

Alexzondra Hurns | REU | 2012

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2012/

Alexzondra Hurns

Posts from me

That's all folks...

Posted on [August 3, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)



I am truly going to miss this group. We are all so much fun to be around!!!! I've had the best time ever doing graduate school level work! Today is the conclusion of it- symposium day! No nerves, just confidence! Can't believe it's ending but it was fabulous while it lasted. Won't ever forget anyone from this experience. Time to finish strong!:) Bye everyone, it was nice meeting you! Best of luck Stephen, Eliot, Pam, Eleese, Britta, my team's mentors, etc. Safe travels back to your destinations!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Tick tock

Posted on [August 2, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Time is winding down on the summer... Two days until we go back home:(. I feel like my team and I were VERY productive this summer and after everything- we still came up with wonderful ideas and a solid framework for the game. Marvelous job team!! It's been my pleasure working with you two, grad mentors, and faculty mentor. I feel like everyone had a hand in making a structure for future levels and I believe Escape from Polymer Island will be an excellent learning based game. I am so proud of the amount I've learned over the summer; it's simply amazing! But yet and still I'm going to go home to enjoy the rest of my summer!! It's been a wonderful all around experience!

What I liked about the REU: I really like everything about the REU; it was well thought out and structured. Specifically, I enjoyed the extracurriculars, luncheon lectures, journal clubs, bus services, living accommodations, ethics class, trips, and studies.

Improvements: More specific instructions upfront and plan classes and things throughout the workday in blocks so that there'd be more time for being productive.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Presentation

Posted on [August 1, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Oh my goodness I think I did terrible on my first poster presentation. My words made no sense and I caused more confusion than simplification.:(But I received good feedback from the inquirers that I believe will help. So I will take it and use it Friday in the symposium. My group has made progressed quite nicely as we have a working mock-up of gameplay, a script, and an intro animation. Nice work guys!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Is this proper etiquette?

Posted on [July 31, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Is it proper etiquette to have fun at an etiquette luncheon?! Cuz I really enjoyed it; it reinforced things I learned a long time ago. We had an AWESOME time, and we learned a lot. I love this REU group cuz we can make fun outta anything when we're together!! I must admit that I'm going to miss each one of them. They all have their own distinct personalities that makes for a GREAT time when combined. Thanx so much for a wonderful experience guys: I will never forget you!:)

Posted in [REU](#) |

Progress

Posted on [July 30, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

So, so, so, so proud of my team as we have made TREMENDOUS progress! Our poster is complete with everything on it and so is our paper (we only have to make a few minor changes). But we have been making excellent progress, and I couldn't be happier. Good job team!!! Also, I've been talking to the other groups, and it seems that they have been making excellent progress in the same direction. Excellent job everyone!!!

Posted in [REU](#) |

The last hoorah...

Posted on [July 27, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

It's getting down to it... The beginning of the end... the last song... the benediction... the last hoorah. Can't believe it's here— almost the end of a wonderful summer reu experience. I must say that I have TRULY enjoyed my stay here in Ames, IA, and our hosts and hostesses have been most gracious! I'm so glad that I accepted this research experience and am looking forward to another one next summer!!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Today

Posted on [July 26, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I feel like we're making good progress in the direction of completing what we can of our project. We have set out specific tasks for each other so that no one person gets overwhelmed. I like this system the best because no one feels left out and with each task I feel it an opportunity to show off ability. I truly enjoyed Anecia's study because it was so easy to get into because social media is a HUGE part of today's society. I feel like her study was a clever choice, and I've learned a lot from just listening to some of her success.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Yesterday

Posted on [July 26, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Yesterday was very eventful as it was my big day, and the group was being treated to the Science museum and Principal investment banking. The day was full and I was dead tired after returning back to my apartment, but I still had fun! Yesterday wasn't my first time being in a space dome, but I must say that it was my favorite because I got

the full effect. The dome was built to encourage relaxation, and I truly felt relaxed and happy in that environment. It was my favorite part!! However, hearing about the different ways of engaging the audience.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Birthday Eve (Cute name Adriana, hope you don't mind me stealing it!)

