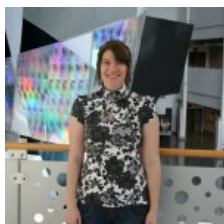


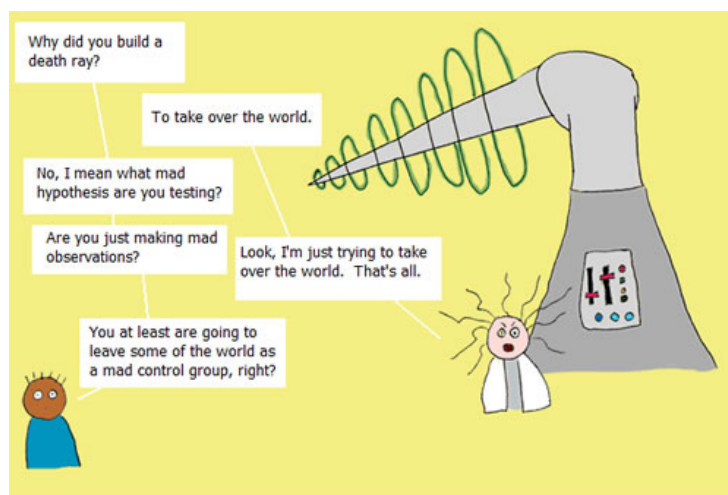
Kerstyn Clover



Kerstyn Clover, Defiance College, Digital Forensic Science, [VetMed](#)

one more for the road

Posted on [August 5, 2011](#) by [Kerstyn](#)



Sad truth: Most "mad scientists" are actually just mad engineers

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you've yet to see the last from me

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

Good news, everyone!
(Did you just read that in Dr. Farnsworth's voice? I hope you did.)

Tomorrow is presentation day and it turns out we don't actually have to have a full speech! My team had a 10-15 minute speech prepared and it turns out we just have to know the ins and outs of our project and be able to talk about them when people come look at our poster. We've been eating and breathing this for ten weeks now, so I ain't even mad about it.

Also, we got in our T-shirts. I did the design and Ted helped edit/clean it up and I think they look fantastic. It's super cool to have my neat design on a T-shirt. Check it out:



I have so much food to eat, but not much left to pack. I'm pretty minimalistic about my belongings to begin with and all of my clothes and almost all of my electronics are packed. About all that's left is kitcheny stuff and my backpack and suitcase I'll be living out of for a little while. I am so excited to go home and watch tv and relax....work out BEFORE seven p.m.....a lot of little things really. Then it's back to school and working my butt off even harder than I have here.

I don't think it's hit me yet that it's almost time to leave everyone. Seriously guys, I'm going to miss you all, I think.

⊕

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thnks fr th mmrs

Posted on August 3, 2011 by Kerstyn

Today we were all given an assignment to blog about the things we liked and the things we would change about the program.

I'd like to preface all of this with something else first, though, so important readers: skip to the bold parts. If anyone actually reads this for feedback. I know we've done about five other types of feedback reports already so I wouldn't blame anyone for not reading this one.

I want to thank my team, first off. Kayla, Sharrod and I have worked together beautifully, I think - and even beyond the project you two have been great moral support.

Also, thank you to every other intern that ever listened to me complain about stuff or go on and on about what I was working on, because there's always a point at which you're sick and tired of listening to someone else's whining and none of you ever told me to shut up. (Or if you did, I wasn't listening.) And thanks be to Ted and Marie for helping us not be little lost kittens wandering around the campus and lab as well as dealing with us being silly and loud in the union and on the river and the ropes course...you get the idea.

Things I liked:

+ I really appreciated all of the introductions and orientation type things in the beginning. It was a lot to take in, but later on it was good to have already met our awesome IT staff and (most of) the participating faculty so that I at least recognized them.

+ The extra-curricular activities and our mentors. Spending the whole summer in the cold lab would have been awful without our breaks here and there to go out and have fun and get to know each other. I know work felt more tolerable once I had bonded with my coworkers.

+ Blogging! I think that the blog is a good way for all of us to vent or chat or discuss our progress. Of course, I keep a personal blog already so I might be a bit biased since I'm used to writing about my day anyway.

+ I learned a lot. Even though not all of the classes went well or are particularly applicable to me, I think that having experience in new things is always a great thing. The classes were part of what peaked my interest when I was checking out the REU and I think all of our teachers were pretty great. Even if OpenGL is stupid and never did what I wanted it to.

+ I also really appreciated when we finally got to see how our testing affected our project. Getting revisions back from our grad student were a big help for me to feel like I did something useful with my time and work this summer instead of just a minimum-wage job or something.

