Adriana Philip | REU | 2012

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Adriana Philip

Posts from me

Chew Like You Have a Secret

Posted on August 1, 2012 by aphilip
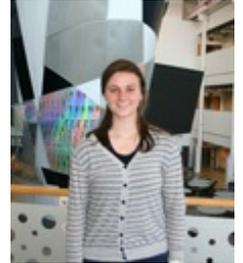
Yesterday's lunch was one of the most, er, informative experiences I have had in a while. I learned more than I ever imagined about proper eating etiquette (including the importance of always carrying around straws). Here are some fun facts:

- Once you begin eating, never switch between European and American styles. Choose one and stick with it.
- Do not cut into tomatoes.
- If you desire a piece of bread, pick up the bread bowl and pass it to the person to your right. Only once the bread bowl has returned to you may you select a piece of bread. The only exception to this is if you are desperately hungry and wish to eat bread right away, in which case you may pick up the bread bowl and pass it to the person on your left. That person is then expected to return the bread bowl back to you and you may select a piece of bread. DO NOT do the "left" option if the person seated to the right of you is older than you are.
- Always place the napkin on your lap within 20 seconds of sitting down.
- Never put a used utensil back on the table.
- Never stir soup.
- Avoid ordering spaghetti.
- Ladies should never drink soda directly from a can. Always have straws on your person so that you may whip one out to put in your soda can. Your lips must NEVER touch the can.

Today is my last Wednesday as a SPIRE intern. I have learned so much this summer! Thank you to the HCI faculty, mentors, graduate students, and Pam for all of your help and support this summer! It was great meeting so many different students with a variety of interests and courses of study. I am so appreciative of all of the great experiences I have had this summer. These include: learning new software, learning about medical imaging, visiting Des Moines, experiencing some Farmers' Markets, touring SCI, touring the Principal Financial Group, touring John Deere, going paintballing, doing light painting, canoeing with Sarah, visiting the Riemann Gardens, climbing a ropes course, and learning about corn from a local farmer. The major suggestions I have for SPIRE REU 2013 and beyond would be to limit the number of hours in class and continue with the activities. Journal Club continued throughout the 10 weeks, and I would suggest limiting this class to the first half of the program. The hours dedicated to Journal Club in the second half of the program could have been better spent working on team projects. I did greatly enjoy the weekend activites, and I would definitely recommend keeping them as part of the schedule for next year. Thanks again, and good luck to everyone at the Poster Symposium and with their future endeavors.

Posted in REU |

Places, Places, My Beautiful Butterflies

Posted on July 30, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday I visited the Riemann Gardens in Ames and caught a glimpse at the beautiful butterflies there. When I was walking around the grounds, it was difficult not to notice the effect the drought has had on plant life; many of the flowers were withering and some of the vegetables were shriveling up. Hopefully it will rain more soon and rejuvenate the plants at the Riemann Gardens. The lego structures there were extremely unique, and it was nice seeing the molecular backbones of various plant species.

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DeMoss Wonderful Farm

Posted on July 27, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday evening, Sarah, Mendez, Jordan, and I went to DeMoss Farm and enjoyed a nice evening of good, old fashion farm life. Well, minus the harvesting and working part. At DeMoss Farm, we learned about local produce production, the effects of the drought on crop yield and quality, and some cool facts about corn. We rode on a tractor that dates back to the early 1940s and ate an incredible number of s'mores. Visiting DeMoss Farm was definitely my favorite evening activity. My only wishes are that we had visited the farm earlier in the program and gone more than once!

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The Principal Way to Learn Science

Posted on July 26, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday all of the interns visited Des Moines for the day and took tours of the Science Center of Iowa and the Principal Financial Group. I really enjoyed the tour of SCI, especially when we visited their planetarium and saw the inner workings of an IMAX movie theater. Visiting Principal was informative, especially when we learned about the company's usability testing.

I am so incredibly excited to visit the DeMoss Farm tonight! I am definitely going to invest in some delicious sweet corn and can't wait for the bon fire.

Posted in REU |

Happy Birthday Eve

Posted on July 24, 2012 by aphilip

To Alex!!! I hope you are having a marvelous day and that tomorrow is wonderful as well! Thelma Harding's luncheon lecture on applying to graduate school was extremely informative, and her timeline and website suggestions were great. She stressed the importance of doing research before applying to graduate schools as well as financial aid consideration. I really appreciated her lecture, and together with the topics Pam covered last week, many of my questions concerning grad school were answered.

