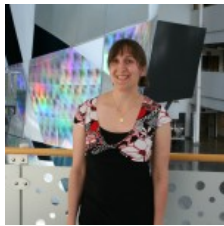


Jeanette Everling



Jeanette Everling, Hamline University, Psychology, [ISP](#)

rain

Posted on [August 4, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

Hi all- it's raining over lunch here in Ames today. Let me rephrase, it was pouring out so hard that the little umbrella I had with me, though protected my head and most my torso, did not prevent my pants from getting soaked. Overall, I have decided to label it a poor user design and hope someone builds a better umbrella.

I'm in a state of disbelief. I can't believe we present our poster tomorrow. It feels like we've just begun to really understand what we were trying to do, but there are so many unanswered questions. I can't wait to talk about what we've accomplished over this summer. In my opinion, we really did come a long way. We started from the ground up, and I hope the foundation we have built will inspire further research!

Today, we are going to finish up some general analysis and make sure we are leaving a good analysis behind. We really want to insure any future studies in relation to what we are trying to accomplish are able to take it further and find more. Hopefully, we can inspire future studies for them to gain more concise answers.

I really am going to miss everyone here. I know we will all accomplish great things in our own way and contribute to a wide array of areas. I feel so privileged to have met and worked with all of you!

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Thank you!

Posted on [August 3, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

The experience here at the REU was very valuable to me. I just hope that I contributed in a meaningful way.

As far as things I would change about the REU...

I would change the lack of evaluations on us. I am someone that wants to know how I am doing at any given time. Perhaps some use of a grading structure may be beneficial for people to opt into? I know I do better with feedback. I got a lot of feedback, but a formal evaluation of how I did in relation to expectations would be nice, especially as future proof for anyone that wants to see it.

The last thing I would change is the structure. I really liked having the classes in the beginning, but I suppose what was really missing for me was how I related to HCI early on. What if you were to teach the HCI class as one of the first core classes with a bit more emphasis on how everyone fits? It may help the transition more of getting some sort of relation to everyone and what niche we are expected to fill over the summer.

Overall, I really liked the experience. From talking to several of my friends who are in graduate programs, this is a very accurate depiction of what graduate school is like. I really enjoyed being at a larger institution and getting to know what kinds of interesting things Iowa State has to offer. I really enjoyed working with and for Andrea and Dr. Nilakanta, and gaining an appreciation for HCI in their knowledge domain. I really enjoyed how much both of them shared with us as a team, and I greatly appreciate all the feedback and support they have given us over these past 10 weeks. I also appreciate Ted and Marie's insight as to what it is like in graduate school and their encouragement to try new things. Of course, Pam, Steve and Eliot have also impacted us all very positively. Their insight, seeing them around and their overall involvement in the process was very helpful! I know if it were not for them, this program would not have had as great of a positive impact on my life.

(In other words, thank you for your inspiration to consider a few different things for graduate studies.)

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so umm

Posted on [August 2, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

I still have nightmares about transcriptions. (Maybe I'm kidding.) Stupid verbal fillers.

My next task this week is to help finish our beloved paper. It would go by much faster if I had admin rights on my computer so I could get SPSS on my computer. Thankfully, asking around to see if I can get that has provided somewhat of a solution. I could do the stats by hand and risk several mistakes (let's face it, there just are too many numbers), but I am far more proficient and accurate if I have some form of tool to help me do a nice paired samples t-test (or several of them. I don't think an ANOVA will help us much, but I guess we'll see what Andrea needs)...

Granted, we could just do an entire qualitative analysis, though having quantitative analysis to back up what we think will hold more merit. I at least think we have a decent draft of our discussion, or things that we think we needed to mention. (If you don't know the difference by now between the 2 large Q words, you may want to google or wiki that. It IS important.)

There was no destination. This is a journey of inspiration.

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Alright so

Posted on [August 1, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

.. are the 2 most loathed words by me right now. "That," "umm" and "ah" also make me cringe at hearing them... I'll get over it with time... hopefully.

Transcribing sucked. I spent Friday from when I got back here till about 11pm, then woke up Saturday at 6am, took a 2 hour break for food around 1ish, then "finished" my day at 3am (It was more exhaustion than anything)... Sunday I was working 9a till 3p when I decided I was finished and for the sake of my sanity, could not think of anything left. There were several blank files or files that were very short that did not help. That was also annoying.

Thankfully, I was able to finish my tasks to the best of my abilities though I am in a TON of pain right now. Figured I'd blog now so I can dedicate this day to getting more stuff done.

I really can't wait to finish stuff here and go home.

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transcription and interpretation.

Posted on [July 29, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

Hi all. Just needed lots of room in an environment that will allow me to keep everything confidential. So, most of this afternoon is dedicated to getting the concept maps interpreted, then off to more transcriptions. I'll be transcribing most the afternoon, and now that my computer plays well with WMP files, I can do a lot more elsewhere over the weekend instead of trying to keep confidential files confidential out in the open. Call me crazy, but that doesn't make sense

trying to keep things confidential out in the open.