Things I would like to see change:

+ I don't know if I am alone in this or not, but I felt a lot of animosity/condescension in the workplace. It seemed that the grad students working alongside us in the lab were not happy to be here (not to mention the students at the luncheon lecture at ISU who said that they wouldn't have even come here if they had gotten into the schools they really wanted). We were constantly told that we were being prepared for grad school...as we said that we were starting to feel strained or frustrated or overworked. I think that those working with the REU should try to focus on actually hearing what the interns are saying instead of brushing over it - I felt as if every time I had a complaint, the people that said they were there to help didn't really help me, they chuckled and told me to suck it up in not so many words. This along with the general feeling that a lot of people treated us like kids created a really negative work environment once I began to uncover it. At that point you might suggest going up in the ranks, but if I don't feel my voice is being heard I certainly don't have the confidence to expect someone perceptibly important like Eliot to have an ear for me. Except for one another and sometimes Ted, it felt like I had no one to turn to for help with anything besides tech support or classwork. This is really my biggest issue, because this REU was a big commitment for all of us just like it is for the school and its staff. We flew and drove long distances, left our families and friends, potentially other jobs/internships or the chance to take classes...and I know I for one felt like some staff didn't care what I had to say, what my priorities were, or what my circumstances were whatsoever. When I read up on the REU I expected it to be full of smart strong collegiate students and run by a school, ergo we would be treated like adults and be treated basically like the grad students. What I got was being a rising college senior who never got to express her opinions, defend herself, or ask for help without getting eyerolls.

To be quite honest, if I could do this summer over again I would consider going back to working the grill at my local McDonald's. There I can *expect* to be belittled but at least I can check out mentally because I'm not working on something interesting or important that I want to get emotionally invested in and I could be with the people I know and love.

+ Class timing/scheduling - classes like the craft of research and HCI I think really could have been moved back so that we could relate more to them. It was hard to focus on CoR and journal club when we hadn't even started doing research. I would have appreciated them a lot more once we got started, I think.

+ I wish my faculty and grad student wouldn't have been so busy. Jared and Ryan, you two have been great and you've both apologized for being gone so much, but it was still really unfortunate to be basically the only team that didn't really see their upper halves much.

+Somewhat related, I felt as if my team's project in particular took a long time to get rolling. The other teams were working and getting relationships between the classes and their projects while we just spun our wheels reading for the first month or so. On top of this, our project was already nearing completion, so our prototype felt really useless until around last week when we got to see how our testing helped redesign the dashboard. I'm glad it worked out in the end, but it would be nice to do something so that those first ~6 weeks weren't spent pulling our hairs out or feeling like all of our work was just busy work.

I was going to add in a bit about giving applicants more of a feeling about what they will be working on, but I'm not sure how much is a lack of information put out by the REU and how much was just me blundering into the program because I was notified about it by a professor. I feel like I didn't really know what I was getting into until I got here, but I'll give the REU the benefit of the doubt. I do wish I would have been able to apply to a specific team or at least be notified of what my project would be *before* getting here, though. I'm not sure that a digital forensics student would really be that thrilled about building a webpage prototype to synthesize information, so had I known that beforehand it would have really weighed on my decision of what to do with my summer. As I remember it, my email was a big vague. I guess I expected more of a security/computer-y aspect but like I said, I'll assume that was on me, not the REU.

In all things, peace.
Kerstyn

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honey badger don't care

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

Alright, Real Talk(tm) time here folks.
My work is winding down and I think my team has done a fantastic job this summer, so now that that's out of the way except for final revisions you and I, dear readers, are going to have a leisurely chat.

I hope you all realize that since we're working with computers all the time and have known each other now for ten weeks, you have no excuses to not stay bestest friends with me, and/or send me care packages at school and/or show up to important events as needed.

Remember that time we went to the water park and some crazy people went to the big slide but for the most part we all just sat in the lazy river together? Yeah, that was pretty sweet.

Oh, and that time that we all saved each other from sudden death at the ropes course.

You and I go way back, dear reader. Way back.

So don't expect to just go home and forget about me once you slip back into your routine of drooling into your textbooks when you fall asleep studying and playing video games when you should be sleeping.

How do I know you drool when you sleep? Don't ask questions. I just *know*.

I'll be there, dear reader.
Every facebook update you post.
Every class you take.

Phil Collins can take it from here.

Ⓢ

PS this is a gif of a dachshund on a turntable
that is all

□

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

nyan nyan nyannyannyan nyan nyannyannyan

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

[Put a little nyan cat in your life.](#)

I woke up not feeling too great but I can't really tell what's causing it yet. I do know, however, that my luck is 100% the kind that would get me sick right before presentations and such start. I'm not too worried about it at the moment but I'll be lazing around more than usual for a little while I think.

Our poster has been submitted albeit not with one of the images we intended because the deadline came a little too fast. I think it looks great, though. Our paper is about ready as well.