Posted in REU |

Rain, Rain Don't Go Away

Posted on July 23, 2012 by aphilip

Today, I have been working on pilot study anatomy to determine orientation and position values. Currently our team has a few rough drafts for our poster, and fortunately I started working on our paper draft early, so we're on schedule on that front.

In other news, there's a pretty noticeable drought here. Grass is pretty yellow, and the crops are taking it pretty hard, so hopefully a significant amount of rain (or really any rain) will fall soon.

On a side note, it surely must be a Monday when a significant part of my blog post contains weather-related information.

Posted in REU |

You Never Know Where You Might End Up: Thanks for the Encouragement, Dr. Seuss!

Posted on July 19, 2012 by aphilip

In today's luncheon lecture, Melissa focused her talk on the "Human" part of Human Computer Interaction. She discussed the job variety available to HCI graduates, specifically jobs for those "Human" HCI folks. In August, she begins her career as a usability engineer in Dallas, Texas, and during the lecture, she also talked about her adventures traveling to Africa and Thailand. Her traveling reminded me of all the great experiences to come.

Oh the places you'll go! Such as Ames, Iowa for instance.

Posted in REU |

The World is My Oyster (Is that a pearl or a paintball?)

Posted on July 17, 2012 by aphilip

Today was definitely my favorite luncheon lecture so far! Pam talked to us about HCI for grad school and gave perspective on the application process. It was an extremely informative lecture, and I appreciate all of the pointers she gave us! Over the weekend, I went paintballing with some of the other REU students, and I'm so glad that I did! This REU has been great so far, and I have had the opportunity to experience so much because of it. Talking to Pam today and partaking in paintball on Sunday are just two examples of the great aspects of this program and are reminders of the importance in not letting life pass you by.

Posted in REU |

ToMayto, ToMawTo

Posted on July 16, 2012 by aphilip

Monica and I had an incredibly intellectual conversation at lunch today about word pronunciation which mostly involved us both laughing at the way I pronounce certain vowels.

This morning, I focused on the poster rough draft and did some brief brainstorming for journal club. Ideally team ISIS will choose an article for jc today and form some discussion points so that we can continue to work on software development and the poster.

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7th Week Stretch

Posted on July 13, 2012 by aphilip

As the seventh week draws to a close, a shift is definitely occurring for the REU students. With only three weeks of the program remaining, our group has been focusing on the paper, software development, and pilot study. Today, Monica and I will be working more on the poster in between participating in Journal Club and a user study. I know quite a few people have been a bit stressed out lately, and I hope the weekend (yay for paintball!) offers time for them to rest a little bit and recuperate.

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An Apple a Day

Posted on July 10, 2012 by aphilip

Keeps the doctor away. Or so they say. Hopefully that won't be the case for this afternoon when the ISIS medical team is scheduled to have a conference call with medical professionals for the user study. (I did eat quite a few apples recently, but I am looking forward to talking with some doctors about anatomy questions.)

Today, Jordan is continuing to work on programming the Kinect, Monica is starting poster development, and I am working on our paper. The John Deere tour should be fun tomorrow, but there's lots to do beforehand.

Posted in REU |

Row left. Row right. Apply Sunscreen. Row left. Row right. Drink water. Row left. Row Right.

Posted on July 9, 2012 by aphilip

I had the greatest time on the canoe trip yesterday! Sarah and I partnered up and had a fantastic time rowing (and applying sunscreen) together. I had been canoeing once before on a lake and remember really enjoying it, and it was a lot of fun canoeing yesterday on the Des Moines River.

This morning, I worked on learning QT and read a little on Git Bash. I also started forming questions to ask the medical professionals when we talk to them about the ISIS user study. This afternoon, we will have a class on developing our posters. I have been viewing previous REU interns' posters and papers for comparison and plan to continue working on the ISIS paper this afternoon.

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Got to Get Down on Friday…

Posted on July 6, 2012 by aphilip

And hopefully make some progress on Kinect programming and hand gestures. This morning, I've been brainstorming possible hand gestures and reading literature reviews on gesture recognition before Journal Club. I also reviewed posters that the 2011 SPIRE-EIT REU interns made. During week six, team ISIS focused mostly on our mid-project presentation. As we move into week seven, there is still a great deal of programming and brainstorming to do before pilot testing users. Can't wait for what's to come!

Posted in REU |

Fireworks and Blueberries: Got to Love American Summer

Posted on July 5, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday was the 4th of July, and on Tuesday night, I went to see the Ames fireworks and have some fun with sparklers. It was really enjoyable having the day off to celebrate the holiday, and I definitely ate my fair share of delicious Iowa corn.

