

# Christian Santana Diaz

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 [projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2013/](http://projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2013/)

## Posts from me

### Last week . . .

Posted on [July 30, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Last week now and there is no turning back. It is already Tuesday, we have data, but there has been some confusion as for the data and more confusion for the poster. Poster was due yesterday but they have given us a bit more time to work on it and the only thing that has been missing these last two days has been data so everything seems to be alright. Stress level is fine for now. Also, a lot of mixed feelings and thinking on how things are going to be when I go back home and realizing how much I am going to miss everyone I've met so far at Iowa State University.

### Awesome Day of Paintball

Posted on [July 29, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

On Saturday, we went to the seven oaks paintball field where we spent half of our day at. It was the perfect day to play paintball because the weather was absolutely beautiful and chilly, making it better for us and the paint. As we headed on to the field I got even more pumped because it did hit me for a second . . ."I am about to play paintball again after such a long time" and I knew it would be better since it was going to be with the best group of interns ever. Soooooo yes, I did enjoy shooting everybody out on the field, running, flanking and making the best out of this experience. There was this one person (Connie) who mentioned something about me shooting her in the leg a couple of times and there is no proof about it!!, especially pictures!::P.

I have to thank Lisa, Bhaskar and Fred for taking us to play paintball, allowing us to shoot at each other and go all crazy out on the field.

### Craig's Birthday and Paintball Tomorrow!!

Posted on [July 26, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Birthdays are always the happiest days at VRAC, they bring everyone together and create this relaxing environment for the rest of the day. Special thanks to Francely, Connie and Craig because of them we have had cake and lots of it !!! Thank you guy's !!! 😊

Also, how could I forget about paintball tomorrow, yes we are going paintballing and it will be AWESOME. I cannot wait to have such a great competitive, shooting frenzy, going crazy time with everyone. . . :O no pun intended whatsoever. 📺



### Fancy Eating

Posted on [July 25, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

One of the fanciest lunches I've ever had in a while now was yesterday. It was very interesting to see how many

ways we can eat and at the same time it can be very boring. Now, I can say that it is difficult to eat slow when you are very HUNGRY!!! It is difficult because you have to take your time eating while I can be eating twice as fast and maybe still be a little bit fancy. I understand this being useful for business meetings and other things but knowing me and how I eat..... I would only do it is strictly necessary.



## Blogging . . .

Posted on [July 23, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

So Pam came by yesterday to tell us that we needed to blog more and here I am following her instructions because I haven't blogged in a while :P. Blogging is really not my thing but I guess I can't get away from it. SOOOOooo hmm the way I'm writing is very ugly (thinking on how to gather everything that I have to say into just a couple of things) oh ok ok ok I got it, so on Saturday we went to the zoo and saw one of my favorite animals . . . PENGUINS!!! I will buy one in a near future and nobody can say anything about it! By the way, I also saw an ocelot and well for any of you who have seen "Archer" then you would know it is such an excitement to see an ocelot :D.

As for yesterday, It was Connie's birthday and we went out to eat to "The Cafe". The steak was absolutely delicious even though it was one of the most expensive plates there but it was all worth it. Not every place has good steak, I give "The Cafe" props for having a really good one.

## Another Week

Posted on [July 16, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

These last two days have just been nonstop work and the amount of work it is just increasing. I would typically write about what we did on the weekend or something more interesting but I need more time to think things through.

Just three more weeks and I'll be back at home eating great food that I miss so MUCH !!! Random thing to mention but I felt like I needed to mention something about food because I am hungry right now 😊

## Work and John Deere

Posted on [July 10, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

7th week here at Iowa State University and getting to that state of shutting down for a few days, but it is all part of working. Me and my team are working hard to make this project work and be successful. Also, we went today to the John Deere company located in Waterloo, Ames and I have to say that it was pretty good even though some people including myself, were not paying attention 100% (falling asleep). Besides that, the factory was interesting to look at and admire how everything is carefully assembled to create these monstrous tractors which are a big contribution here in Iowa and all over the world. Well, I'm going to get back to work at 9pm !!! See you all tomorrow at VRAC.

Not a great ending to a blog but ..... it is 9pm .....

## Presentation, Spicy Cheetos and Six Flags

Posted on [July 3, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Today was our Mid-Project Oral Presentations and the Augmented Reality team which is my team!! decided to go

Today was our mid-project oral presentations and the Augmented Reality team which is my team!! decided to go first. I agreed to go first because that way we did not have to wait anxiously for the other teams to finish even though it was nerve racking to actually present first. Hopefully, we did good, well I think we did good as a team so yes!! we did good then. All the groups did great because we are the best REU group!!! 😊

After the presentations and lunch, Paul appeared with a bag of spicy Cheetos which were actually not bad and I cannot wait to get on the road to go to Six Flags!!!!It is going to be great trip and Chicago is also going to be amazing sooo in a few hours we are going to be on the road 😊

See you on July 8th VRAC!!