Posted on [July 24, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today has been THE BEST BIRTHDAY EVE EVERRRR!!! From the Happy Birthdays early in the morning to the cake after lunch and everything else in between. I would be mistaken if I didn't tell everyone "Thank you from the bottom of my heart!" I am having the best experiences and building the best memories to last a lifetime!:)

Posted in [REU](#) |

Why Unity?...

Posted on [July 23, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Our game is slowly but surely coming right along. We are set back with trying to figure out how to make Unity work properly, but we're making progress. Our project should come together soon. Only a few more days to make it count.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Guns

Posted on [July 20, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today I got to participate in team DPIVE's study. I really enjoyed it because I got the opportunity to fire a gun (Of course it wasn't loaded, but yet and still I enjoyed the experience). I've touched more guns since I've been here than I ever have in my entire life!! It's not what I'm use to at all, nor do I like even seeing guns; however, I am glad for my courage to step out of my comfort zone. Team Isis chose a great article for journal club: sorry I didn't have more to say guys:(. My team is still working independently trying to piece away at our educational game. We are making progress in different areas and in different directions; however, I feel like our work will come together soon enough.

Posted in [REU](#) |

The H side of HCI

Posted on [July 19, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I am SOOO glad that Melissa came and talked to us about the Human side of Human Computer Interaction. My goals are already fashioned around becoming an instructor, but she opened up another way for me to view dealing with people. One of my advisors back at my University told me to find something that I REALLY enjoy and become very good at: with a little more research into this area, I believe it could be my niche. My aspirations aren't changing because I still aspire to teach; additionally, I am open to working with instructional design— performing usability tests and graphic design. I am so enthused about it and am becoming deadset on selecting it as a comajor in graduate school.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Interviews...

Posted on [July 18, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

We met with our graduate and faculty mentor yesterday. We only had some progress to show because we aren't familiar with unity. However, Shea is making great progress in learning how it works so that we can use it confidently. This morning went by kind of quickly because we had interviews. They weren't very long, only about 15 minutes per person. I really enjoyed talking to the camera people... They were really socialable and seemed interested in talking to me. It took the edge off!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Luncheon Lecture

Posted on [July 17, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Okay, I know I say this about almost every luncheon lecture; but I have to say that today's luncheon lecture with Pam was THE BEST ONE YET! It wasn't what I expected, but it was something we all needed. Talking to her was a big help for because now we have sooo much more insight from someone we all trust. Thanx Pam and thanx everyone else who presented. Jobs well done!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Orange paint

Posted on [July 16, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Saturday was paintball day. It was a lot of fun and also my first time playing. SN: Everyone who said that it would hurt was absolutely right. Plus they were traveling very quickly through the air:(Yikes! LOL. But yet and still I enjoyed myself. I went about three rounds in capture the flag and was done. One reason was because I was tired of getting hit, and it was VERY hot out. I missed Britta and Elease, but I think Ken and Kurt were good choices for chaperones. They got us where we needed to be in one piece, and they played with us! Haha Fun time... Fun time:)

Posted in [REU](#) |

TGIF

Posted on [July 13, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Thank Goodness It's Friday! Well... It's the conclusion of another successful week. My group is still progressing and trying to get as much done of the first level that we can. I am happy because I feel like the framework we put in place is going to transform into an amazing game. I truly can't wait to see how it turns out! Thursday was the conclusion of our ethics class:(... That class was different from typical classes, yet I still enjoyed it. SN: Elliot was right when he said that we worry excessively! Small things we make big through our stress! But I along with the rest of the REUs take this internship VERY seriously and want to be the best all around REUs and hopefully future grad school candidates! I'm really gonna miss being here but am most elated that I was selected for such an opportunity for my first internship!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Coming back

Posted on [July 12, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Yesterday, was like the perfect day to me. Everyone got up extremely early and was starving by the end of the tour.

(Amanda and I couldn't stop laughing!) Then we were treated to a nice lunch at Palmers– I really enjoyed eating there; it was delicious and filling. Everyone was happy and full then- more laughing and fun! Then we made it back in record time and had plenty of time to sleep b4 tackling some work.

