

Erik Zorrilla

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2016/people/interns/erik-zorrilla/

Post #28 Goodbye);

Posted on [August 5, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) August 5, 2016

Well today is Friday (8/5/16) and it is the last day of the program. Where can I start? Honestly I really enjoyed the program. Everything about my summer experience was perfect. The VRAC really took care of us in every possible way (bikes, food, gym, weekend activities, etc.) The people working here were very supportive and willing to help. For that I am very appreciative. Special Thanks to Amy, Eliot, and Stephen for making everything possible.

The REU program was filled with personality which made my experience very memorable! At times certain people got on my nerves but I cant blame them because I know that I was difficult to handle as well! I will miss the intricate discussions with McKnight and Stanley especially! I will miss the never ending sassy attitudes coming from Samantha and Rocio. I will miss the twisted sense of humor from Steven and "innocent" June lol. I will miss the goofy personalities from Zoe, Briana, and Wizdawg! I will even miss the obnoxious laughter of Brian and Karo.

This group was very cool to be a part of and I will forever be grateful! Once again I would like to thank everyone that was part of my summer experience! I hope to see you all again eventually! Anyways happy Friday people and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #27

Posted on [July 22, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 22, 2016

Today is Friday (7/22/16) and it is officially the end of the 8th week. Honestly I feel like we don't have enough time to conduct our research. We have been taking many courses, attending lunch and learns, and have many planned activities. I do think that this is very good for educational purposes but it gets a bit redundant sometimes. The only reason why I am bringing this up is because in all honesty I feel as if we have not had enough lab time and well the main thing that we are here for is to conduct research.

Anyways rant over! On another note today we had a very good GRE prep session. The talk was very informative, and helpful. I learned some new words, got some math practice in and best of all I got some free prep books! One thing I will add is that the cookies provided were great! Anyways happy Friday people!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla



Post #26

Posted on [July 21, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 21, 2016

Well today is Thursday (7/21/16) and once again I'm amazed at how fast the week has gone by. We are on our eighth week and it feels like I was just arriving here yesterday. Anyways, yesterday I attended the personal statement session by Dr. Tim Sunday. This was a very informative session and I really enjoyed it.

This morning we (Rocio, Wisdom, and I) met at the lab. We were able to knock off a couple of experiments and had a pretty productive morning. Dr. Richard stone was the speaker for our lunch and learn lecture. He was very energetic and really was into what he was presenting. I really enjoyed how well structured his presentation was. Additionally I enjoyed how laid back he was when we were just chatting while eating lunch. Deadlines are coming up but I am ready.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #25

Posted on [July 20, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 20, 2016

This week has had many fun things happen. On Monday we had a field trip which lasted all day. We started by visiting the Principal financial building in downtown Des Moines. We learned all about how to make smart investments, 401k's, and other potential retirement plans. After that we ate at a restaurant which had a very nice presentation. I decided to try my luck and order the ceviche and ended up regretting it. On the bright side the dessert was pretty good! After that we went to a science museum. I really enjoyed it since it brought back nostalgia from my childhood. The majority of the people at the museum were kids but that was the best part in my opinion.

Today my team and I have been working on a new part of our experiment. We have been measuring the flow rate of individual channels. Now we have made a design that will test the flow rate of multiple channels at a time! Anyways that's all folks.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #24

Posted on [July 15, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 15, 2016

Well another week has officially gone by... I really don't know what to say this summer has really been something

else. our research has been going well, we have been productive in the lab and best part is that our data is starting to make sense! We had a couple mess ups in the lab yesterday but we fixed that and ran new experiments today.

So last night I was talking to McLovin and he helped me catch my first Pokemon! My first Pokemon was Pikachu! How cool is that? Yes I gave in but i don't care because I'm enjoying the experience. I guess I can't make fun of Pokemon go players anymore!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #23

Posted on [July 14, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 14, 2016

Well today is Thursday (7/14/16). It's crazy how fast the week has gone by. The lunch and learn today was pretty interesting. our speaker spoke about how socially acceptable a product was. The product that she mostly spoke about was the google watch.

My group and I have been making good progress in the lab and are getting somewhat relevant results. The channels that we have been constructing have been getting smaller every time that we construct them. When we first started they were a couple inches long and now they are barely a couple of centimeters. Another cool thing that we found is that the addition of tape to the paper microfluidic channels does in fact add pressure.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #22

Posted on [July 12, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 12, 2016

Today is Tuesday (7/12/16) and once again I am blogging. Well where can I begin? For starters we had an etiquette lunch yesterday. The food was good, the speaker was well informed on the topic, and most importantly I was there with my crew members. Another thing that was cool about the lunch was the fact that Angelica joined us.

