IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

Sitting on campus, right across University Ave. from central campus, is a hidden treasure in the state of Iowa. Tucked away in the Biology Research Complex on the Southwest corner of College Street and University Avenue is the Iowa Academy of Science. Founded in 1875, the Academy provides a venue for scientists & engineers in the state to meet and share their research.

“The Academy was formed in 1875 with thirteen charter members who rode by horseback to get to Iowa City for the inaugural meeting,” described Craig Johnson, Executive Director of the Academy. “The original thirteen members were living all over the state and the purpose for coming together once a year was for easier communication amongst the group.” In the late 1800s, the means by which people communicated looked different than it does today. For this reason, the charter members decided to meet up annually in order to exchange their scientific research and share their work from their respective science disciplines.

“While technology has changed, the Academy still exists for the purpose of communication.” Said Johnson. With twelve sections of different disciplines represented within the Academy, the Annual Meeting, held in April of each year, provides an opportunity for members of the Academy to come together to share their findings with those who work in other disciplines.

“Last year, we had 160 research presentations given at our Annual Meeting,” detailed Johnson. “Posters and oral presentations ranged in topics from organismal biology to environmental science and health and everything in-between.” A majority of those presenting at the conference are undergraduate and graduate students showing the research they have conducted during their education. In addition, practicing scientists & engineers from across the state of Iowa present their research and findings at the conference as well.

So why join the Iowa Academy of Science?

Endless opportunities await undergraduate and graduate student members of the Academy. From access to scientific journals and opportunities to present their research in a collegial atmosphere, to the connections that can be made with researchers across the state in their respective fields, the Iowa Academy of Science is a worthy organization to join to further your professional development. For faculty, the Academy provides opportunities to share research, have collegial conversations, and a venue to bring undergraduate and graduate researchers.

There are currently over 750 members of the Academy. To join, visit www.scienceiniowa.org and click on Membership.