Posted in [REU](#) |

John Deere

Posted on [July 12, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

My opinion of the John Deere tour was that it was a lot of fun! I have a JD downtown in my city, but I didn't know anything about it. I feel enlightened because now I know that it is an agricultural manufacturing company; I feel good because my level of insight has increased from the experience. I love learning new things because it makes me feel more diverse. I was also surprised that there were only 49,000 JD employees in the US, with so many branches I expected a lot more than that. However, meaningful work that helps make better lives for people to me is always better than the absence of such.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Free reign

Posted on [July 10, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I was so wrapped up in my work today that I forgot to blog on time. I apologize. Without all of the classes and extra curriculars I feel like I have more time to focus on completing everything I need to for our project. Our team is working on individual aspects of our game that will one day be combined to form our finished product. Plus our mentors are giving us free reign to develop this project and learn as much in the process. However, we always know that they are still there whenever we need them. Feels great!

Posted in [REU](#) |

“Oh hi guys” Here is my tshirt design idea

Posted on [July 10, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

d.p.i.V.e.



tele-Robotics

poly islan



isimedical

Summer Program for Interdisciplinary Research and
Education- Emerging Interface Technologies
Virtual Reality Application Center-Human Computer
Interaction
Iowa State University

SPIRE-EIT
Summer 2012 REU
Iowa State University
May 29-August 4, 2012

Posted in [REU](#) |

First time

Posted on [July 9, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I am really enjoying it here. I don't hear a lot of people from my school talking about how much they've learned or how much they enjoyed their internships. But I can say that I AM TRULY ENJOYING my first internship! God is really good to me because I could have been somewhere else, but I'm here at the best undergraduate internship ever! Not only am I learning a lot; but I am also experiencing a lot. Yesterday, the group went canoeing: It was my first time going canoeing, but I will never forget it!!

Posted in [REU](#) |

The day

Posted on [July 6, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

It's a lot different actually leading journal club as opposed to participating in the conversation. When your leading it you actually realize how difficult it is to be the one who has to get everyone to talk. However, it was still a good experience! We've finished our mid-term presentation, and I think my team did an excellent job being that it was our first one. Good job team!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Presentation Day

Posted on [July 5, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I can't believe today is the day... Presentations. As the time draws closer I am becoming a little bit more nervous. Thought for the day: Emulate good speaker! Our luncheon lecturer was Mrs. Debra Satterfield. I really enjoyed her presentation because it was down to earth and so was she. Her presentation was interesting and easily relatable to me.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Productivity

Posted on [July 3, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Attitude for the day: Feeling very productive! I struggled last night trying to decide on a good article for journal club, but after all of my prospects let me down I realized that it was time to change my scope. So after exploring a few more topics we finally decided on one that we liked. Now we have the rest of the time to work on our presentations + tomorrow.

SN: Kinda nervous about meeting Dr. Kessler, what if he thinks that we should be further along than we actually are? Or he just doesn't like what we've done... False worries, I believe.

Elliot had a really interesting lecture today, he was really engaging and down to earth as usual. I imagine that he's ALOT of fun to work with! I was so engaged in the conversation that the time magically flew by:)....

Posted in [REU](#) |

Smooth sailing

Posted on [July 2, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Everything is flowing pretty smoothly, we are working on our illustrations/animations. We finally get to meet Dr. Mike Kessler tomorrow! Today is really relaxed, a lot of free time to work on our individual projects. Kinda worried about the powerpoint because the time is drawing near for presentations...

Posted in [REU](#) |

The highlight of my day...

Posted on [June 29, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

AND...THE...AWARD...FOR THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY GOES TOOoooo... (Drumrole)... "Journal club!!" I truly enjoyed the article today; it was relevant and even entertaining. I felt like the authors had some flaws when it came to labeling categories, but the tests and everything else was on point. But credit also goes to team depth perception because they selected the article. I love doing Journal club because I feel like we have a chance to voice our opinions and persuade others. Then lunch was AWESOME because UDCC was still in place (after the fire), and we got to sit at our table again. Finally! I believe the rest of the weeks here are going to follow suit: presenting us with many memories and fun times. I love everyone here!

