Charlecia Brownlee

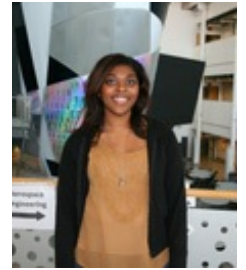🌐 **projects.vrac.iastate.edu**/REU2012/

Posts from me

How you eatin'?

Posted on July 31, 2012 by clb92

Today we had our etiquitte luncheon. Dela had already informed us weeks before that it was common sense and pretty funny. I think my table really enjoyed ourselves.

I'm waiting for 2:00 for our team meeting. It literally just hit me that this is our last one. This time next week, I'll probably be in a bed at 2:00 lol. I hope Rick and Elease have some feedback to give us so that our team can do something productive today. I'm itching to hear what Rick says about our findings from yesterday.

Also, I talked to my mom yesterday and she said that instead of shipping clothes to her (which arrived extremely fast) I should've just shipped myself. My mommy really misses me ▨

Almost forgot, I finished another book today! I finished The Fault in Our Stars last week (I *think*) and started on Divergent last Wednesday. Divergent reminds me of The Hunger Games which is why I really divulged myself into it. I've started on the sequel, Insurgent, today as well and I'm currently on the sixth chapter. From the way this is looking, I may need to find a new book for my plane trip on Saturday.

Posted in REU |

07.30.2012

Posted on July 30, 2012 by clb92

Today is my last (and possibly final.. *who knows?* ▨) Monday in Iowa. I'm crossing my fingers that this week doesn't fly by but from the looks of how today flew by, I doubt I'll get my wish. Today Sarah and I looked over 150 minutes of video from our project. We recreated the movements of each participant on fifteen maps to find some sort of significance, and by george I think we've got it! Honestly, I wasn't expecting anything relevant, but I'm glad we did; I think Rick will be glad too.

Our poster is looking good and has been sent to the publisher. We're waiting to hear feedback on our research paper and on results that we sent Rick. All in all, I think it'll be a calm week for Team Tele-Robotics.

Our team is looking forward to the symposium on Friday, especially since we're going to be driving Tommy around to spark inquery in our project. I think it'll go well. I'm really excited.

In other news, I sent home about 10 pounds of clothes to MS on Saturday and my mom told me they arrived today! Talk about fast shipping, I was expecting Wednesday at the latest. I guess I saved a few bucks on my luggage. Yay.

Posted in REU |

Miss Me?

Posted on July 26, 2012 by clb92

Sorry, I haven't been posting. I haven't really had access to a computer these past days due to us running studies for

our project. However, today was the end of our studies. I think we did an excellent job. I'm actually looking forward to doing more research studies because I found this one really exciting (except hauling particle board and frying Arduino boards). We'll shortly begin analyzing data and video and finish up our research paper draft.

Yesterday's trip to the Science Center was really nice. I wish that there was a center as interactive as that one in Mississippi so that I could take my nephew (yes, I am going to make him into an engineer). The visit to Principal was also nice. I'm still confused about 'The Last Breath'. I guess I don't have an eye for art.

Posted in REU |

Babydoll

Posted on July 18, 2012 by clb92

Yesterday I got to go doll and baby shopping. It was really fun. It also made me realize how expensive little kids are. There was a doll for $50. I think the most expensive doll I had was $40 but she was much bigger and came with a bunch of accessories.

Anywho, we finished our course yesterday. I think it looks great. Rick and Elease were really impressed with how much we got done in so little time.

I'm looking forward to running Tommy through it.

Posted in REU |

How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck if a Woodchuck Could Chuck Wood?

Posted on July 16, 2012 by clb92

It doesn't matter.. because particle board is **HEAVY.**

Team Tele-Robotics spent the better half of this morning lugging wood around campus. *Fun.* Imagine three of us, 100+ lbs of 4′ x 8″ particle board and the hot blazing sun. Oh, and twelve steps to carry it all up.

All in all, we got through the hardest part even though we're not done. We could've used another set of hands, but we managed.

Over the weekend, we got a camera set up on our RC/Robot Tommy (guess where the name comes from.. '*oh, hi robot'*).

This week will be a challenging one…

Posted in REU |

07.12.2012

Posted on July 12, 2012 by clb92

This morning we had a group meeting which I think was great. We're going to Lowe's after work today to look at supplies for our simulation. This is a very busy week for us but I'm not stressing.

I hope everyone enjoys our journal discussion tomorrow, I have a feeling that it will be a good one. Today's ethics discussion was really interesting. Especially since I didn't find out about it until this morning. (Guess I have to check my email more often)

Our RC Robot/TRAKR should be in today; as a matter of fact, it's probably here. I can't wait to test it out. It's a very interesting RC car because it has a camera display inside the joystick. Also, its been said that it can be programmed in C++ (I'll have to look into this).

