

1964

News and Notes - Scientific Manuscript Competition . . . To Remind You

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Recommended Citation

(1964) "News and Notes - Scientific Manuscript Competition . . . To Remind You," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 1: No. 3, Article 17.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol1/iss3/17>

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formation write: Mr. Verner Jensen, Dept. of Science, State College of Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Physics Teacher Recognition Program

The American Association of Physics Teachers, with the support of the Carnegie Corporation, has developed a plan to give signal recognition and encouragement on a national basis to those high school teachers of physics who have outstanding competence in the subject they teach. It is deemed appropriate, indeed highly desirable, that some organization, such as AAPT, encourage excellence in subject matter preparation on the part of the teachers.

There are many inducements that lead a teacher to improve his status by becoming an administrator or by participation in some other activity, often extracurricular. Not enough attention has been given to the teacher who strives to enhance his mastery of his subject and who succeeds in doing so.

The selection of teachers who will receive the recognition plaque will be based principally on the score made on an examination designed explicitly for this program. It will require four hours. One-half of the time will be devoted to an objective (multiple choice) examination, the remaining two hours will be used in writing essay questions and solving problems. The examination will contain questions from the usual segments of physics, including some topics of recent advances in the science. Calculus will not be required for the solution of the problems. Sample questions will be available for those who request them. A letter asking for the sample questions may be sent to Teacher Recognition Program, J. W. Buchta, Chairman, 1201 16 Street, NW, Washington 36, D.C.

It is fully recognized that mastery of subject matter alone is not the only qualification of an effective teacher. Many other attributes are necessary. However, the Committee

responsible for this program decided it was not in a position to evaluate all the qualifications other than mastery of subject. Some inquiries will be made regarding the teaching of those who score high on the tests.

Mr. Herman H. Kirkpatrick of Des Moines Roosevelt and Mr. James E. Jones of Ames were the Iowa teachers honored in 1963. They were among the top 13% of the physics teachers who were involved with the test and the teacher recognition program for the year.

Iowa-U.S. Army Science Symposium

The U.S. Army Research Office and the Rock Island (Illinois) Weapons Command will again support a science symposium on the University of Iowa campus April 9, 10, and 11, 1964. 150 outstanding students and 50 outstanding teachers will be invited to attend from those nominated. All students' travel expenses and room and board while on the S.U.I. campus will be paid from the grant.

In addition to the presentation of outstanding science research papers by high school students, the program will include an address by Professor James A. Van Allen and other outstanding scientists. Students will have the opportunity for small group meetings with S.U.I. professors and to visit research facilities.

For further information write to
Dr. T. R. Porter
Science Education
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Scientific Manuscript Competition To Remind You

The Iowa Junior Academy of Science has for its purpose the fostering and promotion of scientific interest among students of junior and senior high school levels and the sharing of scientific information gathered by the individual and group club members.

One medium by which the I.J.A.S. attains this purpose is the Scientific Research Papers. The rules formulated for these papers were printed

in the **Iowa Science Teachers' Journal** Vol. I, No. 1. Copies of these same rules may be obtained by writing the director of Science Manuscripts.

The deadline dates for these papers are: for the library research the date has been set for March 31, 1964, and for the student's project report, April 1, 1964. Since these papers will become the property of I.J.A.S., the student will be given a "report card" that will evaluate his work.

Send applications to:

Sister Mary Martina, CHM
Dowling High School
Des Moines, Iowa

Outstanding Biology Teacher Award Program

The committee for the selection of Iowa's Outstanding Biology Teacher for 1964 will begin evaluating candidates' applications on March 15, 1964. Two changes are being made this year in the program.

First, individual school administrators will not be contacted by mail asking for nominations from their school. The only formal announcement that will be made will be in the major newspapers in Iowa and in the Science Teachers' Journal. Secondly, candidates from 1962 and 1963 who have completed application will be considered again for 1964 without completing new forms. These candidates will be contacted by mail asking their permission to reconsider them. Persons who have been nominated but did not complete the personal data form will be contacted asking that they complete the personal data form so that they may also be considered.

The OBTA program was conceived in 1961 with the purpose of singling out one outstanding teacher in each state to represent all the Biology Teachers in their respective state in an effort to bring to the attention of the general public the importance of biology. William Houser of Des Moines Roosevelt received the honor in 1962 and Cameron Christensen of

Rockwell City was selected in 1963. Mr. Houser was honored at the regional level as well in 1962.

Anyone may nominate a teacher for the award. Nomination forms may be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert E. Cook, State Director, OBTA, Science Education, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. The completed applications must be received by the state director by March 1st for a nominee to be considered.

Area PSSC Meeting at Roosevelt in Des Moines

Since the PSSC physics program was introduced in 1957 the teachers using the PSSC materials have been meeting twice each year to report their progress, their success, and their difficulties. The meetings are held at Roosevelt High, Des Moines, under the very able leadership of Herman H. Kirkpatrick. The meeting this fall was held Saturday, December 7. Those attending saw a new film, **Electromagnetic Waves**, and a demonstration showing interference of microwaves. Dr. James E. Dixon, Physics Department, Iowa State University, explained the program of the newly organized Iowa Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

This group of teachers enjoys the opportunity to exchange ideas and to share a social hour over lunch. The next meeting will be held April 11 at the time of the Hawkeye Science Fair. The CHEM Study teachers will meet with Rex Morrison and the BSCS teachers will meet with William Houser at the same time. If you are teaching one of these courses you will want to put this date on your calendar.

CONGRATULATIONS

William V. Houser, a science teacher at Roosevelt High, Des Moines, has been named the Iowa Teacher of the Year for 1964. The Teacher of the Year is chosen by Look Magazine in cooperation with the Council of Chief State School Officers and the U. S. Office of Education.