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Beyond the Chemistry Web

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Beyond the Chemistry Web

Bob Buchanan, Chemistry Librarian, Auburn University

Today's column looks at teaching-oriented websites.

What Do I Do Now? Laboratory Tales from Teaching Assistants is a collection of 248 thought provoking teaching cases in which "an unresolved problem is presented and left for the reader or discussants to analyze and propose reasonable action." Edited by Hal White (University of Delaware), these cases can help train new and old teaching assistants on how best to handle unfamiliar situations. Cases are arranged by title but (thankfully) are also indexed by topic at the end of this 148 page PDF.
http://www.udel.edu/chem/white/C601/TA-Tales.pdf

Don't Lecture Me by American Radio Works challenges the effectiveness of the traditional way most students are taught and how most teachers have learned to teach. Physics professors have led the way on research on the most effective teaching methods and have developed alternatives to lecture based instruction.
http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/tomorrows-college/lectures/

Writing Guides (Colorado State University) offers discipline specific advice for engineering, science, and business students. Each guide discusses the entire writing process from starting a paper to revising, editing and publishing. Aimed at college students, these guides are a little dry, but they competently and intelligently address a number of important questions that many students (and others) have about writing papers.
http://writing.colostate.edu/guides

The National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science (SUNY Buffalo) offers over 430 peer reviewed case studies for high school, college, and graduate level science classes. These case studies can be searched by subject area, education level, type, and/or topic. Each case study is accompanied with teaching notes and many also include answer keys for instructors. Comments from instructors who have taught the case study in the classroom are provided when available. This outstanding collection of case studies provides links to similar collections.
http://sciencecases.lib.buffalo.edu/cs/collection

The Online Curriculum for Science and Engineering Ethics offers five case studies on ethics in engineering. Based on actual events, each case study is supplemented with extensive supporting documentation. Examples include the Bhopal chemical disaster and the reporting controversies that arose during an outbreak of the SARS virus. Supported by the NSF, these case studies were developed by the International Dimensions of Ethics Education in Science & Engineering (University of Massachusetts Amherst).
http://www.umass.edu/sts/ethics/online/home.html

The Journal of Young Investigators is a free journal written and reviewed by college undergraduates. Its goal is to "improve undergraduate science training by providing innovative, high-quality educational experiences in science writing, publication and the peer-review process." Opportunities for undergraduates include all aspects of the publication process, including writing, reviewing, and editing. Noteworthy elements include an excellent 45-page writing guide, Writing Scientific Manuscripts: A Guide for Undergraduates, and a related PowerPoint.
http://www.jyi.org ❖

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