

First Quarter
2023

LAB MISSION NEWS

"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them."

Michael Jordan



University Laboratory High School's mission is to enhance the lives of young people through innovative learning, discovery, and public engagement.

Lab Mission Updates

Summer activities:

Dr. Rachel Banke, Emily Buhnerkempe and Dr. Andy Wilson, presented at the [Faculty Summer Institute](#) on alternative approaches to assessment in a talk entitled, "Ungrading, or Why It's Time to Redesign How We Assess" in late May.

Uni Design Lab was held for two weeks at Siebel Center for Design. **Lisa Evans** and **Dr. Cliff Shin**, Associate Professor of **Industrial Design at U of I**, collaborated to instruct Uni students on Kinesthetic sculpture, focusing on learning through group collaboration and prototyping.

Uni Math Teacher, **Elizabeth Runkel**, collaborated with the **Illinois Geometry Lab**, a program of the **UIUC Department of Mathematics**, to partner Uni students with graduate students to research unsolved math problems. Students presented their findings in slide and poster presentations for family and friends.

Fall activities:

Biology teacher, **Cyndi Smyser**, attended the **Society for Science** in Washington DC to learn how to implement the scientific method and scientific research in the classroom. Partnering with David Gibson, teacher at Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy in Chicago, she did a break-out session on inspiring students to find their passion for scientific research. She discussed curricula she has created to incorporate scientific research and some tips and obstacles she has encountered in the process.



Social studies teacher, **Melissa Schoeplein**, collaborated with **WILL** again on a new oral history project entitled, **800 Miles from Ground Zero: 9/11's Impact on Central Illinois**. The series began Monday, September 11, with new podcast episodes available each week on the [WILL youth media website](#). The series covers from when the first plane hit the World Trade Center, to the controversies of the war, to how the US was changed and finally to the impact on Muslims across the country and locally.

There are four podcasts:

7:46 CST

The Frontlines: War and Protest After 9/11
Liberty vs. Security: Domestic Policy Post 9/11
Whispering As-salaamu Alaikum

Many Uni alums as well as current students worked behind the scenes as Producer and Team Leaders to make the project happen.



Uni & foreign exchange student

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? The halls of Uni were filled with foreign exchange students brought by German teacher, **Dr. Jenny Robins** and French teacher **Lynda Lopez**. The teachers supervised a plethora of mingling and learning opportunities including a trip for French students and visitors to tour the Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in Springfield. German students and visitors enjoyed a trip to Arthur, Illinois to experience Amish food and culture.

Opportunities:

Professional Learning Communities began the year with the following groups:

- Campus Collaborations
- Incubator
- Alternative Assessment
- Community Outreach

Meetings are focused on sharing progress, troubleshooting, and supporting each other in lab mission.

Lab Mission Fair - Details TBA. Share your Lab Mission through poster or laptop presentations with fellow faculty and others in a casual, fun faculty meeting in February at Uni Gym.

St. Elmo Brady Celebration with BTW – contact **Dr. Valerie O'Brien** to learn more about opportunities to explore chemistry and chemical engineering through hands-on activities assisted by students from UIUC and Uni High.

Professional Development funding of up to \$1000/teacher is available. This money can be used to fund professional associations dues or attend conferences. These associations typically encourage sharing of teaching methods amongst colleagues and can be a gateway to lab mission opportunities.



Subfreshman, Mattox Pugh's Uni High

Teaching Research:

Document how, when, what, where and SHARE! Send your **lab mission/activities/photos/links** for inclusion in the faculty meeting spotlights, newsletter, and summary lists by filling out [the Lab Mission/ Outreach data form](#).