The weekend went by really fast, which made me very sad. Ramy and Alicia and I went to Des Moines and played with kitties at the animal shelter, and Jordan and Ramy and I went to the water park. A group also tried to go see the Reiman Gardens but they were closed and it was just too hot to feel like climbing over the fence :p We also still have to go do fireworks some time. It feels like we have lots of things to do still and not enough time now that the summer is slipping by.

Ⓢ

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this post brought to you by corgis

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

Hello, friends.

Last night I sang Stu's Song from *The Hangover* while accompanying myself on the ukulele. I hope you enjoyed it and no one noticed my crippling stage fright. True story, I quit choir because I couldn't sing in front of people unless I was in a big crowd.

I also got my tragus pierced at one of the shops downtown after I cashed my check. It's something I've been wanting to do for a little while. I like it 😊

But if any of you are horseplaying and that ear gets bumped, so help me there will be consequences.

So keep that in mind.

I've just been editing the paper and working on the poster, nothing of note, so....enjoy some adorable corgi action! I don't really like little dogs but corgis and beagles are my exceptions.





I just did a Google search / raided my own saved photos for the most adorable corgis to brighten your day 😊 I hope it worked!

⊕

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

What do you call Australia's local area network?

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

Yesterday was pretty fun, although I wish we had gotten a little more time to run around the science center. Visiting Principal Financial was just kind of run-of-the-mill at this point to me but I did like that we got to talk to some of the people who work at the Science Center. The issues they address overlap quite a bit with our work in terms of trying to make things attractive to people so that the audience will actually use them.

More work on the poster; one of the things that bugs me about it is no matter how long I work on it, there seems to be little noticeable change. *I* know that the lines are moved up ten pixels and I made them flush with each other, but no one else notices. #firstworldproblems

We need to hurry up and get our data analyzed and take a couple of photos/screenshots and it will basically be done, though. I just worry that I will wind up working through most of the weekend (sigh) to do so.

I'm also both excited and loathe to start packing up soonish, yipes.

⊕

Oh - it's the LAN down under.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

oom-pah, oom-pah, stick it up your jum-pah

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

I've been spending most of my time working on our poster. See, this is why I spend my art-time drawing naked people in charcoal: there's no color scheme to worry about. I draw, I move on. Commercial-ish graphic design (to me) tends to be harder.

Tomorrow is a field trip, so that's exciting.



Early wake-up times are less so, especially today's which happened to be our third false fire alarm since we've been here. I'm beginning to worry that the fire department is going to get sick of us and just stop coming if it keeps up.

I have a shortage of neither Beatles lyrics nor Neil Patrick Harris gifs.

Also, I'm getting really worried about learning a song in time for the talent show. Ukulele is kind of my only cool talent after you rule out turning oxygen into carbon dioxide.

Ⓢ

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Comments Off

twelve days left

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

That's right, only twelve more days to wrap everything up. I think it's still not sinking in quite right. I'm also confident that my team will finish strong so I'm not worried.

I think I had a little too much ice cream at lunch today, my tummy's upset. I too was holding out for the banana bread that time forgot 😞

I feel like I don't have a lot to write about today. I've been working on the poster here and there and will be participating in ISP's study this afternoon. This weekend my boyfriend came over to visit and we opted to go down to Des Moines instead of paintballing. I had a lot of fun just exploring the city; we found a couple of neat restaurants. I wish I could have been in two places at once as I do enjoy paintballing. There's a really nice course near Defiance, where I go to school.

Welp....that's about it. Man, I'm getting boring.

Ⓢ

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is it really friday? finally?

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

I kept getting my days mixed up all week this week so I keep forgetting that it's Friday.

It was really hard to keep from laughing out loud all day today just from remembering our various shenanigans caught on tape for the video scavenger hunt last night. That was so much fun, and I think the pouring rain made it even better. Running around like a weirdo is just plain boring when it's nice out. You have to do it soaking wet and barefoot for the full effect.

Yesterday during testing a bunch of equipment fell on my foot and today I learned a lesson called 'email people when stuff goes wrong so they hopefully don't get as mad at you'. Now I'm just trying to decide whether or not Andrea was serious when she said she would send me the bill if it was broken....

We started looking through all of our data on UserZoom but I for one have no idea where to start analyzing. I can look at it and see patterns but we will have to start quantifying it so it can go in the paper. A lot of people seem worried about getting the paper done, but that doesn't worry me much. I think I'm pretty good at writing papers. I've written plenty, at any rate - I ought to have learned *something* by now 😊

A lot of the other interns are getting excited to go home in two weeks but I feel like I could just bawl. Going home means summer is over and leaving everyone here and going back to my usual grind at school which is honestly even more work than here, plus it's my senior year so I have a required internship hours quota to fill and my certification tests and finding a job or grad school and jsfkghjlfgh!

So I am very happy being here with my coworkers and just hope to make the most of our last weeks here.



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