

Alexis Moreno

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2014/

0530 flights

Posted on [July 30, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I dropped off Allen at the airport yesterday for his 0530 flight. It was about 0430 when I got back from the Des Moines airport. Helping Getch program more of the plug-in.

Room

Posted on [July 28, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I have been spending almost all my free time fixing up my room and my friend's room, Allen. We have decided to collaborate to have a study room and a fun room. We are building furniture for his room and painting the room. We gutted most of his room the past week. The room was an ugly orange -_- we are going to make it blue and silver grey. Our study room is pretty cool so far, we just have to finish it off. Very excited to finish this by August fifteenthish, even though Allen is going to Texas this Wednesday and I will be in NYC for a lot of days.



Weird that this is the last week with the group. :(

Broomball

Posted on [July 24, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Last night was a very exciting broomball game. we were able to pull off the victory and win the championship. I think Sam and Mari will get some shirts for being part of the team. Mari scored the only goal during non over times. The project is still working out.

Always shoot for a 10.... and broomball

Posted on [July 23, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Yesterday I made sure to get tenth place in all of the lazer tag games. Well, I managed to get tenth in all the games. I do not know why but I would make sure to get ahead and then just mess around to assure myself the tenth place. Hope y'all enjoyed my dancing 😊

Today are the finals for broomball, very excited. The other team has to beat us twice and we have to beat them once. It is a double elimination and we have not lost.

Working on the project more. Trying to help Getch with all the programming but it is still as difficult for me as always. But hey, I am still learning tons!

Have a good one 😊

Internal Conflicts

Posted on [July 22, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Debra has just become a very big role model to me. She was able to take her technical degree and use it to do something she was passionate about. I have always had an internal conflict when it comes to my future. As of now I am a sophomore in the Aerospace Engineering department at Iowa State.

I believe my life is great and that I am very fortunate. I do feel that I will not be able to fulfill a void in my life through my social life or successes in academia. What I am talking about is the very first hobby I had in kindergarten, helping special needs children. I have not been able to volunteer with the children in a hands on environment since coming to college. Some people have learned that I am the philanthropy chair for my fraternity, which is great, but not the same.

I was able to get this senior position job because I showed everyone the passion that I have for special needs children. I raise money for a club called Autism Speaks U and organize many community service events for my house. I do events like dodgeball tournaments, late night concerts, and even food booths to raise money for Autism Speaks U. I do all this and there is still that void.

Seeing how I was able to mentor and teach the children gave me a sense of accomplishment that I have not gotten since coming to college. I have been thinking about switching my major. I can do Aerospace engineering and make it work for me, but I am frightened of the void that will be there for the rest of my life. I am thinking of either switching into a major specifically for special needs children or switching into a different technical field because I cannot see myself combining the two. Perhaps something broader like mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, or even biomedical engineering. Tip on majors to look at are more than welcomed and appreciated!

Project is going good. Probably. Yes it is. ☺

Camping

Posted on [July 21, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Went camping this past weekend. Had a bunch of fun. Working more on the project.

volleyball

Posted on [July 16, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Playing volleyball yesterday was fun. I brought my friend Trevor over to play with us. I think he is the most competitive guy that I know, he hates losing. I am looking forward to today's tournament, we will dominate everyone.

Started working on our paper. Its more like putting things together and then just editing and adding.

Nervous

Posted on [July 15, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I am getting nervous because the program is coming to an end. I do not know if I am feeling pressure but I definitely feel like i have to be constantly working. You can ask Mat, I just look at him and ask him what I should be doing. I wish I knew more coding so that I could help more with the plug-in. I am making strives to learn the coding but it is difficult. I learned gui today. I made a little hypotenuse calculator. Mat couldn't find ways to break it with smashing my laptop, so hopefully I did a good job.

