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Open Letter to Science Teachers: Iowa Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium

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Open Letter to Science Teachers

Iowa Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium

Early in the 1971-72 academic year, letters describing the tenth annual Iowa Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium were sent to all high school science teachers in Iowa. Letters were also sent to schools in western Illinois that had participated in symposia in previous years. The letters delineated symposium activities such as: (1) renowned speakers presenting recent and future interactions between science and society; (2) visits to university research laboratories; (3) student papers on their own research projects; (4) personal interviews with professors to discuss future research and careers; (5) concurrent sessions with leading scientists presenting their present research endeavors; (6) informal rap sessions between small groups of participants and scientists and humanists concerning social implications of science progress.

Of the many research papers submitted, 12 were selected to be presented during the 1972 symposium at The University of Iowa. The student researcher judged best this year was Richard Harrison of Newton High School, Newton, Iowa. His paper was titled, "The Determination of the Threshold Response by Pigeons in Distinguishing Between Various Wavelengths of Light." (See cover picture.) Richard will now present his paper at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium to be held in April at Durham, North Carolina, in competition with representatives from the other 30 regional symposia. Five of the 31 student researchers will be selected to attend the Science Fortnight in London, England, to be held in July of this year. Richard's science teachers are Mike Gross and Robert Sandquist. It is hoped that the non-senior participants in this year's symposium will be inspired to conduct research projects and submit papers for future symposia.

The Iowa Junior Academy of Science has publicized the Iowa Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium among its members and has proposed the student research part of the Symposium as a replacement for the spring meeting of the Academy. Representatives of the University of Northern Iowa attended this year's Symposium and have suggested an exchange of student researcher names with their own science symposium in the fall. The annual "short course" for science teachers conducted at Iowa State University in

mid-February has been suggested as a place for the pre-symposium session where student researchers may get help on their presentations for the Iowa Symposium. Thus a statewide cooperative effort to improve high school student research throughout the state appears to be underway.

The response by administrators and faculty at The University of Iowa was again outstanding, as they demonstrated their concern for the bright science-oriented high school participants. Laboratory visits, personal interviews with professors, informal discussions, research presentations and formal banquets all involved many of the busiest and most renowned researchers, professors and administrators. The energies expended in this year's symposium were rewarded by the enthusiastic reactions, questions and comments of the participants.

Ronald D. Townsend
*Director, Iowa Science,
Engineering and
Humanities Symposium*

Mrs. Keithahn Receives Outstanding Service Award



The Iowa Science Teacher's Section of the Iowa Academy of Science is proud to announce that Mrs. Lena Keithahn has been selected as this year's

recipient of the Outstanding Service Award. Mrs. Keithahn has an outstanding record of service to the cause of science education in the State of Iowa. She has served in several capacities in the ISTS organization, including the presidency during the 1969-70 school year. She has directed and participated in many seminars and short courses. She has presented several papers regarding techniques in science teaching at the Iowa Academy meetings. She has also been very active in pre-service training and supervision of new and better science teachers for Iowa schools. The admiration and respect of the science teachers of Iowa go with the award, which reads: "Presented to Lena Keithahn, Representative of Outstanding Service to the Iowa Science Teacher's Section, Iowa Academy of Science for the year 1972."