

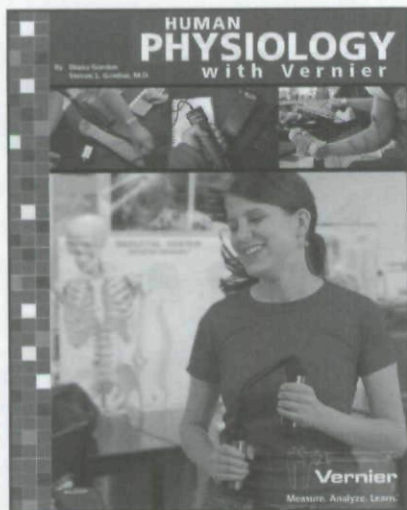
COMPUTER NEWS

VERNIER SOFTWARE & TECHNOLOGY recently released two new educational aids—a lab book, *Human Physiology with Vernier*, and an updated version of its Logger Pro 3 data-collection program.

Human Physiology with Vernier, by Diana Gordon and Steven L. Gordon, MD, includes 24 physiology experiments that use Vernier's data-collection programs, such as Logger Pro, to provide a graphical interpretation of data to foster hypothesis development, data collection, and analysis.

David Vernier, co-founder of Vernier, says, "The hands-on exploration of human physiology in this lab book is perfect for high school and college physiology or for educators teaching students who aspire to enter the health-care field."

Vernier has also revamped its Logger Pro 3 data-collection program; it can



Vernier's new lab book, *Human Physiology with Vernier*.



Experiment 15: "Muscle Function Analysis" from *Human Physiology with Vernier*.

now capture videos or photographs from Logitech Web cameras or the Bodelin ProScope, allowing students and teachers to visually record their experiments.

"No other data-collection software available lets students and educators collect and analyze scientific data from as wide a variety of sources as Logger Pro," Vernier continues. "Besides the Web cameras and the ProScope, Logger Pro 3.4 gathers data from all of the following sources: [Texas Instruments] graphing calculators, Palm OS handhelds, data-collection interfaces such as the Vernier LabPro, Go! Motion, Go! Link, and Go! Temp, Ohaus Scout balances, imported videos and jpg files, and manual keyboard entry."

For more information on either the lab book or the software, visit <http://www.vernier.com>.

TEACHERWEB, INC., which provides templates for teachers' individual classroom Web sites, has recently released a similar system for schoolwide Web sites, priced at just \$30 per school year. More than 125 schools tested the system, which is now available to schools nationwide.

The goal of TeacherWeb is to improve communication between schools and parents. It achieves this by making it easier for administrators to send messages to parents via bulletins for late-breaking news.

TeacherWeb's all-school Web site uses a template similar to that of TeacherWeb's individual teacher Web sites and requires no HTML knowledge to get started. It also includes features like Response and Slate, which are online testing and quizzing and drawing tools, respectively. For more information, visit <http://www.teacherweb.com>.

SPELLEX CORP. recently released the newest version of its bioscience spell-checking software for Microsoft and WordPerfect, which includes more than 200,000 technical terms from the bioscience industry.

The software, Spellex Biotech, lets users look up bioscience words phonetically or typographically within the document. Spellex Biotech includes technical terms from more than 70 areas, including agronomy, biochemistry, biomedical engineering, ecology, microbiology, organic chemistry, taxonomy, toxicology, and pharmacology.

Users may also subscribe to the Spell-X-BioPlus software service, which updates the Spellex dictionaries with new terms. For more information, visit <http://www.spellex.com/products/biotech.htm>.

THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY recently launched a new education Web site, *Schoolyard Geology*, which provides lessons and exercises that allow students and educators to turn their schoolyards or backyards into geologic sites.

Matthew d'Alessio, a scientist with the USGS Earthquake Hazards Team in Menlo Park, CA, was teaching Geology 101 to inmates at San Quentin State Prison when he realized that the study of geology did not have to be at a designated field site, and that any patch of land—even the prison yard—would do.

“Necessity was the mother of invention, as the inability to take field trips outside of the prison forced me to try a new approach to introducing earth science,” d'Alessio explains. “So while

students began to uncover a new geologic world within their surroundings, I uncovered a great way to introduce geology.”

The Web site teaches children how to identify the kinds of rocks they may find within their sites, and about concepts like glacier striations and sinkholes. Visit <http://education.usgs.gov/schoolyard> to learn more.

