



## Todd Wegter



Todd Wegter, Iowa State, Computer Engineering, [Robotics](#)

### The Summer in Review

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

Today's going well. Got the door made to spec, got a 3.5th revision of the sink diagram done, took care of a little planning for the fall semester, and successfully completed the summer end survey.

I understand that I am now to comment on what I liked about the summer and what I would change. I really liked our project, and I had quite a bit of fun building the apparatuses for it. I would've liked to have been more directly involved with the robot itself, but it's more of a 2 person job, and one of the other students was more familiar with the Linux environment, so he and Vlad did the majority of the work with the robot.

The REU was valuable to me because it gave me a look into what grad student life it like, and to be brutally honest, it looks like it sucks. Working 8-10 hours per day 7 days a week has limited appeal to me. I think a better effort could be made in making grad school looking more attractive, though. The only times we really talked about grad school was when we were talking about how much we worked and how that was just a preparation for grad school. Before the REU, I was thinking about grad school, but now I'm fairly confident it's not for me. I know you've said the goal is to help us make a decision, but if you want us to decide to go to grad school, then you need to make grad school look more interesting. Don't pick students to come tell us how awesome grad school is that didn't even want to come here.

I feel like the internship that I served at the Developmental Robotics Laboratory could be a very positive experience if it were not coupled with the REU. Something needs to be done about the clear separation of the robotics team from the REU. Developmental Robotics has nothing to do with HCI. One of my teammates felt cheated out of doing HCI because we did nothing for our research that related to HCI or the REU. It was also pretty clear that we weren't really here for the REU. We were here to put out a paper. This seems to contradict a lot of what the REU stands for. Additionally, the hours that the robotics guys work don't line up with the REU at all. This made for many 12+ hour days for the members of our team, which is just ridiculous. This needs to be presented to applicants, at the very least. Maybe people should apply specifically for certain teams, and not for the REU as a whole (ie mark which teams an applicant is interested in on the application).

I did really enjoy the extracurricular activities and field trips. I thought the trips were very helpful in grasping the ideas of HCI, and the extracurricular activities were a great way to build community. I feel like I've made some great friends here this summer. Ted and Marie did a great job of fulfilling their role as mentors. They made us feel like their peers and looked out for our best interests. This made it much easier to listen to them when they had something to tell us.

Overall, I have enjoyed my summer here at the VRAC HCI REU, but I think that somehow separating the Developmental Robotics Team from the REU could prove beneficial.

I'm sure I'll have to work on that sink diagram some more today, and we supposedly are giving a tour of the lab to some little kids. Now we have even less time to refine the paper...

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

---

## Bloggin like a Fool

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

Today marks the final day of working on our paper and so forth. It is finish. Aside from making sure it looks good and reads well, the paper is done. The poster is done. The experiment, however, is not. Therefore our poster and paper for the REU will be over what we've done this summer, but not necessarily all of it. We just won't/didn't have time to put in the new stuff. That's alright though, because the paper is still good and truthful and everything.

I am hoping to start packing and laundry tonight, as well as get a little study abroad work and start writing a letter for an honors class I'm leading this fall. Oh boy!!

Today's going to be an interesting day 😊

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

---

## Blog

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

Blog

It's cold in here today. I'm thirsty. And now we have to find more literature. Yay.

Blog

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

---

## Work

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

Eighteen Hour Work Days

Robot Swipes a Card Four Times

Sleeping Like a Thief

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

---

## Knee Deep

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

Knee Deep is a cool song. Zac Brown Band, so it's country, but it's great. I can't get it out of my head.

Julie gets here tomorrow night, which is really exciting!!! I can't to see her 😊 Her surprise got here yesterday so I'm set 😊 I've been thinking it's a day ahead all week, so it feels like she should get here tonight which is kind of frustrating 😊

Shane's selling his paintball gear for \$150 just in case you're interested.

We're really starting to get this paper shaped up, even though we still haven't been able to run an actual experiment. We've developed our method and shown that it works, but we still need to do an actual experiment.

Peace

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

---

## Ridiculous

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

This is all just starting to get ridiculous - feels like Everyday I'm Shufflin'

Not really looking forward to this talent show either. I have no idea what to do, and I was looking forward to actually going to Salt Company for once this summer.

It's cold.

---

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

---

## The Begining of the Foreseeably Longest Week Ever

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

---

It's Monday. Boo. I had a lot of fun this weekend, and today is going by really slowly. Probably because all I want is for the weekend to get here so I can see Julie again.

Tonight Tonight is an awesome song. You should all get it stuck in your heads.

I don't have much else to say. I've been feeling rather weird today. Not hungry, but hungry, know what I mean? Kinda stinks. Not my best day :/

---

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

---

## It's Friday.

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

---

It's Friday. Yay! That means that we get to go paintballing tomorrow, and I get to see my Julie in just one week!!!! Best of luck to our opponents tomorrow: you may have some difficulty seeing Jordan and myself... heeheehee 😊

I am also looking forward to sleeping in tomorrow. I'm beat. I could go for a nap, but I don't think Vlad or Alex would be to thrilled with that.

I also got my moving out crap figured out. My friend Dipski moves into his RA single room on the 6th and he's going to let me stow some crap in his room. Yay!!! Dipski rocks!!!!

I have yawned about 6 times while writing this so far 😊

Here's to a productive rest of the day!

Cheers.

---

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

---

## Someday...

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

---

Someday when I am rich and questionably famous, I am going to bring the train back to Pella. I don't care how much it will cost. I don't care how many people tell me I'm crazy. I'm going to do it, and it will be amazing.

Micheal Buble's "Feeling Good" music video is amazing. You should check it up. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edwsf-8F3sl>

I have successfully completed a bibTex entry for a water proof glove sleeve thing and some research about robots and water for Shane this morning. Yay for getting on a paper!!!!

Ves bot-slapped the robot last night and broke it, so it'll be out of commission until Alex finishes his grant application, which probably won't be til Tuesday. Crud. Until then, it looks like we'll be pounding out the paper.

The etiquette lunch was fun, but begged for a desert. I can't go anywhere without people knowing who I am... kinda scary 😊

Cheers

---

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

---

## LaTeX

Posted on [July 20, 2011](#) by [Todd](#)

So LaTeX is kind of cool. I'm starting to understand how it works and some of its many little idiosyncrasies. Yay. Now I'm off to revise the methodology section as per Vlad's specification. Here goes nothing!

I'm pumped for paintballing this weekend!! Note to Ted: If it gets cancelled for any reason, I will not be pleased. And I will hold you personally responsible. And I will not be pleased.

Here's to a good Hump Day e'r'r'body!!

Cheers

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