I'm really looking forward to building, so I can get my hands dirty (lol). Also, we're doing pilot study next week. I can't wait.

Posted in REU |

07.10.2012

Posted on July 10, 2012 by clb92

I'm looking forward to our team meeting today so we can get feedback on a few of the decisions we've made.

Also, our team is searching for articles for our last (*yes*) leaded journal discussion.

Posted in REU |

07.09.2012

Posted on July 9, 2012 by clb92

This morning we went to Black to work on HAL and make some decisions for our study.

After lunch, we measured a room in McKay/Home Ec so we could determine how exactly we will set up our rescue area. I'm looking forward to destroying a room without any consequences.

Posted in REU |

07.06.2012

Posted on July 6, 2012 by clb92

Today is Friday! I plan on sleeping in this weekend.. I'm also looking forward to skyping tonight

We officially have 29 days left here in Iowa. WOW, where did all that time go? As crazy as this might sound, I'm actually looking forward to the upcoming semester (yeah, I'm one of *those* people). I can't wait to tell my mentor and professors about my experience here. Also, it's gonna sound so cool that I worked with robots all summer.

We're having a team meeting today to get some things finalized. I'm getting excited because Sarah wrote this really cool algorithm for the lawnmower.

Posted in REU |

Another Monday

Posted on July 5, 2012 by clb92

Yesterday's holiday break really threw me off. It felt like a Saturday/Sunday, so now my mind's thinking it's Monday. Weird.

Today is mid project presentation day and everyone is all spiffed up, but I'm not too excited. Reason being that I suck at public speaking (I don't *think* it's a fear). Overall, I'm sure our group will do a great job.

Anywho, it looks like our project may be leading in another direction which is kind of scary and reassuring at the same time.

Posted in REU |

7.3.2012

Posted on July 3, 2012 by clb92

Wow, July is really moving fast! Tomorrow will be weird since we won't have work, but I guess I will keep busy by perfecting our group's presentation for Thursday.

Today's luncheon lecture was with Eliot and Stephen came in later. Our discussion was very interesting and enjoyable.

After blogging time is over, I think we'll head over to Black to see if Rick was able to purchase another Arduino yesterday. I hope we make some progress with HAL this week.

Posted in REU |

Allergies

Posted on July 2, 2012 by clb92

I am very drowsy today because I took some Benadryl for my allergies. I need something to wake me up. I was hoping Ethics would do that, but sadly it was cancelled.

This week we are supposed to give midterm presentations. Our group will work on that today.

Alas, another board has been fried. I'm getting a little worried with this being week 6. Our plan is to do our simulated rescue area in week 8. Even though I'm worried, I have the confidence that we will overcome these obstacles and get HAL to work.

Posted in REU |

Third Time's a Charm

Posted on June 29, 2012 by clb92

Today will be our third day going to Black Engineering. I'm really glad that our calendar is finally freeing up and we're spending more time focusing on our project. Yesterday, I was really pumped about making the Roomba follow a light but unfortunately, we didn't have the necessary resistors :(. Rick is supposed to be getting some soon, so maybe we will get the chance to test that out before we implement the algorithms.

Posted in REU |

Ladyada

Posted on June 28, 2012 by clb92

Today after a great discussion/debate in Ethics, I came to our pod and noticed a magazine left for me. I've never heard of Make Magazine, but I'm glad I was introduced it to. It's choc full of experiments, majority of them including the Arduino. (I'm really starting to like the Arduino more and more, it'll probably be mentioned in all of my posts from now on..) There was also an article on light painting where a machine arm created a led rainbow as someone stood

in front of it. Thanks again, Stephen!

As I was looking through the projects, I came across an image of the Roomba- the same exact Roomba we're working on.. **what?!** The project is somewhat simple: the Roomba will be programmed to follow a light. Our group is going to try to do this project when we head over to Black at 3:00 *fingers crossed*.

There was also an article about remote-starting your car from any distance. I would totally try this, except for the fact that I'm scared I'd mess up my car, and my car is too old :(.