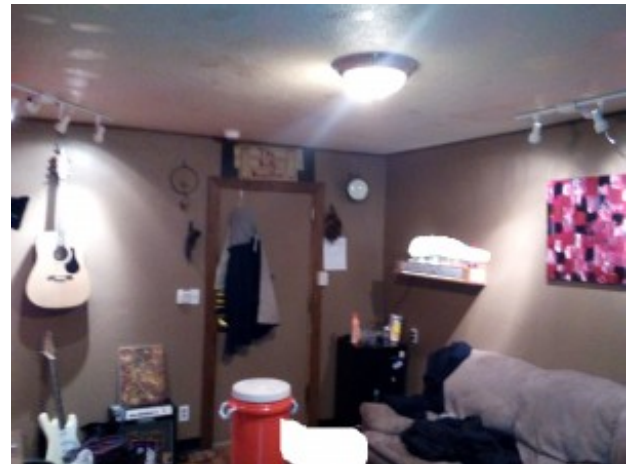
Last night was very chill. I played some soccer but left early because there was too many people. I started preparing for my trip this weekend and on floor plans for my room. My house's president is also planning a trip to New York on Aug 6th. I started looking at places to go while I am New York. A lot of planning, very annoying but much needed.

My room last semester.

Bwukkk ~8/\

Posted on [July 14, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

This past weekend was a very fun and relaxing weekend. I slept in all Friday after playing soccer. I seriously slept for about 10 hours, amazing. I then woke up Saturday morning to go help my friend move his belongings to Ankeny. After finishing there I helped my other friend setup the futon he got. Then came my favorite part, the Riemman garden, The garden was very relaxing and fun. We went and ate at battles bbq after the garden. Some of the interns hung out at my house until about 4:00 a.m. to end the day, or start the next day. I then woke up around 8:30 to go frofing with a prospective pledge, followed with about six hours of sleep. I finally went to my house and started designing my room for next semester. "The Dirty Drumstick" is my room for next semester. That room is usually the favorite hang out room in the house. I am trying to make it even better by building a beautiful table and counter top, it will make it a lot more beautiful. Nothing crazy happened this weekend, but it was nonetheless extremely fun.



"Do not take life too seriously. You'll never get out of it alive." -Elbert Hubbard

Superdog

Posted on [July 11, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Last night I took some of the other inters to get their first superdog, in one case, his first two superdogs. It was fun and a way to recuperate from having spent all the time we did concentrating on the presentations. I will say that I am more tired today than I have been the other days that I went out. We drove everyone back at the apartments because they said they were tired. I was not too tired at the moment and decided to go hang out with my friend Allen. Allen wanted some food so we went back by the superdog stand for fajitas. Well we got them and there was some live music, it was chill. We then went back and started planning for the room that we are going to construct for next semester. For the people who have been in my room and know how it looks now, it will be twice as better. I know it's hard to phantom.

Going back to presentations. I was not too nervous about the presentation but I was forgetting what points I was supposed to hit. I would say that it is easier for most people to present by themselves because then you don't have to

keep in mind what not to present. Some groups were not as prepared as others. Do other REU programs not train their interns? Let me know if you have been in a different REU program in the past and your experience. Thanksz!

Work off = no posts

Posted on [July 11, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I just got home at 2:00 am and remembered that I have not written a post in two days now. This probably has to do with there being no internet and us leaving work early two days in a row. Not having working internet is kind of problematic for the HCI department. I have been very busy though.

So I was not much into the talk about noise feedback on Wednesday. It was somewhat interesting but not my area. I would have much rather have heard more on his research then have spent all that time in beginning. I did not like the noises that were being presented to us. I had a lot of errands to run on Wednesday and a lot of resting to catch up on. I was not able to rest because we had broomball games to win. The exam icicles is still in the running for the championship. IGA team had also practiced for two hours before the game, which showed in today's presentation.

Project is still going well.

Break

Posted on [July 7, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Break was a lot of fun. I finally got to spend time with my mother, after a little bit more than a year. I went home about two weeks before the REU started, but did not get to spend time with her. I did not go to any parties and only saw one friend. I knew that if I told anyone else I was going back home I'd get bum rushed to spend time away from my family. Like a true engineer I went to the Museum of Science and Industry with my family on Thursday. On the fourth we had a nice barbeque at a family's friend's place. On Saturday we did the same at my parent's house. Not the weekend or vacation I'm used to but it was fun none the less.

