

Thirteen seniors complete senior projects

Uni's Senior Project class is an opportunity for second semester seniors to pursue learning outside of Uni High and the traditional classroom. These self-directed experiences, under the mentorship of Uni teachers, local professionals and UI faculty, provides both structure and an opportunity for students to make creative decisions about their education.

The projects encourage seniors to seek paths that will help develop independence and refine problem-solving skills.

Each week, the students meet with a faculty or community mentor as well as engaging in research, shadowing, personal projects or other activities. At the end of the year, the students present their project at a school wide exhibition/presentation (poster, oral, performance) that celebrates the scholarship of the senior projects. Projects may be creative, service-oriented, academic research or career exploration.

This year's senior project participants include:

Lina Florez, working at the UI Astronomy laboratory as an intern; Tyra Greer, studying diseases, infections and parasites in freshwater mussels and snails at the Illinois Natural History Survey; Natalie Hummel, working in a lab studying digit development in several species of mammals; Dan Liang, researching brain function and dysfunction at UI; Nicholas Liu, studying groundwater lithium and neurodegenerative diseases at UI; Joaquin Malik, working in the Nuclear Engineering lab at UI; Elissa Mullins, working with a graduate student in poetry to help her edit short stories and poems for publication and a creative writing portfolio; Kavi Nadu, working with Uni music teacher Rick Murphy to create a portfolio of original music compositions; Keisha Patel, shadowing a cardiologist as he meets patients and conducts procedures; Siena Roberts, working on a sexual health education project emphasizing consent and communication for college students at UI; Luie Siegel, working with stem cell cultures; Lulianna Taritsa, working as a "Livable Communities" intern at Clark Lindsey Retirement Village, and Neil Tewksbury, working with nano-materials and nano-manufacturing processes in a UI Nano-mechanics lab.