

# Sheneeka Ward

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

## Happy birthday, Connie!

I started this draft at some point last week...oops.

I will try to cover everything I missed.

7/21 Sunday

TED talk (coined by David) – Lunch with our modeling instructor, Ted Martens, at UDCC and then the next couple hours we were shown snippets of his work. It was amazing and really nice to hear about. I discovered Computer Science when I tried learning about being a video game designer in middle school. If any of the students here really dive into game development, it would be awesome to follow their journey.

7/20

Omaha Zoo

Huge zoo. We tried to get to as many exhibits as we could and we still did not see everything. It leaves me something to do if I ever happen to come to Nebraska again. The only exhibit I did not like was the Kingdoms of the Night one with all those bats, alligators, and snakes...nope, it was not for me. I thought I walked out there fast, but I heard that Andrea and Kelli were already out and getting lunch haha.

Overall, it was a great trip. Driving over was fun and coming back was even better. The time flew by. Lots of laughter and, I believe, each car enjoyed their drive.

Buffalo Wild Wings

It was my first time at Buffalo Wild Wings. Again, it was fun talking with everyone and hearing their stories. I got to see a little of the NBA Summer League also.

For the rest of the night, I got in a little Toonami (BLEACH) and went to meet up with some of the others for more fun time. Making an effort to not point or call someone's name can really be difficult.

7/19 Friday

Principal Financial in Des Moines

The visit gave us an idea of what industry work would be like. They run usability tests about 2 times a month, which I thought was pretty interesting. It was a nice quick tour and The Last Breath was awesome (<http://jamesturrell.com/artwork/last-breath/>).

Panera Bread

This was my first time eating here. I got a panini and a cookie to save for later. While eating lunch, we got into an anime, which is always great to hear about and other shows I can get into.

Science Center

A lot of fun. We had a tour and then time to explore the exhibits. I liked seeing the quick videos in the Star Theater. We walked in when it was pretty dark and it felt like "The Second to Last Breath". was I tried making a rocket, it went maybe 10 feet. I think, I enjoyed the Eureka lab the most, a lot of little things to play with.

7/18 Thursday

## Presentations

Google Hangout REU webconference with UPENN and Rutgers. I only wish the presentations were a bit longer so more of the problem could be introduced. It was good to hear that as a group, this set of presentations seemed stronger. I kind of feel my performance for the first one was better. I felt more focused for the first presentation. I was not as nervous for this presentation, but I still felt like my knees were shaking or something. Maybe it comes from something else, like trying to speak louder. I do not know....

## Luncheon Lecture – Debra Satterfield

Awesome work to help people with Autism. I wish we could have heard more of her work while eating lunch, but she had to another meeting to attend.

## Food at Andrea's

Thank you Andrea (and Andrea's friend), Lisa, and Paul for preparing all the food. It was tasty.

7/17

More revisions to the poster. It is not difficult, it just takes time.

Here after 10 PM. I heard that the video scavenger hunt was pretty fun...

7/16 Tuesday

## Luncheon Lecture Larysa Nandoly

Games and teaching. Interesting.

[http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/students-prefer-print-but-not-books-for-serious-academic-reading/44871?cid=wc&utm\\_source=wc&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/students-prefer-print-but-not-books-for-serious-academic-reading/44871?cid=wc&utm_source=wc&utm_medium=en)

We also got into a talk about preference for digital vs paper textbooks. I would like to have both, but I prefer paper.

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Maybe next week we can try \$.95 tacos and \$1 movies...We were here until about 10PM.