Our luncheon lecture today was led by Debra Satterfield, Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Iowa State. Her lecture focused on the importance of usability and desirability in design, which is extremely applicable to the ISIS Medical Team's research. Ms. Satterfield also talked about the Iowa State Fair which, sadly, occurs after I leave Iowa at the end of this summer. Stephen Gilbert also joined in during the luncheon part of the lecture. He passed around blueberries that he had picked from a local berry-picking farm, and this reminded me of all the lovely berries my Dad has growing in his garden right now.

This morning, Monica, Jordan, and I practiced our project presentation, and later this afternoon, we will present to the other REU interns. I look forward to seeing all of the progress the groups have made with their projects so far. Best of luck to everyone presenting!

Posted in REU |

A Midsummer Night's Presentation

Posted on July 3, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday night, I worked on my portion of the ISIS team's mid-project oral presentation, and this morning, Monica, Jordan, and I went through a brief run-through of our individual parts. We still need to make the powerpoint slides and refine our parts, but I'm glad we have a solid start to the presentation.

During the luncheon lecture today, Eliot talked about the future of HCI and posed the question of what the iphone will be like in five years. It's interesting to think about what previous generations believed would be available in the future. Somehow, no matter what generation was/is doing the postulating, flying cars always seem to be a key component of the future.

Posted in REU |

Git It Done

Posted on July 2, 2012 by aphilip

This Thursday, all of the interns are giving group project presentations on the progress of their research. Monica has been formulating an outline for the presentation while Jordan has been researching and I have been editing our lit review and reading up on Git.

I am looking forward to talking with the medical professional soon about our user study. Hopefully we will have the hand gesture coding ready soon and will be completing the pilot study. Here's to Giting all of that done!

Posted in REU |

In the Blink of an Eye

Posted on June 29, 2012 by aphilip

Five weeks have flown by. So much has happened in the first half of this internship, and I can't wait to see all that is to come. Yesterday, all of the interns talked about their goals for the internship and their specific research projects, and I

look forward to seeing the final projects at the poster presentation in August. Right now, team ISIS is working on our paper and Kinect programming research.

I wish Amanda a very happy birthday and Tim an early birthday. Forever 21=)

Posted in REU |

Switcheroo

Posted on June 28, 2012 by aphilip

A most significant event happened today: Monica Berron and I switched spots!!! Ok, maybe only temporarily (thank goodness), but for an hour today, the ISIS pod was WAY DIFFERENT. The switch was not premeditated, but a result of an earlier, er, surprise visit. Having had the experience of seeing the world through Monica's seating position, I can wholeheartedly say that I really love my regular spot and that the switch was only a trial, thank you very much.

Posted in REU |

Whee ooh, whee ooh, whee ooh: The Irony of Fire Engine Red Picture Shirts

Posted on June 27, 2012 by aphilip

So today is picture today. And as it so happens, the day the UDCC fire alarm went off during lunch. I genuinely hope it was a fire alarm test, but if not, that everyone safely evacuated the building and that there was minimum damage. Oddly enough, our picture day shirts are bright red. Yes, one of Iowa State's colors is red, but it is ironic that today of all days was when the fire alarm went off.

In other news, team Isis is working on our literature review. We are definitely making process and will hopefully have a rough copy finished this evening. The methods section and research question are also do later this week, and I hope to continue working on those sections tonight.

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Gitting Isis

Posted on June 26, 2012 by aphilip

This past weekend, I worked on the two OpenGL projects and the IRB application, and yesterday, the Isis team members and I presented the JAMville project. We also finished up the rough draft of the IRB app, and later today we are going to complete the final draft.

Before lunch, I worked on installing the Isis software using Git Bash. Hopefully the QT software will be successfully installed on all of the Isis team's computers soon!

Posted in REU |

The Little ISIS that Could

The Little ISIS that Could

Posted on June 22, 2012 by aphilip

So I'm excited that today is Friday since this has been a bit of a crazy week, what with the power outage and light painting and IRB mixup. As of now, team ISIS has led the Journal Club, is making progress on the Solar System OpenGL project, is in the midst of completing our IRB and its attachments, and is formulating our research question.

Other fun things to do today and this weekend are: finish the Solar System OpenGL project, start and finish the JAMville OpenGL project, have our formulated research question, complete the IRB and its attachments, install ISIS and become more familiar with the software, add citations to the problem area paragraph, work on the literature review, and start developing the methods paragraph.

