

WebSights features announcements and reviews of select sites of interest to learners and teachers of introductory physics. This column is available as a web page at PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/.

If you have successfully used a physics website that you feel is appropriate for WebSights, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach or learn physics—macisadl@buffalostate.edu.

► **“Megaprojects” YouTube Video Channel with Simon Whistler**

tinyurl.com/WS-Megaprojects

Whistler is a prolific YouTube documentarian, and this series discusses history, politics, and technology behind what he defines as “humanity’s greatest things.” My students and I always enjoy the human and political stories behind science (the tale of Alfred Nobel’s prizes is always a favorite) and “Megaprojects” serves many of these up nicely, often associated with current news—such as peripheral to Putin’s current Ukrainian invasion. The sub-20-minute megaproject videos (over 100 videos) include the Chernobyl confinement system iconic aircraft and spacecraft specimens and technology (the An-225 Mriya, the *Hindenburg*, ekranoplan, Falcon 9, ISS, MIR, Voyager, (GPS), Oak Ridge National Lab, London sewers, the SpaceX Starship, Bingham Canyon Mine, Mackinac Bridge, Millau Viaduct, Panama and Suez Canals, Nord Stream, Churchill Falls (I particularly enjoyed this one), Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, NY subway, the autobahn, etc. Political and industrial events including disasters are also discussed with reference to technology, though without math.

Submitted by K. Falconer of uni-köln Physikdidaktik

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► **Putin’s Ukrainian War Threatens and Accelerates End of Lifecycle Planning for the International Space Station**

tinyurl.com/WS-ISSend1

tinyurl.com/WS-ISSend2

Due to political developments, there are now several videos discussing end of life plans for the aging ISS by Real Engineering and Vox. Given that the Russian space program launched the core ISS navigation and attitude control module in 1998 and operates that to this day, and that the station is aging, it seems very unlikely we will get another 10 years operating life for ISS. Political posturing over Putin’s war is not helping promote the necessary collaboration to keep the ISS running, and maintenance of the ISS is expensive. The loss of the international collaboration will be very sad, and I shall miss ISS. We will likely next use commercial, Chinese, and Russian low Earth orbit space stations as new examples for our students.

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► **Physics: The First Science by S. Brahmia and P. Lindenfeld Now Freely Available Online**

firstscience.rutgers.edu/

firstscience.rutgers.edu/PhysicsTodayreview.pdf

This 2001 released college algebra-trigonometry-based introductory text covers the standard topics, and dedicates significant space to the stories of physics, and social relevance of energy. John Roeder wrote that “[t]he role of theories and models to evaluate the model of classical physics” is well

examined. It’s nice to have yet another alternative to the OpenStax text that I currently use.

Reported on the Modeling list by Jane Jackson of ASU Physics

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► **Chicken-Slapping Summer Silliness Redux**

wired.com/story/how-many-times-do-you-have-to-slap-a-chicken-to-cook-it/

tinyurl.com/WS-1slap

reddit.com/r/NoStupidQuestions/

tinyurl.com/WS-SlapMachine

tinyurl.com/WS-carjump

In 2019 this column reported on Rhett Allain’s incisive analysis of chicken-slapping energetics—cooking a bird with 491,000 slaps, which my first-year algebra-trig students cited in a recent class on energetics. For some time, it was a thing to calculate the velocity of a one slap cook for meme-making (a simpler calculation; see reddit forum /r/NoStupidQuestions and search on “chicken slap”). YouTube maker Louis Weisz was reported in Gizmodo cooking a chicken with 135,000 slaps only using a custom designed third-generation chicken slapping machine, aerogel insulating gel, and Styrofoam insulation, with a lower heat over longer time approach, which is apparently hygienically acceptable. Unfortunately Weisz’s final cooked chicken was full of aerogel and Styrofoam, though not overly “pulpified.”

In a recent trenchant analysis, Allain thrilled my students with the new extreme sport of car jumping. While a thrilling example of projectile motion video analysis, one can play perspective tricks to see how bad you missed without endangering yourself. Don’t jump any real cars, go easy on the poultry, and have a great summer.

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► **Summer Professional Development for Physics Teachers**

aapt.org/Conferences/SM2022/

www.modelinginstruction.org/

perimeterinstitute.ca/professional-development

u.osu.edu/stemcoding/

Refreshingly, the AAPT Summer Meeting is planned to meet live in Grand Rapids, MI, in July. Despite a few remaining pandemic cancellations of some face-to-face instruction, there are many live (including some paid and credit-bearing) events, and of course there will still be many opportunities for physics teaching and learning professional development online. The AMTA will run summer Modeling Physics teaching professional development opportunities. The Perimeter Institute will run online summer programming. The OSU STEMcoding project is also running workshops for teachers. A partial collection of opportunities is also kindly collected at the PhysTEC website clearinghouse. Have a great summer, hopefully live and face to face, pandemic permitting.

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