Posted in [REU](#) |

My day

Posted on [June 28, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I really enjoyed debating this morning; I didn't want to stop. Then we had a GREAT luncheon lecture, where we learned about instructional design and hci in vet medicine. I really enjoyed the last two luncheon lectures because they were very easy in my opinion to get into. We also had a very interesting side discussion of army underwear that could be worn for 2 months. LOL, I know... Great convo for lunch right?! We completed our introduction and one of our mentors said that it sounded great, 1 opinion down, 2 more to go lol.

Posted in [REU](#) |

FIRE!!!!

Posted on [June 27, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

During lunch the fire alarm went off and a caf worker asked everyone to exit the building. Thank God I was already done eating! LOL. But today is a great day! My interview went well with Pam and now my team is making long strides on the research/ paper part of our project. Pam is the BEST!!! I've enjoyed my personal time with her and she's EXTREMELY nice and sweet. I even noticed that before I came here, she was nice to me (even though she hadn't met me yet). That says a lot in itself! We have a very supportive cast behind us: if we ever need them and it makes me feel great!

Posted in [REU](#) |

End of class

Posted on [June 25, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today is our first day without classes. It's a bittersweet feeling because I enjoyed learning all I could. But now we can focus on our main research projects!!

Posted in [REU](#) |

My team

Posted on [June 22, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I am so proud of the progress that my group is making! We have kinda split up the projects so that we accomplish them all, and it is working out in our favor. I feel like we are on task because everyone is willing to do their part and then some. It's just encouraging for everyone to be like-minded and eager to get the jobs done. I am REALLY enjoying my first REU experience; I am really glad that I decided to come here!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Progress!!!

Posted on [June 21, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today has been a wonderful day! Vijay gave a great, concise lesson that is universally applicable. Then we went to our luncheon lecture. Today our group talked to our grad mentors, and I believe they're happy with us. We may not finish the level we were assigned but at least we are laying the foundation for future progress. I feel like our group is giving our mentors exactly what they've asked us for, and it makes me feel GREAT!!!!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Responsibility

Posted on [June 20, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Yesterday deserves a day's post to itself! The day was proceeding as usual... Class, luncheon lecture, blog, meeting.... Then around 2:50, all of a sudden, the lights flickered. They stayed off for a total of 3 minutes before the system kicked back in. Then the lights cut back off, and the automatic doors slammed as they closed, scaring me in the process:) The room was silent, and all I could hear was other people's conversations... Even though it was dark, I feel that yesterday was a necessary breather day, like Andrew was talking about in our meeting with Elliot. I'm glad Elliot came and talked to us; I know that I'm guilty for some of the acts of disrespect committed during Vijay's class. So to show who I truly am and clear my conscience, I apologized to him today and will be more respectful from now on! I feel alot better now... I messed up, and I believe in accepting responsibility for my actions. I want to continue to enjoy my time here and to make the best impression on everyone. Also, knowing that the stakeholders think very highly of me will make me happy and feel that I was successful this summer.

Posted in [REU](#) |

LL

Posted on [June 19, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today we had a very interesting luncheon lecture where Britta's father explained about the business side of HCI. It was really interesting hearing about the business side of this department; it seems to be interesting. Tonight we are going to try something new: Light painting. I already love to paint so this should be even more fun!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Weekend

Posted on [June 18, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Friday was a blast! Everyone who tried my rotel said they enjoyed it. Then Saturday came and we all went to Perfect Games! I had alot of fun there playing laser tag and bowling. The facilities were extremely nice and relaxed. It seems like an ideal hangout spot for kids: it's fully equipped with arcade games, bowling, laser tag, and I wouldn't be surprised at whatever else they have there! Team Blue dominated Team Red the first match of laser tag;); then came

the bowling!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Today's proceedings

Posted on [June 15, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Today has been a relaxed but productive day. Modeling was successful as we had the freedom to work on our projects due Monday. Then we had journal club and everyone really got into it, providing opinions from the subject matter. Next, we will present our heuristic evaluations in Dr. Still's class. But as our own extracurricular and bonding exercise, I will be making rotel for everyone. I'm REALLY REALLY glad that everyone is open to trying my cooking, and I believe that they will really like it!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Back to the real world

Posted on [June 14, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

As young minds often do; we become very excited about new ideas that we have! Our project is only commencing, and we are the framework layers. It's a big task but I know that our team can manage. Very excited about the facilities available here– the gym, apartments, etc.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Blog about what to blog...