Mentality going into this weekend: I think I can, I think I can!

Posted in REU |

JAMing Out

Posted on June 20, 2012 by aphilip

For the Computer Graphics Programming Project, team ISIS decided to make a car game. We plan on using Maya to make different objects for the game and import them into OpenGL. This car game will take place in the lovely town of JAMville, named after the initials of its lovely creators. I look forward to using different programs to design this game and seeing all of the other teams' projects next week!

Posted in REU |

When Some Doors Close, Others OpenGL

Posted on June 18, 2012 by aphilip

Today, I began learning computer graphics using OpenGL. The C++ programming class I completed in week 2 is already coming in handy with this course, and it's cool to see the applications OpenGL has in medical imaging. Today, everyone will be presenting their Maya projects, and I can't wait to see all of them. Yee-haw!

Posted in REU |

That Darn Hat!

Posted on June 15, 2012 by aphilip

Just kidding – I finished my cowgirl hat today and can't wait to see all the other creations on Monday! But what a great movie; I haven't seen the 1965 Hayley Mills classic in a while, but yesterday at dinner, a few interns were talking about eating duck. The whole conversation just reminded me of the funny scene when DC steals the duck in *That Darn Cat!*

Speaking of food, I'm super excited to see/smell/eat Alex's rotel tonight! Hopefully no furry animals come and steal it all away!

Posted in REU |

Mad Hatter

Posted on June 14, 2012 by aphilip

Today, I continued to work on the Maya Modeling Project and am making progress with the cowboy hat. Everyone seems to be to branching off into a bunch of different directions; I'm looking forward to seeing the dinosaur, airplane, and all of the other creations everyone is making.

As the days quickly fly by, all of the teams are formulating their specific research areas, and the Isis Medical Team is in the process of developing the problem area statement. The next few days will be really interesting as Jordan, Monica, and I determine exactly what we are going to research.

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I Tip My Hat to the Mayans

Posted on June 13, 2012 by aphilip

Er, I mean to Maya, the 3D Animation Software the other REU interns and I have begun learning this week in our modeling class. Each of us will be completing projects using Maya, and I decided to make a cowboy hat. I'm really looking forward to the project presentations next week when everyone will share their animations because I can't wait to see what everyone designed! Later, y'all.

Posted in REU |

Seeing Sound, Synesthesia Not Necessary

Posted on June 12, 2012 by aphilip

Today, our luncheon lecture was directed by Dr. Chris Harding, Assistant Professor at ISU. His talk centered on the use and role of sound in human computer interaction. While visual perception may be seen as the center of the human experience, it is often heard that the auditory experience is secondary. Today's lecture focused on the importance that sound can play in virtual environments, such as an increased awareness of depth. Perhaps some of the other sensations could be implemented into virtual environments to enhance the user's experience; those oranges on Disney's Soarin' sure do smell good! One thing is for sure- I definitely saw the essential role that sound can play today in enriching experiences.

Posted in REU |

Hogs and Kisses

Posted on June 11, 2012 by aphilip

Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the Farmers' Market in downtown Ames. Small it might have been, but warm and friendly townies were abundant, and I thoroughly enjoyed exploring a bit of Main Street. I also visited the Ames Public Library, where I was pleasantly surprised to find a significant DVD collection and suitable book selection.

Ames might not be a big-time city, but the people are extremely hospitable, and they have a library that's open on Sundays. Oh, and apparently their corn is to-die-for. So all-in-all, not too bad. Would I move here? Maybe when pigs fly =)

Posted in REU |
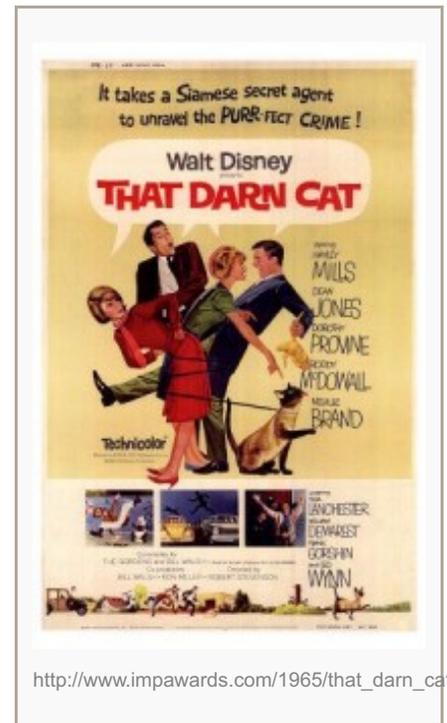
To Game or Not to Game, that is the Question

Posted on June 8, 2012 by aphilip

Today in Journal Club, the REU interns discussed an article on evidence of bi-directional causality between video game playing and attention problems. It was interesting hearing others' perspectives on the article, especially those interns who are avid gamers. While this specific article explores possible negative effects of gaming, other articles explore the positive effects of gaming, including improved dexterity.