Today we had our Lunch and Learn lecture with Dr. Gilbert. He spoke about his previous research and how it can tie in to his current and future research. Additionally he spoke about what it is like to be in graduate school and finding a program that is right for you. Essentially what I got out of the whole lecture was that it wont be easy but it will be worth it!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #21

Posted on [July 11, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 11, 2016

Lets start this post a bit differently. Today I find myself looking back at the week and wondering how in the world did the week go by so fast... Well as of today we have been here 6 whole weeks! Today I have been reading literature and being productive. I just realized that I never submitted this draft, sorry!

Anyways about this weekend.... I had a great time since we hungout as a group. One of the cool things about this REU's is that we are all characters and embrace it! This group is full of personality (which can be good and bad) and I know that I will cherish the memories made this summer!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #20

Posted on [July 7, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 7, 2016

Well today is Thursday (7/7/16). Once again I am amazed at how fast the day/ week has gone by. Yesterday we presented our MCA assignment. As previously mentioned on my last post I worked on making an emoji and explained the concept of layering. Its safe to say that I am not completely oblivious to what 3D printing is. I did my presentation and felt pretty confident about explaining what the difference between layering and slicing is.

At first I was a bit nervous about what type of questions I would get asked. however once I began presenting the nerves went away. The only thing that I didn't like was that I kept on sweating due to the fact that it was very hot and humid yesterday. Although my presentation went smoothly, I was a bit upset that the MakerBot 3D printer got jammed and my emoji was not successfully made. However this afternoon I found a finished copy of my emoji next to my computer thanks to Alex! Anyways, that's all that I have for today!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #19

Posted on [July 6, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 6, 2016

Well today is Wednesday (7/6/16). Once again I am sitting in my desk wondering what I will blog about today. For starters I feel like I am understanding the concept of 3D printing. After 2 days of wondering how I will print my emoji, I think i found a way to make it happen. Solid works was a bit of a hassle but after receiving help from multiple sources the design seems to have been finalized. Right now my emoji is being printed so stay tuned!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #18

Posted on [July 5, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) July 5, 2016

Well today is Tuesday (7/5/16) and we are starting the sixth week. We just came back from a long weekend and well there was a lot of exciting things that occurred. On Saturday we had a “potluck” which was pretty much a get together at Uncle Stan’s apartment with tons of food! After the potluck a few people decided to go bike riding and apparently that was fun! On Sunday not much happened other than a bit of reading literature and then i worked up the courage to work out my legs! At this very moment I am still feeling sore, but I don’t regret my decision. Monday not much happened other than a very long bike ride with Steve to “Old Chicago” for dinner. I’m looking forward to working in the lab this week. Well, yeah, that’s all for now folks!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #17

Posted on [June 30, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 30, 2016

Well today is Thursday (6/30/16). We have been working on our presentation for craft of research, so stay tuned! I was a bit disappointed that we really don’t have much to do in the lab since our mentors are out of town. Honestly i like all of this technology but what really excites me is the lab work. I’m a bit frustrated that i have not had much lab time but hey it is what it is!

Today we had a lunch and learn speaker who spoke about technology and the fashion industry. In all honesty her topic was very interesting but i could not pay attention due to the fact that her presentation had so many technical difficulties. It was a bit unfortunate but I do appreciate how determined she was to making everything work! othare than that nothing has been new.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #16

Posted on [June 29, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 29, 2016

Today is Wednesday (6/29/16). Its crazy how fast this week has gone by, I mean its hump day!!! Anyways today we had our last lecture for our deeper dive portion. We learned about the different “3D” printers, limitations, cost efficiency, etc. This afternoon we will be choosing what our MCA will be. I am still unaware of what I am going to do, but what I do know is that it will be cool (I hope).

Wisdom, Grocio, and I have been working on our presentation and literature review, so stay tuned! Aside from working on our project, the lab time has also been pretty productive. We have been testing out several microfluidic channel designs. Well I have gotten to the point in my blog that I ran out of cool stuff to blog about. Have a nice day people!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #15

Posted on [June 28, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 28, 2016

Today is Tuesday (6/28/16). I do apologize to whoever is reading this due to the fact that my blog post may sound a bit repetitive but to my defense it is a bit difficult to blog about something new when I do the same every day! Well today we had some lab time at 9am (great way to start the day). We experimented with different microfluidic channel designs with the hopes of determining which channel design will be the best.