On to Ladyada, I went to her website and was amazed from the beginning. I read on her webpage that she started it as a 1st year grad student in college, when her advisor required all of the students to have a webpage with their work. The way that she designed her home page refers to things on a breadboard such as Power and GND, I thought that was cool. Also, I glanced at her portfolio and saw some experiments I would like to try myself. I'm going to be researching all night. ▨

Posted in REU |

Like a Kid in a Candy Store

Posted on June 27, 2012 by clb92

Yesterday, our team went to Black Engineering for our team meeting. Upon arriving, Andrew opened the Arduino kit and boy, I was not expecting to be so excited. To name a few, there were LEDs, resistors, and a breadboard (oh my!). It was like Digital Logic Lab/Circuit Theory Lab/etc all over again. I never thought I would see those items again until Fall, and I definitely didn't think that I would be using them here but I'm really glad we have them (*I'm such a geek*). Along with the kit, there were instructions and projects that we could use to test out the materials. We made our Arduino sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, we also made an LED change from red, blue, cyan, white, magenta, black, etc. I can't wait to program our Arduino and get some life back into HAL. ▨

Posted in REU |

06.26.2012

Posted on June 26, 2012 by clb92

Today's Ethics class was nice, I think I will enjoy those sessions as long as they are in the morning. At 2:00, we are going to our team meeting and possibly work with the Arduino and HAL. I'm looking forward to it.

Posted in REU |

In the middle

Posted on June 25, 2012 by clb92

Today is the first day of the middle of this 10 week internship. I can't believe how fast time has flown.

Last night our group got some work finished and at the moment, we are finishing up our OpenGL project and preparing to begin on our lit review.

I happened to browse on my school's website yesterday, and came across a really upsetting article. So unfair! Also, I honestly don't believe that this will provide good results for numerous reasons. This is my mad face: >_<

Posted in REU |

6.22.2012

Posted on June 22, 2012 by clb92

Today, we are meeting with Elease to discuss our project and get a better understanding; I'm really looking forward to it. Also, our Arduino chip should be in so maybe we'll see if HAL comes back to life today :).

Posted in REU |

6.21.2012

Posted on June 21, 2012 by clb92

Highlight of the day: I edited some code so it could stream music for our OpenGL presentation.

Low point of the day: Irritating contacts. I might have to pull out the bifocals….I'm seriously considering Lasik.

Posted in REU |

Clarification

Posted on June 20, 2012 by clb92

My last post may seem a little callous; I didn't mean for it to come across as that. It wasn't supposed to mean anything at all. I only wrote it because OpenGL is **very** frustrating. I'm trying (I could try a *little* harder). It reminds me of trying to find an error in Secure Shell in 100+ lines of code * 10.

Anywho, we are in the middle of week 4 and we all have a few things coming up: Lit Review, Research Question, etc. I found three articles that may be helpful to our lit review but I haven't gotten to skim through them yet. *Fingers crossed* that I didn't waste my computer space downloading them.

In other news: according to my Kindle, I have read 59% of my book. I was at a mere 22% when we got off work yesterday. I guess being without electricity/internet for a couple of hours wasn't so bad after all. ▨

Oh yeah, light painting was really cool (minus the bugs); I've never done anything like that before. My favorite pic is the one that says "REU12". Supercute.

Posted in REU |

6.19.2012

Posted on June 19, 2012 by clb92

I'm ready for this week to end.

Posted in REU |

The Weeknd

Posted on June 18, 2012 by clb92

I love The Weeknd if you haven't heard of him, you should give him a listen.

Speaking of the weekend, I had a great time. I played laser tag for the first time (as Batman.. lol) and got to bowl. I ended up with a score of 79 in bowling which was pretty good since I haven't done it in a while.

I currently have my nose in a book called *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. I'm only in Chapter 2 but I might finish this by the end of next week (or sooner).

Today we began our Computer Graphics class. Honestly, I'm not too interested in it; I'm too worried about our project and the next steps that we need to take.

Posted in REU |

Friday the 15th

Posted on June 15, 2012 by clb92

Lately, I've been looking for some good books to read and last night I put 10 on my Kindle Fire. It just came to me that I should look for some books that could be helpful to our project (d'oh). So at the moment, I'm on Amazon looking for anything that seems useful. Week 3 is over!! I can't believe we're almost at the halfway mark.

Last night, we ate at a restaurant called The Spice, which serves Thai. I've never eaten, or had an interest, in Thai food but I was willing to try it. Unfortunately, I soon realized that I don't like Thai ▯ . A while ago I succumbed food poisoning and last night's meal brought back some unpleasant memories.

Anywho, we're supposed to go bowling on Saturday and I'm a little excited. I'm not the best bowler, but it brings back some good memories with my dad. ▯

Posted in REU |

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Posted on June 14, 2012 by clb92

Today we have Craft of Research and our team meeting. Tomorrow our team has to lead the discussion in journal club. ~~I'm soooo looking forward to it!!~~

Posted in REU |

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Posted on June 13, 2012 by clb92

Yesterday, we got HAL to work and soon after, the ez-b board ended up fried. At the moment, we're looking at Arduino as an alternative. Honestly, I just want to get this robot working (again) in the fastest time possible. It's already the middle of week 3.

In other news, I'm actually excited about going to HCI at 2 today because it's the second to last class! I still don't see the point of these classes, but oh well.