## Coffee

Posted on [June 28, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Besides this week being a very stressful one, James Oliver (faculty mentor), showed up today by our workspace and invited us to have a cup of coffee. We chatted for a bit and it was very relaxing. We needed a break like that to try and get ourselves back together. I am glad that our faculty mentor and both our mentors, Rafael and Tim are always checking up on us to see how our progress is going and how could they make our lives a bit easier.

## Just work

Posted on [June 26, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Today we had luncheon lecture with Pam and it was quite interesting to listen to everybody's opinions on how their summer was going. Everyone is under the same kind of stress this week, but we are all smart students and we will be just fine by the end of the week ..... I hope. Can't wait till Friday and get all this work done and at least enjoy the weekend, especially Friday, but I'll stop writing now because I have to keep working and writing this is taking time from all the work!!! Blog tomorrow 😊

## Des Moines

Posted on [June 24, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

On Saturday we went to the farmers market at Des Moines. I most mostly paying attention to all the dogs that were around instead of the actual food they had. Our mentor Rafael was there with us and he took all the awesome pictures that are posted on the website. Besides being a great mentor, he is a great photographer and also took me and my AR group to the capital building of Des Moines. Next weekend, Ledges Park.

## Maya's Last Class :/

Posted on [June 21, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

This has been a fun week working with Maya, but tomorrow will be our last class of Maya and I really wish we could have had more time to work with it and learn other important details. I thank Ted for his dedication and patience that he has had with us and also for sharing with us his knowledge in Maya, allowing us to be able to make pretty cool models of random things that we all like. By the way, this blog will probably say that it was published on the 21st, but I did started it on the 20th !!!!! time is playing with me!!

Here's is another known character from Mario 64. Hopefully I will have something very interesting with a couple of more characters, so enjoy this one .....it was pretty easy but it doesn't matter 📖

## Tortilla and BOO

Posted on [June 19, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Lately I have been looking for something different to eat at the USDC and every time I walked by the tortillas they stared at me...soooooo I have been avoiding them for no reason. Today, I finally decided to be a man, stand in line and get a tortilla. It was alright, not the best, but just alright. Tomorrow I might have some more ...



## Animal

Posted on [June 18, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Today was a rather interesting day for my team and I as we all had to discuss articles with our mentors. We did pretty good... I think but that is all part of the learning process. Next week will be a tough week with lots of things to do for our research project and it will get tougher.

I will now demonstrate the animal that I did for the modeling class and just so you know..... it is not my best work, but whatever :).

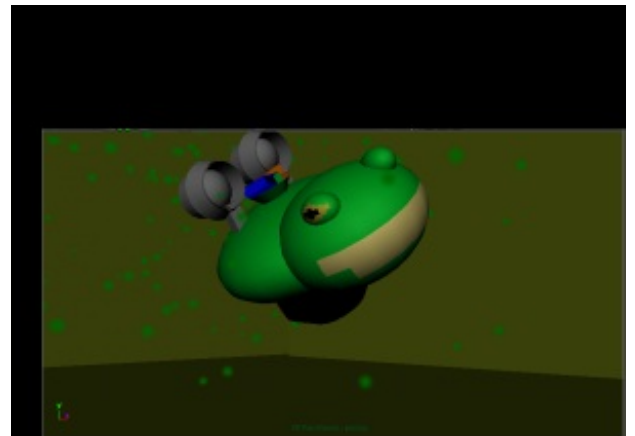


## OpenGL and Snowman

Posted on [June 17, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Still not completely done with the OpenGL project and I still have to read for the research project. The project paragraph held us back a little on the OpenGL project so hopefully we will get to finish the project before presenting it.

First day using Maya and it was pretty fun to work with, everything came out good .... I guess. It has so many things that you can adjust making it more challenging and with such a wide variety of things to do it makes me want to keep using it. Now, I will present to you my snowman project !!!! and I hope everybody likes it.



## My day

Posted on [June 14, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

So today was an unusual day but it was pretty interesting. Started off with the continuation of my OpenGL planetary system with I am still having problems with and I get very frustrated sometimes. But nonetheless, I am learning and hopefully keep learning more throughout the weekend with the group project. Then, I went to the clinic to get my knee checked and I spent a lot of time with one of the mentors Andrea Halabi. They could not have chosen a better mentor for us because she is just amazingly sweet and she helps us in everything. After I got out of the clinic, we went to Walmart (for the 100,000 time), bought what I needed to buy and when Andrea brought me back to Freddy, I did not have my keys with me .....Sooooooo I had to go back to VRAC on a rainy day and put everything

in the fridge 😊

## Light Painting

Posted on [June 13, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

We finally got to go light painting after it had been cancelled a few times do to bad weather. It was super awesome and it was just amazing how the final pictures came out. I definitely have to try that some other time, because of the amazing time that I had and I am sure everybody did too.

## Still not done with the planets !!!!

Posted on [June 12, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Yesterday on the OpenGL class we were assigned to make a solar system with only three planets and make them rotate how they are suppose to rotate. Spent a while trying to figure it out but kelli helped me out a little bit with at so now they are rotating !!! Now, what has got me a bit confused is the whole lighting thing, I got some things to work and others..... well lets just say I kinda messed them up a bit. OpenGL is pretty cool but I guess I just have to get used to it and hopefully everything will turn out fine.



