

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 [PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/](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](mailto:macisadl@buffalostate.edu).

### **New resource guide for teaching or learning about planets elsewhere**

A new annotated guide to written, web, and audio-visual resources for teaching about planets orbiting other stars is now available. Materials in the guide to this rapidly changing branch of astronomy include video and audio files of lectures and interviews with leading scientists in the field, phone and tablet apps, a citizen-science website, popular-level books and articles, and more. Published by the NASA Astrophysics Education and Outreach Forum and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the guide can be found as a PDF file at: [www.astrosociety.org/education/astronomy-resource-guides/the-search-for-planets-around-other-stars](http://www.astrosociety.org/education/astronomy-resource-guides/the-search-for-planets-around-other-stars). Submitted by Andrew Fraknoi, Chair of Astronomy, Foothill College CA

### **Ontario section (OAPT) newsletter**

[www.oapt.ca/newsletter/](http://www.oapt.ca/newsletter/)

The Ontario Association of Physics Teachers published a remarkable July 2013 newsletter featuring a collection of short, well-web-resourced practical articles on high school physics teaching and brain research, special relativity, promoting student recall, the scientific method, technology, biophysics, robotics design, and dye-sensitized solar cells. A tour-de-force publication from an active section of the AAPT. Submitted by Pat Whippley of University of Western Ontario Physics Outreach

### **The physics of sailing**

[science.kqed.org/quest/video/the-physics-of-sailing/](http://science.kqed.org/quest/video/the-physics-of-sailing/)

A 2008 NSF-supported KQED-CPB-QUEST video production on sailing with ancillary links to the physics of sailing. Submitted by Bernard Cleyet to PHYS-L <[www.phys-l.org](http://www.phys-l.org)>

### **Physics of two theatrical optical cloaking demonstrations from RIT father and son team**

[www.rochester.edu/news/show.php?id=6522](http://www.rochester.edu/news/show.php?id=6522)

A very professional video showing an archetypal “smoke and mirrors” magic demo, together with a video explanation (click on the link appearing halfway through the short video for the longer video explanation), as well as links to the arXiv.org paper. Very entertaining optics, and a nice < \$150 project using hardware store mirrors.

Demo by John Howell (and sons) of RIT Physics; Submitted by Mike Herzog to OPHUN-L NY physics teachers’ list <[external.oneonta.edu/mentor/listserv.html](http://external.oneonta.edu/mentor/listserv.html)>

### **Update of slideshow encouraging careers in physics – June 2013 Physics InSight now available!**

[www.aps.org/careers/insight/download.cfm](http://www.aps.org/careers/insight/download.cfm)

As in previous editions, the June 2013 slideshow includes lots of colorful slides on diverse physics careers and topics. New material in this edition:

- Profile of Aaron Weiss, a physics Bachelor and prototype engineer at Sparkfun, Inc., a company that builds components for use in electronic products.
- New data on skills used physics PhDs in industry, and starting salaries for physics Bachelors by sector.
- Information on the Higgs Boson, asteroids and other “near Earth objects,” the Earth’s magnetic field, and more!

This slideshow is intended for use on hallway monitors, or at events for recruiting students. Users can add their own slides to the show via directions from [www.aps.org/careers/insight/insert.cfm](http://www.aps.org/careers/insight/insert.cfm). Submitted by Crystal Bailey <[bailey@aps.org](mailto:bailey@aps.org)> of the American Physical Society

### **Veritasium video plus analysis of falling slinky passes 1.3M views**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiyMuHuCFo4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiyMuHuCFo4)

Derek Muller’s outstanding Veritasium collection continues to attract and distract, in this case with a stunning slow-speed video of a slinky drop computer modeled and analyzed in an arXiv.org paper by RC Cross and MS Wheatland of University of Sydney Physics. In this case, what is particularly nice is that middle school physics students can reproduce this experiment using cell phone cameras and software, or laptop or iPad cameras etc. Submitted by Timothy Coughlin, Lancaster Middle School Science

### **Touch Wood commercial: A demo video for discussing the conservation of mechanical energy**

[www.onbeing.org/blog/touch-wood-japanese-forest-bach/3753](http://www.onbeing.org/blog/touch-wood-japanese-forest-bach/3753)

This video reminds me of the famous *Honda Cog* advertisement video which now has its own Wikipedia page [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cog\\_\(advertisement\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cog_(advertisement)) though in this case the video shows a tracks-and-graphs like series of ramps with xylophone or marimba-like wooden sounding blocks placed so as to play “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desire” as the ball rolls down the track. Submitted by Kathleen Falconer of Buffalo State Elementary Education and REading