Posted in REU |

Today

Posted on June 12, 2012 by clb92

Today is going well. I'm looking forward to working with HAL today. That is all.

Posted in REU |

My my my Maya..

Posted on June 11, 2012 by clb92

Today was our first day of the modeling course and boy am I confused. I literally became lost after five minutes of the instructor talking. I wish he would maybe slow down a bit and talk louder. Also, his instructions could be a little clearer. I was snooping around the past REU student's modeling assignments and they look pretty interesting. If I ever get the hang of it, it would be nice to put Maya on my resume. I'm looking forward to the rest of the week.

After the modeling course, team Tele-Robotics went to Black Engineering to work on our robot, HAL. At the moment, HAL is charging up. Maybe tomorrow we'll get to run the EZ-B software and get him/her/it working. *Fingers crossed*

Posted in REU |

♫ It's Friday, Friday.. ♫

Posted on June 8, 2012 by clb92

Kickin' in the front seat

Sittin' in the back seat

Gotta make my mind up

Which seat can I take?

Today is the end of Week 2, which went by extremely fast. I was actually expecting that it would be longer due to last week being short. Looks like I'll be back in MS before I know it (oh no). I probably didn't mention this but I was in a summer program the summer before I entered my freshman year in college. It was for Engineering majors (Civil, Computer, Computer Science) and our group was twice the size of this group. Anywho, I got really close with the program coordinator and to this day I check in with her as much as I can. I got to speak to her on my birthday, and to my surprise she told me that she spoke with Pam! After our chat, I realized how many people I have in my life cheering me on. It's nice to have people who are looking out for you and only want what's best for you. I'm really glad I met Mrs. Latham and also glad I met Pam.

Posted in REU |

Enter title here

Posted on June 7, 2012 by clb92

Today Team Tele-Robotics is working on the problem area paragraph that is due next Wednesday. It's coming along really great, but I honestly suck at writing and research. I'm fortunate enough to have teammates who are experts, in my opinion, at this. So far, I have contributed little and I'm hoping I'll get more ideas tonight.

On another note, I Tango'd (it's a video app) with my sister and 22 month old nephew, Chase. I told her to ship him here, because I miss him so much! He made my day when he said "Happy Birthday Tee Tee." ▨

Posted in REU |

16, 17, 18, 19….

Posted on June 6, 2012 by clb92

Today is my **20th** birthday. Yay! I'm pretty used to not celebrating much since I'm usually in school.. so I wasn't expecting anything. To my surprise, I came to our group's pod today and it was decorated. I also got TWO cakes today. I can definitely say that this birthday is one of the best! Thanks to everyone, I really appreciate everything. Even though I'm not home, I'm really happy to have a family here :).

On another note, I just found out that our graduate mentor, Peihan, and I share a birthday. So Happy Birthday Peihan (if you happen to ever read this)!

Our group also finished our C++ project early and we're beginning to clean it up (GO TEAM!). I can't wait to present on Monday.

We got to chat with REU interns from three years ago and they gave us more information about grad school. I didn't realize that it would take about another 8 years of school to get a Master's and Ph.D., but I believe it'll be worth it.

Posted in REU |

What Am I Going To Do With the Rest of My Life?

Posted on June 5, 2012 by clb92

Today's Luncheon Lecture with Mr. Gilbert (Stephen?) really got me thinking. The topic of grad school was discussed and I honestly got a lot of needed information. Immediately after graduation, I am planning to enter graduate school, and the workforce, in pursuit of my Master's and possibly PhD. Problem is, I don't know where. At the moment, I am interested in embedded systems; but as this summer pans out, we'll see if that changes. I'm planning on looking up most of the schools and programs that Mr. Gilbert talked about (if I can remember them all) to see if I can make some decisions.

Posted in REU |

06.04.12

Posted on June 4, 2012 by clb92

Week 1 is officially over. It'll be interesting to see how this week goes. So far, it has been off to a great start. Our team went to Black Engineering today and worked on our robot. I even got to solder wires together (cool).

We've also come up with the idea of making a Craps game using C++. I think we've got this project in the bag!

Tonight, I will be reading the remaining 30+ pages of articles about HCI. I'm praying that I have the focus.

Posted in REU |

First Day of June

Posted on June 1, 2012 by clb92

This is my third day in IA and it's going pretty well. I can't believe that it's June already. I'm getting more excited everyday about what lies ahead for the summer.

We got the results from the programming assessment that we took yesterday, and I'm exempt from 3 classes. But, I'm still planning to attend. I'm looking forward to doing more programming because I haven't done any code since last fall.

I hope I get better at blogging. :/

Posted in REU |

Test

Posted on May 31, 2012 by clb92

This is a test post. ▨

Posted in REU |

Press f for fullscreen.