

Second Quarter
2023

LAB MISSION NEWS

*“The limits of
my language
mean the limits
of my world.”*

Ludwig Wittgenstein



Dr. Rachel Banke

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

Lab Mission Updates

Dr. Rachel Banke presented a paper in Boston at the Massachusetts Historical Society and cohosted by The David Center for the American Revolution at the American Philosophical Society on December 1-2. The conference, called *Empire and its Discontent, 1763–1773*, brought together international scholars to examine the origins of the American Revolution. Rachel’s original research paper, “*Imperium in imperio: Competing Authority in Colonial Governance and Policy*,” made use of archival material in the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections at the UIUC Library.

Science teacher, **Christian Millan-Hernandez** connected his students with two field opportunities related to his lab mission.

The RiverWatch Survey was led by Bruce Colravy from Illinois RiverWatch. **Tom Kiesel** was a chaperone for the trip.

In the Pollinator Survey, **Dr. May Berenbaum** (Entomology Department Head who was awarded the National Medal of Science on 2014) introduced the Pollinatorium and its history to students. Carmen Blubaugh (visiting residential scientist, Crop Science) and Erinn Dady (Entomology grad student) also helped coleading the survey and other activities. The Pollinator Survey is also part of a long-term project in which students monitor the biodiversity of insects and other pollinators at the University of Illinois Pollinatorium. The data collected will help to track long term changes in the pollinator and insect community in an important natural area of our campus. Identifying these insects is challenging for students, but it allows them to comprehend the hidden and vast diversity of insects, even in an urban area that could be deceptively regarded as a low quality habitat!



River Watch Survey





Art teachers at the IAEA conference



Comp Lit 1 students



Subfreshman, Chloe Knutson's Uni High

Chris Guyotte (Fing) is continuing his collaboration work with language teacher, **Mrs. Simmons** from **Dr. Howard** to enhance her 4th grade students' reading skills. Fing will bring Uni students to perform and work with her students during Agora Week. Eventually students from both schools will write, produce, and perform a play together.

In October, **Lisa Evans** led a hands-on workshop entitled, "Logo Appropriation via Reduction Printing" for art teachers at the Illinois Art Education Association's annual conference in St. Charles, Illinois.

Tom Kiesel is collaborating with U of I computer science professor, **Dr. Chang** and Uni alum, **Vraj Patel**. Kiesel's Comp Lit 1 coding students are working on the first half of a lab centered on the topic of the internet of things (IOT). The collaboration is a test bed for materials that Dr. Chang might eventually incorporate into his courses. Uni students will have the opportunity to be a virtual field biologist using devices they design with Arduinos and sensors.

Opportunities:

Observers from SCD

Dr. Carrie James, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Siebel Center for Design is looking for classes and teachers for her students to observe during the beginning of second semester. If interested, please ask Lisa Evans for more details, or contact Carrie directly at cljames2@illinois.edu

Seeking St. Elmo Brady Outreach Day Activity Proposals

On 4/19, Uni High will be holding a day-long outreach event at BTW STEM Academy. **Dr. Valerie O'Brien** is seeking proposals for 45-minute activities for grades K-5 related to water, Earth Day, or the scientist St. Elmo Brady. Activities may be proposed by a faculty member on behalf of a class or club. Also invited are proposals from individual students and parents. Activity proposals do not need to be STEM-focused. To propose an activity, complete [this Google form](#).

Lab Mission Fair - Share your Lab Mission through poster or laptop presentations with fellow faculty and others in a casual, fun faculty meeting on Feb. 7 in Uni's first floor hallway.

Professional Learning Communities meeting notes are a great way to find out what is happening with Lab Mission at Uni.

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.

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](#).