This exploration of the pros and cons of gaming reminds me of so many other aspects of life, like drinking wine or eating chocolate. Want to drink wine? Great! You could lower your risk of heart disease. But wait, increased consumption can also increase risk of breast cancer. Chocolate addict? No worries! Eating dark chocolate can lower blood pressure. Oh, but hold on a minute: What about all those extra calories and grams of fat?

I believe the best policy when it comes to wine consumption, chocolate, and gaming is moderation. The real question is not: To game or not game. It's how much to game or not to game.

Posted in REU |

Casting a Spell

Posted on June 7, 2012 by aphilip

The Harry Potter series have truly impacted my life. And while I'm a little bummed about still not having received my acceptance letter to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (I'm sure the delivery owl is on its way now – nine year delivery delays happen, right?), I have always held a special place in my heart for these great stories.

Today, Dr. Judy Vance, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, directed our luncheon lecture and talked about her research projects which include virtual reality applications in mechanical design. During her talk, she presented some of the current virtual environments available in the C6. And one of these immersive environments is a Harry Potter-themed one in which the user can perform spells such as the lumos spell and patronus charm.

Exploring this world of Harry Potter wouldn't just be awesome. It would be magical.

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Old Pros

Posted on June 6, 2012 by aphilip

All right, maybe not that old. Today, two 2009 SPIRE REU alumni spoke with the current SPIRE REU generation about their experiences with the program and graduate school. One of the alumni, PJ, spoke of how she never really considered graduate school until she participated in the REU internship, and now she is just finishing her concurrent Masters in Computer Engineering and HCI. Both alums offered advice on the application process and their future aspirations, which include industry work and research. It was really beneficial to hear from two students who were in my shoes just a few years ago and all of the possibilities available to students after graduate school.

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Lab Rats

Posted on June 5, 2012 by aphilip

Yesterday, the other ISIS Medical Project REU interns and I met with our graduate mentor, Bethany Juhnke, to

become familiar with user studies. And what would be the best way to immerse ourselves in these studies? Why, to become participants ourselves, of course! While we did not strictly follow that outlined procedure that the actual users would have, Monica, Jordan, and I were able to experience the studies that the actual users would have experienced. In this way, we were able to become aware of the types of testing that has previously been used, as well as the important components an informed consent document would contain.

Today, Dr. Stephen Gilbert directed a luncheon lecture in which he addressed, among other topics, specific user studies that have been integral to a few HCI research teams. This emphasis on effective user studies encountered in the last two days is especially relevant for the ISIS Medical Project as our team will be developing one in the upcoming weeks.

Posted in REU |

Dear Tic Tac Toe Fanatics… XOXO, C++

Posted on June 4, 2012 by aphilip

Today I began learning C++, a programming language that will be extremely useful for future application in the ISIS Medical research project. Since we love, love, love C++ so much already, my group has decided to design and make a tic-tac-toe game that will enable two users (as opposed to one user vs. artificial intelligence) to play the game. That way X's and O's will be seen all around.

Posted in REU |

C6, and Cylcones, and Corn! Oh, My!

Posted on June 1, 2012 by aphilip

Hello, Hawkeye State! Thank you for being very welcoming and friendly! Upon my arrival to Iowa, I have been greeted by the three C's: the Cyclones, the C6, and the Corn. Lots and lots of corn. Or actually, fields and fields of corn. I haven't quite familiarized myself with the preferred way of describing Iowa's number 2 export. The Iowa State Cyclones appear to be a loyal bunch: Perhaps not Nittany Lion diehard, but definitely do not wear a University of Iowa shirt in Ames. Oh, and ISU's C6 with its 100 million pixels? Definitely a virtual experience like no other.

Posted in REU |

Adriana Philip's Awesome Bio

Posted on May 31, 2012 by aphilip

Hello there! My name is Adriana Philip, and I am a junior bioengineering major at Penn State. I am a native of Pennsylvania and an avid Nittony Lion! I love spending time with family and friends and playing and listening to music. I absolutely love reading and enjoy all things Harry Potter related.

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Press f for fullscreen.