JOURNEY NORTH, an Internet-based citizen science project, is offering free Web site access and participation this fall to teachers and students in K–12 classrooms. A grant from Annenberg Media allows Journey North to offer its services for free.

Journey North allows students to track seasons in real time by tracking migration patterns of monarch butterflies, bald eagles, and whooping cranes and by observing plant budding, sunlight change, and other events.

Programs include Monarch Migration, in which students track migration



Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed—and lots of it. (A monarch increases in mass by 2,000 times at this life cycle stage.)

of monarch butterflies to Mexico each fall; Whooping Cranes, in which students track the migration of whooping cranes to the eastern United States; and International Plant Study: Tulips, where students study the connection between geography, temperature, and spring's coming by planting tulip bulbs and tracking their progress. For more information, visit <http://www.learner.org/jnorth>.



Flower nectar is an important fuel for monarch migration.

ISCIENCEPROJECT recently announced that it will temporarily loan \$500,000 worth of its HOBO Data Loggers to schools nationwide for two-month periods.

Mark McSherry, president of Onset Computer Corp., says, “Offering free equipment loans through iScienceProject, our education division, is our way of supporting science education. We hope that through the use of our devices, students will increase their computer literacy, sharpen critical thinking skills, and improve test scores in both science and math.”

More than 25,000 teachers across the country use the HOBO Data Logger in their curriculums to record temperature, humidity, and light, among other variables. Each data logger also comes with downloadable software to convert the collected data into graphs.

Interested teachers should sign up to borrow a HOBO Data Logger at the iScience Project Web site, <http://www.iscienceproject.com>.

EDUCATION SOFTWARE COMPANY, EDUSS, recently announced that it will offer its math assessment software to parents and home schooled students for free. The Eduss math assessment software covers math concepts ranging from the kindergarten to eighth grade



The new wearable HOBO Pendant Data Logger from iScienceProject makes it easy and fun for students to collect temperature and light data in both indoor and outdoor environments.

levels. Eduss' offer is especially important at a time when the United States scored below 20 of 29 industrialized countries and above only 5 in math.

Theo Scherman, Eduss' CEO, says, "To solve a crisis, one must first identify the specific problems. In this case, the answer lies in bridging the math gap one student at a time. Making our comprehensive math assessment software free to everyone will provide children and their parents the opportunity to work on

these concepts and ensure they do not continue to struggle."

To order the free assessment, visit <http://www.eduss.com/freassessment> or call 1-800-993-3877.

THE CHILDREN'S 3-D GRAPHIC SOFTWARE, COSMIC BLOBS, is now available through France-based Dassault Systèmes, a global 3-D software company. The new version, Cosmic Blobs Lab

Pack, can be integrated into classrooms, computer labs, and study groups.

Steven DeBenedictis, Cosmic Blobs product manager, says, "We believe learning should be fun, and while Cosmic Blobs started life outside the classroom, it has become central to a valuable, progressive education experience. The Lab Pack . . . will be remarkably easy to install, administer, and manage licenses on the classroom, grade, or school-wide level."

A new Web site for educators, the Cosmic Blobs Education Resource Center, accompanies the revamped software, and allows educators to submit lesson plans centered on the Cosmic Blobs software. In the future, the Web site will have a forum in which educators can share teaching experiences. To order from a reseller, visit <http://edu.cosmicblobs.com>.

THE LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CORP. recently released BrainWare Safari, an educational software program that promises parents to reveal children's brain developments as quickly as possible. BrainWare Safari also assists with increasing intellectual age—the level of mental functioning as opposed to chronological age.

Jean-Claude Dutes, psychology section leader at Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, explains, "BrainWare Safari is like calisthenics for the brain. The brain, like a muscle, responds to exercises designed to stretch it yet not overwhelm it. While muscles gain in strength, agility and endurance as they are conditioned, brains gain in concentration, thinking speed, reasoning and mental stamina. BrainWare Safari is 'toning' for the brain, and with exercise, we've proven that children's brains can progressively improve."

The program is in a video game format and is based on the learning hierarchy, a theory that asserts that fundamental brain skills are the basis for developing advanced skills. BrainWare Safari helps children develop fundamental skills so advanced skills come easier. To learn more, visit <http://www.brainwareforyou.com>.

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