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## Open Letter from the President

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## OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past several years I have watched with special interest our appeal for increased membership from the ranks of our elementary teachers of the state. This appeal has been answered with increased numbers of elementary teachers taking active roles in the various science activities sponsored in whole or in part by the Iowa Science Teachers Section of the Iowa Academy.

During this period of time, the "Excellence in Teaching Award," has been expanded to include an earth science award along with the previously set awards in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. The award for earth science resulted from increased numbers of earth science teachers which in turn was brought about by the restructuring of a large number of Junior High Science programs.

For the past three years, it has been my pleasant experience to work with another group of teachers resulting from the restructuring of our elementary schools in Iowa. I refer to the elementary science teachers that we have asked to join our Section on so many occasions. We have large numbers of excellent science teachers teaching science in the elementary schools.

The following is the point I wish to make. I propose, and place as top priority, the establishment of an "Excellence in Teaching Award" for the elementary science teachers of our state. If you agree with my position, I urge you to contact David V. McCalley, Chairman of the Recognition and Awards Committee, IAS, Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613. If your letters of concern are forwarded immediately, we should be able to present the first Excellence in Teaching Award in Elementary Science Teaching no later than the 1975 meeting of the Academy which would add to our "centennial" meeting.

Other priorities include: 1) Continued work in the securing of new members as we should not be satisfied until all science teachers in the state are active members of our Section; 2) Regional meetings in all nine regions; 3) Increased participation by classroom teachers in the submission of articles for publication in our journal.

I have had nothing but enthusiastic cooperation from all persons that I have asked for help and I have the feeling that this attitude permeates our entire Section. I'm looking forward to another successful year for our Section.

Ken Frazier

## **BIOLOGY—ITS PEOPLE AND ITS PAPERS**

Howard B. Baumel, Staten Island Community College, Staten Island Community College, Staten Island, New York and J. Joel Berger, Richmond College, Staten Island, New York

This new NSTA book is tailored to students! It includes 39 landmark papers in biology. Teachers are encouraged to use this collection of original research papers (dating from as far back as 1577 and ranging to the present) in their classrooms. Biographical and scientific background and a series of questions challenging the student to identify problems, hypotheses, and assumptions and to analyze experimental procedures and to draw conclusions based on the data that accompany each selection. These selections capture the flavor of their eras, and a time chart reinforces this unique interdisciplinary perspective by including great names in art, literature, history, and music in addition to scientific notables.

## **THE EFFECTS OF STIMULANTS ON THE PULSE RATE**

Darrell Young, Buffalo, New York

A recent article in Science by Maugh II (1973), dealing with the possible relationship between coffee and heart disease, inspired me to develop and execute a laboratory exercise designed to measure the effects of stimulants on the body. This exercise was, of course, designed to only measure immediate short-term effects, since long-term effects are obviously more difficult to measure.