I am happy to be summoned back to lab, just be sure to note I need at least 6 hours for each transcription to be done accurately. I might see you over the weekend, but then again, probably not.

I wish everyone luck on their projects. May time be on your side this weekend.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments Off](#)

Typing lots.

Posted on [July 28, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

Well- over the past week I've been pretty sick with some flu-like virus thing. Thankfully, it appears I'm starting to get over it. I'm also going to be very selfish and keep it to myself. I don't share things like illness well. (Hence the mask, especially if I'm going to be sitting in one place for more than a few hours.) Watch, I will probably be all better the time I go home. Bummer sauce.

Yesterday, we got to go to the financial district and the science center in Des Moines. It was a neat little city that seemed to have a lot to offer. The financial district was very cool. There were people there focused on user center design, and it was nice to see a practical application of that. The science center was interesting. I really liked how interactive everything was. I was happy I got to see the body exhibit, even though it made me really light-headed and slightly uncomfortable. Oh well, life is about stepping out of your comfort zone and experiencing new things.

So, the rest of this week will be filled with transcribing and analysis of concept maps. I expect to put in close to 40 hours over the next few days. I also expect to be working from home, because a lot of the information, though it's not personal, is supposed to be kept confidential. Challenge accepted and I'm excited. We get to meet up with Andrea so I can get our little recorder things.

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Studies done.

Posted on [July 26, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

We now get to analyze our data.

What an experience. Stressful (good kind of stress.), never know quite what to expect and really makes us think about what is actually going on. Do people really need scaffolding in learning? How little can we get away with?

I actually say yes. In the "real world" you get some amount of training when you're new to a job. People are given a time period in which they should be able to gain some proficiency in the job, generally are evaluated after that time frame, and may receive more training after that. (Generally, some jobs are better than others.)

Even if someone is "thrown to the wolves" with respect to be given a computer and told what to do, there is a learning curve. I wonder what would have happened if we would have given more time to participants. Would they have learned the program was a teaching tool?

I suppose this will be great to incorporate into our discussion.

Our luncheon lecture was very great to have. Today, Thelma from the Graduate College spent some time discussing what needs to be thought about for grad school. I think I'm prepared to apply, though I am terrified. The whole process is a bit intimidating. I certainly hope my advisor will be able to help facilitate missing information. I am no expert, I'm as prepared as I'm going to be, and I'm just going to do my best.

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Study one done

Posted on [July 25, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

YAY!

Study one is done, completed, and has provided us with insight. It was really great! Can't say a whole lot. Don't worry, that will change after tomorrow

afternoon. Again, to the Invest team, thank you so much for your time!

I am obstinate. I will be here.

Bide your time and hold out hope.

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Journal club/ today

Posted on [July 22, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

Today, Team ISP and I were making very large strides with our prototype and research. Thank you all for your support in letting us devote journal time to that.

I get that EEG's are important. I'm not sure why anyone would devote time and effort into making the EEG's produce music. It's cool research. Not to insult them, but I'm not sure how that would be practical in biofeedback. Biofeedback is a method used to help people who suffer from chronic stress or severe anxiety to relax by getting feedback they're doing it right. The feedback is typically audio or visual. I understand they're trying to help people create "classical or relaxing" music... but people are creative. What if they don't want relaxing music, or the software malfunctions and gives them something way off? Oh well. Only science can tell. It would be nice if everyone could use it.

I understand the EEG side of things... what I didn't understand was the music side of things. The sheet music in the middle of an academic paper seemed out of place to me. I can't read music.

Oh well. I hope it was a fun discussion.

I hope you all have fun playing paintball tomorrow. I will be in the UX lab for the remainder of the evening so I can get stuff done.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the support of Marie, the ISP team, and my good friend caffeine.

Posted in [Journal Club](#) | [Comments Off](#)

etiquette

Posted on [July 21, 2011](#) by [Jeanette](#)

The etiquette lunch was fun. I didn't really learn anything though, and it made me wonder if whoever came up with those rules in the first place (On the American side) was perhaps a little OCD. My parents instructed me to eat the "euro-way" and I'm not going to go about changing my habits now.

It's too bad my parents have already been over most the basics. (Not to mention I get all sorts of fantastic stories from my dad who goes on those dinner things. I got some great stories about some higher up's in management getting supper drunk and throwing things out their hotel room window. Thankfully, I don't know names. Actually, on that note, I think it's better not to drink around strangers. I guess my advice is "don't drink when it has to do with work or school"...))

I suppose I could apologize for being sick, but that's not going to get anywhere productive.

Anyway- our research, we are going to try to condense our material so it's more digestible. I can't wait to get to the number crunching, writing the rest of our paper and just getting this done. It's starting to get to be a bit of a grind, but I am trying to keep my optimistic view on research... (like maybe we'll find something statistically significant.)

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