

Honors Projects, Spring 2017

Rachel Carlson

Course: General Microbiology; Instructor: Karla Giuffre

The project was an investigation of microbial life in one's home as well as in an elementary school. A comparison was also made to determine whether smooth or porous surfaces varied in the amount and diversity of microorganisms.

Abigayle Endress

Course: Rhetoric and Composition II; Instructor: Donna Tufariello

A 3500-4000 word research paper on the topic of citizen journalism was written. The paper required at least 12 sources. After completion of the paper, a 10-minute presentation to the class was conducted.

Staci Hammer

Course: Organic Chemistry II; Advisor: Dr. Brendan Dutmer

The project utilized computational chemistry methods to study a concerted, pericyclic reaction. In particular, evaluation of the reactivity between aminoboranes and alkenes in the presence of electron withdrawing groups was performed. The research completes a portion of a project occurring in collaboration with Thomas Gilbert of Northern Illinois University.

Tiffani Hoops

Course: General Microbiology; Instructor: Karla Giuffre

An investigation of microbial life in ten household items (ranging from toothbrush to hairbrush) was performed. Following swabbing, quantity and identification of each microorganism was determined, particularly to find the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*.

Tiffani Hoops

Course: Principles of Biology; Instructor: Alan Nowicki

An analysis of personal DNA was performed using the National Geographic Genographic Project. After the testing of DNA, the individual was able to determine any relationship between Neanderthal ancestors and where mitochondrial DNA originated.

Jaquelin Jazo

Course: U.S. History II; Instructor: Dr. Andy Dvorak

A research essay on Jane Addams was completed. The goal was to investigate her contribution to the pragmatist movement and analyze her use of the term "civic housekeeping." Exploration of her work at Hull House and the settlement movement will also be conducted. (Note, Jacquelin's essay also won the inaugural Jane Addams Essay Contest in 2017)

Madeline Kuhl

Course: News Reporting; Instructor: Kate Perkins

A feature length article about “Illinois Leadership Seminars” was completed. The project discussed what the organization does and how it helps both students and alumni of the seminar. Interviews, photos and infographics supplemented the research. The article will be submitted to a local newspaper for publishing. A link to the article is found here:

<https://storify.com/heyitsmaddiek/illinois-leadship-seminar-a-game-changer-for-leade#publicize>

Jenna Lafferty

Course: Biology II (Biodiversity, Ecology, & Evolution); Instructor: Juliet Moderow

A research experiment was performed to determine the effects of ultraviolet radiation on plants. Plants were exposed for various lengths of time to ultraviolet radiation and also allowed to breed. It was to be determined whether the effects of UV continues on to the next generations. A research paper and a presentation was completed at the end.

Keaton Lawson

Course: Biology II (Biodiversity, Ecology, & Evolution); Instructor: Juliet Moderow

A genetics research project was performed on both plants and fruit flies. Various strains of fast plants (standard, tall, and dwarf) and fruit flies with various traits (wingless, dumpy wings, red eyes, and white eyes) were mated to observe the development of traits in the next generations. A research paper and a presentation was completed at the end.

Christian Pacheco

Course: Intermediate Spanish II; Instructor: Dr. Kent Johnson

An essay written entirely in Spanish was completed. The essay was a personal narration to describe the personal experience of being Hispanic in the United States.

John Werkheiser

Course: Principles of Biology; Instructor: Alan Nowicki

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