a kiddie pool. An entertaining depiction of projectile motion, this faked video has garnered significant attention in the physics teacher community. A copy and debunking information are available from both <http://snopes.com> (a good site for debunking urban legends, strange news stories etc) and from the excellent Arbor Scientific Cool Stuff pages. The Cool Stuff newsletter archive and online subscription are highly recommended from <http://www.arborosci.com/CoolStuff>.

DOI: 10.1119/1.3274378