Once we got back from our lab time we had the lunch and learn lecture. I don't usually don't blog about them but today's lecture was very interesting! I learned that Photoshop can work magic and everything is not what it seems. In the words of Stanley "Take her to the pool on the first date". At first I really didn't see his point but after today's lecture I now understand him. Anyways have a nice day people!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #14

Posted on [June 27, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 27, 2016

Today is Monday (6/27/16). It is the start of the fifth week! Honestly I'm shocked at how fast the weeks have gone by. Currently we have been working on our deeper dive topics and I couldn't have been placed in a better group. The 3D printing makes me feel like I am living in the future. Kinda scary to think how tech savvy we are becoming, but hey I wont complain.

This weekend at the Des Moines art festival was AWESOME! The art was great, the music was peaceful, and the food was delicious. Uncle Stan and I ran into a Greek food truck which was very tasty. I am still a bit sick but by the looks of it I should be fine by Wednesday (I hope!). Anyways that's it for now, happy Monday people!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #13

Posted on [June 24, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 24, 2016

Today is FRIDAYYY (6/24/16), which means that the weekend is only a few hours away! Ironically this is my 13th post and it just so happened to fall on a friday. Get it, Friday the 13th lol. Anyways I'm still sick but I'm slowly recovering. this week has been a bit hectic due to the fact that we are about to enter the fifth week. Deadlines are creeping up and everything is getting real.

Today I learned a bit about 3D printing. Honestly it looks really cool and everything I just find it a bit scary to imagine how it could impact our every day lives! Anyways I really don't have much else to write so I would like to wish everyone a great weekend!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #12

Posted on [June 23, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 23, 2016

Well today is Thursday (6/23/16), and it's almost the end of week four! One thing that I have noticed is that ever since I have been working here at the VRAC the hours seem to be going by faster. Additionally I would like to mention that my fellow group members and I have made progress in our project and I feel like we have a better understanding. I still find myself lost at times but I guess that's all part of the learning process.

Yesterday I was out and stayed in my room. Currently I am dealing with some unknown cold/ potential virus. My sinuses are acting up and it seems like the mucus wont go away. I feel a bit better today but my appetite is still suppressed, and my body still feels tired! Hopefully, I am fully recovered by Friday! other than that it has been a pretty productive week!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #11

Posted on [June 21, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 21, 2016

Today is Tuesday (6/21/16). So there are a couple of things that I have noticed during these past four weeks and I want to call my self out on them (good and bad). For starters my fitness goals are dead, therefore as of TODAY I will make a better effort to commit to attending the gym. Today I showed up 2 minutes late to the office which is unacceptable since I've been punctual for the past four weeks.

On a more positive note, I have been reading more literature on paper microfluidics and its safe to say that I'm understanding what I am working on a lot better! As for my computer skills, although I might be the worst coder in the group, I still feel like I am continuing to learn every day! other than that I really don't have anything else to add!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #10

Posted on [June 20, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 20, 2016

Today is Monday (6/20/16) and it is the first day of the FOURTH week! It's crazy to see how fast the 10 weeks are

Today is Monday (6/20/16) and it is the first day of the 4th week. Its crazy to see how fast the 16 weeks are passing! Anyways today I made a very cool mountain landscape on Unity. Although some of my colleagues were giving me a hard time, I think I did a good job! The best part is that I didn't download any themes, EVERYTHING was done from scratch!

Aside from the fact that I am becoming more tech knowledgeable, I feel like I have established very good relationships. For that I am very thankful! Finally I would like to comment on how much fun I had this weekend at the Team building course.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #9

Posted on [June 17, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 17, 2016

Today is Friday, pretty crazy to think that the 3rd week has pretty much come to an end. today in journal club we spoke about an article that had to do with the virtual world. Honestly at first I just thought that the virtual world would be used only by video game nerds trying to escape reality. After reading the article and discussing it with my cohorts I realized that there are more applications than I previously thought (ex. Army research, medical field, etc.). I have really learned a lot about technology in these past 3 weeks and I am excited for the next 7 weeks.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #8

Posted on [June 16, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 16, 2016

Well today is Thursday and I'm here wondering what I am going to blog about. So I decided to write about what my goals are by the end of this internship. Aside from the fact that I want to become a more well rounded individual and researcher before I go into the military, I do realize that I have to change a couple of things about myself. I am aware that everyone is not going to like me but I do feel the need to learn how to channel my honesty. I personally hate liars and people who beat around the bush, which is why I choose to be honest no matter how bad the situation is. The only issue with this is that sometimes my way of delivering the message can be misinterpreted and offend certain people.

