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WebSights features reviews of select sites presenting physics teaching strategies, as well as shorter announcements of 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 site to teach physics that you feel is outstanding and appropriate for *WebSights*, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach. The person submitting the best site monthly will receive a T-shirt.

2008 Nobel Prize in Physics awarded to Professor Y. Nambu, Professor M. Kobayashi and Professor T. Maskawa. http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2008/

Awarded for the mechanism underlying broken symmetry in subatomic physics, predicting at least three families of quarks. The Nobel Foundation website includes both technical and popularized descriptions of the 1960's work leading to the award. The American Physical Society has made three of Professor Nambu's papers "Free-to-Read" so they can be downloaded without a subscription. Links to the articles follow:

http://prola.aps.org/abstract/PRL/v4/i7/p380_1

http://prola.aps.org/abstract/PR/v122/i1/p345_1

http://prola.aps.org/abstract/PR/v124/i1/p246_1

Also, James Espinosa recommends Nambu's 1985 book *Quarks* as a good presentation of particle physics at the nontechnical level.

James Espinosa, Department of Chemistry and Physics at Texas Women's University; Gene D. Sprouse, Editor in Chief, and Joseph W. Serene, Treasurer/Publisher, American Physical Society.

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Blogs (Web Logs) for Physics Teachers by Dr. Stephanie Chasteen

A blog is a website, usually put together by someone with a particular passion or interest, to send out commentary and information to the world at large. It's like the best part of email newsletters. I asked teachers reading my own science education blog <http://www.sciencegeekgirl.wordpress.com> why *they* read blogs and they suggested to "...get ideas for curriculum, demos and toys; to stay up to date in educational research; for inspiration and support; to feel connected to the physics community; to add a flavor to my instruction that I never had before." Myself, I read them for both entertainment and news value. Blogs provide me with gems

that help spark my interest in physics, despite the daily grind.

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• **Cocktail party physics and Twisted Physics**

http://twistedphysics.typepad.com/http://blogs.discovery.com/twisted_physics/ Written by an established science writer, the long and well-researched posts at Cocktail Party Physics are fascinating forays into different areas of physics, from wine to bell casting. Twisted Physics focuses more on astrophysics and astronomy.

• **Built on Facts** <http://scienceblogs.com/builtonfacts/> is an excellent blog written by a physics graduate student with detailed posts about higher-level physics. His Sunday Function posts are an informative look at different mathematical functions in physics.

• **Bad Astronomy** <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/> is written by astronomy and writer Phil Plait. The frequent-but-short posts at his blog are the staple of skeptics everywhere. His blog is half astronomy (latest from Cassini, NASA news, meteorites), and half skeptics (the LHC hoo-ha, claims that the moon landing was a hoax, the anti-vaccination craze).

• **Physics Buzz** <http://physicsbuzz.physicscentral.com/> from Physics Central highlights interesting articles from various physics blogs and important news in physics.

• **Swans on Tea** <http://blogs.scienceforums.net/swansont/> writes frequent short posts, mostly highlighting interesting physics tidbits from around the web. Lots of YouTube videos that can be helpful for the classroom.

• **Dot physics** <http://blog.dotphys.net/> is written by a physics professor, and includes a lot of great physics content, activities, and geeky commentary on Myth Busters and laser pointers. Definitely worth a look.

Contributed by Stephanie Chasteen, whose science education blog is at <http://sciencegeekgirl.wordpress.com>

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