Posted on [June 12, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Ahwww... So full that I'm sleepy; hopefully I can stay awake the entire day! Idk what we're suppose to be blogging about so I guess I'll blog about our project– Maybe what I have trouble with and things of that nature. Well... Guess this is going to be another short post cuz everything is going well. My teammates and I assist one another on whatever the problem is until we reach the solution; and they're the best! The mentors are even very helpful as well. Good job everyone, A+ work!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Current events

Posted on [June 11, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

The picnic this weekend was a blast. I had a lot of fun and realized that there were so many REUs on the campus. Something that was really ironic though was how I never saw any of the REUs before the picnic, but then I see one at the bus stop this morning. Ironic... I think they've been hiding from us LOL. The coordinators and everyone involved in making this experience successful are EXTREMELY philanthropic and dedicated to what they do. I couldn't have asked for a better support group! Today, one of our graduate student mentors came to check on us and the project. While he and Hua were talking a guy came up and talked to us about Unity. He was very insightful.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Today

Posted on [June 8, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Having a great day so far, can't complain!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Day at the gym

Posted on [June 7, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I told Shea that I would blog about this so I am... Yesterday was my first day going to the gym, and I didn't feel the burn until after I made it back to my room! Funny how that happens lol. I think Pam did an excellent job of planning out each day for us because we're not doing anything that taxing. Everyday is full to the max so it keeps everything moving smoothly. I really enjoy that about each day because it's not like we are really working when we are!

Posted in [REU](#) |

Day 3... New knowledge

Posted on [June 6, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Day Three... So far, so good. Today we got talk to 2 former REU students and they were very knowledgeable about obtaining master's degrees and PhDs. I can't believe it normally takes about 3 years to get a masters and about 5-7 years to get a PhD!!! Yawn, lol. That seems pretty backwards to me... My group as well as our mentors are AWESOME as everyone is excited about what we're doing.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Day 2... Working hard

Posted on [June 5, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Got alot accomplished yesterday as far as both projects. Feel very confident that both will be very successful! My team and I are working extremely hard everyday to complete our project, and I have been told that we work well together!:) The programming class went fast, but the concepts make since. Thank God for google lol:).

Posted in [REU](#) |

Day 1- First day on the job...

Posted on [June 4, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

First day of classes:)... It wasn't so bad; I learned alot of new names and alot of my current knowledge was reinforced. Had a blast this weekend: Friday we did an artwalk and Saturday alot of team building exercises at the ropes course. It was my first time ever doing anything like that, and I really enjoyed it! I saw alot of nice things that I liked on Main Street where we did the walk, but sadly, because they were handmade they were really pricey. I saw the perfect jewelry box for me; but it cost \$125.. Of course, I left it there lol.. My team got alot of ground covered Sunday as far as scripting our project is concerned, so I am really really happy for that. Good Work Team!! It's really fun getting to know everyone by working with them in and out of the lab.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Posted on [June 1, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

I'm really enjoying everything, especially getting to know everyone.

Posted in [REU](#) |

My name is Alexzondra Hurns,

Posted on [May 31, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

My name is Alexzondra Hurns, but I like to be called Alex! I am an 18 year old sophomore from Cleveland, MS. I was born July 25, 1993. I attend Mississippi Valley State University, where I am a Math and Science education double major. With my degrees, I plan to pursue a career in teaching, where I will primarily create and support a love of learning in young people- among other things. My favorite color is navy blue and I love to listen and sing to music. I am the middle child with two older siblings, a boy and a girl, and two younger siblings, another boy and girl. My interests are endless: I enjoy cooking, reading, sleeping, SHOPPING, drawing, sports, leadership activities, singing, laughing, movies, music, etc.

Posted in [REU](#) |

Hey!!

Posted on [May 31, 2012](#) by [ahurns](#)

Posted in [REU](#) |

Press f for fullscreen.