## A day at Ada Hayden Park

Posted on [June 11, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Never thought I would be going to such a beautiful place in Ames, specially with such an amazing group. We played some ultimate frisbee, ate hamburgers and some hot dogs. We should definitely go again to Ada Hayden Park, it was an amazing experience and I have to thank Andrea and Lisa for taking us there, because if it wasn't for them we would have not gone to the park. Also, the story telling activity was great for everyone as we all shared some embarrassing stories. Until next time we go do awesome stuff and I guess I will write some more tomorrow :).

## A weekend of programming

Posted on [June 10, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Spent the weekend programming and eating from Hickory Park. As I we all went to the park yesterday, it was a great stress reliever and got the chance to do a bit of ultimate frisbee which it was not the wises idea to play with an injured knee. I guess I did talk more about the park than programming. Sometimes my titles do not go with what I write, but it is fine I guess :).

## Golden Grahams and a banana minion!!

Posted on [June 7, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

I have been on a search all over Puerto Rico trying to find the one and only cereal that I once shared an experience with but no luck whatsoever on finding it. Yesterday, at Walmart, while on the search I found them !!!!After so many years of investigation and traveling all over the world (not really), I found them and it was a moment to never forget. This morning was an unforgettable morning.

As I expressed my feelings towards golden grahams on the paragraph above, I also have another accomplishment but it was not just me, it was with my team and I feel super good about what we accomplished even if it is not something that wow yet. We finally got to mount the banana in the minions mouth when the two markers got close to

each other. It was great and we will continue to do awesome stuff as a team.

## Chicken!!

Posted on [June 6, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

So today we ate chicken and got a better understanding of 3D visualization and understanding thanks to a fellow PhD student. The food was very good and thanks to that now I don't have to cook when I get back to the apartment !! Plus, I have a piece of cake right next to me just in case I get hungry and if I do, I'll attack. Just to add a little something..... I am not eating popcorn for a while .....I ate a bit too much yesterday.

## Games, Food and Movies

Posted on [June 5, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Just got back from the Union Drive Community Center and I am stuffed. Great to eat after a busy morning of programming. Very excited to see everyone's final project next Monday and get ours done in time too :). It is going to be quite stressful week but I think we can pull it off, besides I have an awesome team !! Soooo it shall be great. At least we are going to the movies today!!! and it will be a great stress reliever ..... for just a couple of hours. Then, back to programming .... wohooo..... how exciting .....

By the way, Lanya, I will make sure to RICE my knee in the correct way and not think about rice !! ☺

## Sandwiches and a bad knee

Posted on [June 4, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Well I just have to say that Monday was a great day to play some basketball with everyone and also some volleyball. Even though I am not very good at basketball I still had fun and had just a few lucky shots here and there. The downside about it was that I damaged my knee a little bit but still had a lot of fun. Hopefully we will do this some other time, because it was definitely an awesome bonding experience and at least it is something different than just going to Walmart (where you make friends and shop at the same time) all the time.

Today I woke up with my knee very sore and glad to know that my friends are willing to catch a bus instead of the usual, walking to the VRAC. Maybe it was because it was a rainy day and they did not want to walk on a rainy day but I will just think of it in a good way :). On top of that, we all got sandwiches!!!!!! thank you !! see you tomorrow !!

## Trust, Racquetball and C++

Posted on [June 3, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Just passed an amazing weekend with everyone and could not be happier with my the teams. Everyday is a whole new challenge. Saturday was completely new for me, never thought I would be climbing a three story high tower and trusting my friends to hold the rope that was supporting me. It is great to know that I can trust a group of people in which we have only been together for such a short period of time but yet feels like years.

Sunday was racquetball day for me and for all of my roommates. We all had a great time, it was a great experience and I just have to say that my roommates are awesome!!

Today has been quite interesting with the first C++ class over here at the VRAC and our instructors have been very detailed with the class so far. It will get very interesting throughout the week and see what else they teach us.

Waiting to meet up with our mentors and discuss everything and of course, I cannot forget about the activity that we have later on today at the gym. I would write much more about the weekend but it is just too much to write during working hours, maybe some other time.

## First Impression

Posted on [May 31, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Hello,

Great first impression under a great working environment. Glad to be part of the program and as things get more challenging they will be getting more interesting. Very excited to for what they will offer us everyday.

I am expecting to learn a lot from this summer experience, especially on how we work as a team and how we will merge ideas to make great projects. I also hope to learn a lot of information on various technologies that i have not worked with before and take advantage of every single minute that I have during this summer.

## Second Day at Iowa State

Posted on [May 30, 2013](#) by [csd123](#)

Hello Everyone,

My second day at Iowa State University was one of the longest day of my life and it felt never ending. I thank everybody who has been working with us and helping us throughout these two days. This is going to be a very long summer but I know it is going to be a very fun summer. It has only been two days here at Iowa State University but it feels like more than that, because of the great teams we have and I already have stories to tell and things that have happened to me. A great start for the summer.