I need to be more conscious of people's feelings as well as my surroundings to make sure that I don't brutally offend others. Not everyone comes from the same background as mine (which is fine) therefore they cant handle things the same way that I do. Personally I would much rather have someone be honest and make me feel worthless than have someone hype me up and make me feel good when in reality that is not the truth. Anyways I would like to apologize to anyone that I have offended with my bluntness, I will try to be a bit nicer when telling the truth. (;

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #7

Posted on [June 15, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 15, 2016

So today we were learning how to use the Maya program. Honestly I did not feel as lost in this course as I did in the C++ course training despite the fact that I missed the first day of class. I was able to build a very average looking farm house lol. Even though the project that I was working on did not look as good as some other projects from the group, I am glad that I am progressing.

Yesterday when my research group and I met up with our professor and grad student mentor everything became a lot clearer. We were able to ask a lot of questions and surprisingly most of them were answered. Additionally we were able to work on our problem statement which is due at the end of the week. Overall this wee has been productive!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #6

Posted on [June 14, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 14, 2016

Well I'm back from my trip! From the posts that I have read I can conclude that I missed out on tons of fun since there was 2 birthdays (June and Stanley). So I will take this moment to wish you both a very happy bday!

Now that I am back, I am very excited to get back to work. Today we will be meeting with our research professor and Grad Student mentor at 2 pm. Hopefully today a lot of things will get cleared up that way the whole project can go a lot smoother. Luckily I am not the only one working on this project which is really nice! I don't really know what else to blog about at this point since things aren't very clear but hopefully by tomorrow I will have a better blog.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #5

Posted on [June 9, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 9, 2016

Today is Thursday (6/9/16). This is the last day of the week for me since I will be out of town for the weekend. After speaking to our grad student mentor today, I can say that although I am still lost with the overall aim of the project, I am not as lost! this week has been interesting because not only have I learned a lot but I am still practicing my healthy habits (organization, time management, punctuality, and sticking to a workout routine).

This summer I plan to become a better prepared intern so that these skills can be applied to my future classes, and life. Honestly I really don't know what else to blog about... I'm just taking things 1 day at a time!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #4

Posted on [June 8, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 8, 2016

Today is Wednesday (6/8/16), Well where can I start....

Today I felt like I was catching on to the concepts taught to me in the C++ course. I still find myself falling a bit behind but it isn't discouraging me. I feel pretty accomplished because I have completed a good portion of the assignments due this week. I really like the vibe from this group due to the diversity! Another thing that I really enjoy about the group is how close we have been for these first 2 weeks. Hopefully it stays like that for the rest of the 10 weeks!

I have been working on my punctuality and so far I've been doing GREAT! I have also committed to the gym for the whole week! other than that I am looking forward to getting into the lab and starting up the experiments!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #3

Posted on [June 7, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 7, 2016

Today is Tuesday (6/7/16) So far we have been given literature to read over and help us get ready for the next 9 weeks! Today Eliot spoke about how he makes sure to keep busy outside of the lab in order to keep his mental state in order and not burn out. Yesterday I completed my second successful workout at the gym. This is a good thing because it will help me get through the summer without burning out, and it is also a healthy alternative to watching Netflix all day. I will make sure to not miss my workout today.

Aside from my fitness goals I have been improving on my time management skills. I have not been late to any meetings yet and will continue working to make this an everyday thing. Other than this not much has changed, I'm just taking things one day at a time.

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #2

Posted on [June 6, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 6, 2016

Today is Monday (6/6/16) and it is officially the first day of week 2! I was a bit lost today in the lecture (C++) due to the technicality and lack of knowledge in the subject. This will only motivate me to work even harder. I really don't know what else to write, so I wish you all a happy Monday!

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher

Post #1

Posted on [June 3, 2016](#) by [zorrilla](#) June 3, 2016

Today is Friday which marks the end of the 1st week here at the REU. I did not do so good on the test today -. On the bright side I have met some pretty cool people so far (Mr. and Mrs. McLovin, Choklahoma and the rest of my peers which do not have nicknames **yet**). Ultimately what I want to accomplish by the end of this summer is to improve on the following:

Time Management, Computer skills, and Efficiency within the lab.

The reason why I want to accomplish by the end of this summer is because I am convinced that it will help me become a more competitive candidate for medical school. Anyways that's it for week 1. Enjoy your weekend (Don't have too much fun!).

Best,

Erik Zorrilla

LSAMP-IINSPIRE Student Researcher