The presentation sounds like it will be tons of fun. I think our group is really into making this the best we can. We were in room 0010 today using the television screen to look at my laptop. Very good room for collaborating as a group. The poster also sounds fun, cannot wait to present.

P.S. There will a board game night at my house! All are welcomed to come. Let me know for info. 7733315953

————Chocolate Pi

°-< Fiesta man

~~~ Have a good one ☺



## Ultimate

Posted on [July 1, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Last night I play ultimate Frisbee for about two hours and soccer for about thirty minutes. I then got some late night fireside food. Overall I am physically tired. I went to bed a little bit before twelve and did not wake up until eight today. I showered before I slept so I just got dress and came to the lab. My body is aching from running for all that time, I was having a lot of fun with my friends. When I'm having fun I do not stop running. Its strange how well conditioned I am, considering my size.

Finished the engine turbine today, have a meeting with advisers in a bit. I want to keep progressing on our project.

## Cowabunga!

Posted on [June 27, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Cowabunga from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, my favorite fake word, was also my first English related word. I say this word when something utterly amazing happens around me. Having a good day? Scream, COWABUNGA! I am in a very good mood today, even though its gloomy outside. So .... COWABUNGA! This week was very productive for me and I had some fun throughout the week.

I do not play video games because I have an addiction to mastering them. Sorry for just sitting around yesterday but I cannot revert back to when I was young and played yu-gi-oh or runescape all day. Video games is a chapter that ended when I was twelve and I hope to keep it that way, or else you would never see me again.

Lets have a great fun filled weekend! Let me know if you'd like to explore Ames some more. ☺

## Sorry Andrea

Posted on [June 26, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

So i forgot to write my post yesterday, sorry VRAC staff. This is an excuse like every other excuse, meaningless... Well here it is... I completely forgot! I went to an interview for the college of engineering and also to a student panel that asked me a few questions about my freshman year. I had an interview with a staff of the college of engineering here at Iowa State through a recommendation of my Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO). I think I am going to be one of those brochere kids or something LOL XD ... Dr. Ancar, my MLO, is a good friend of mine from my summer program last year. There is a program called APEX which is for minorities at Iowa State Univerity. We get to come the summer before our freshman and take eight free credits through a scholarship that also granys us a place to live with a lot of meals. The kids from these year's APEX led the questionnaire.

Today I did a good job with my project, or so I think. I constructed a rough draft of the engine turbine that Professor Ming-Chen asked us to.

## Hawk

Posted on [June 24, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Yesterday I was reading out front on the concrete of Howe. I was lying on my back with the paper covering my face. A hawk flew right over me! It was literally a foot away from my face. The hawk caught a pigeon and killed it in a few seconds behind one of the rocks. It flew directly at me with its prize pigeon. I had to dodge it, It stopped directly perpendicular of my and looked me straight in the eyes. There were a lot of people who saw this and were freaked out. It was an interesting experience. Lunch at Mongolian buffet for Phil's birthday dinner was an amazing idea. I learned that sake is a type of beer, I did not have any, but was surprised to learned about it.

I am currently trying to learn the Rhinocommon code. Matt is taking care of most of the coding since he is the only one with previous experience. My part of the code will be implemented later. I hope the code I write is a bit useful for him, I am sure he will have to change it but it will hopefully save time.

## Finished

Posted on [June 23, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

We are finally done with all the classes that we were suppose to take for training. Although they taught me a lot and they were fun at times, so over it for the moment being. Having more time to work on our research project is a nice feeling.

This weekend was fun at zombie burger and the trampoline park. The burger destroyed me and I never want to go there again. The burger was delicious and worth the food five hour coma. I am excited to go to the mall of America, I think I will buy some more sperrys since I need some more. I lost almost all of my shoes in the cinco de Mayo incident, which we do not talk about. Minor details 😊

Well back to coding :) not that frightened but I still really am.

“But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.”  
— Ernest Hemingway”

## Forget about sleep

Posted on [June 19, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I think I have trained myself not to sleep anymore. I have weird tendencies when it comes to how much I sleep. I sleep about five to six hours a night and then take an hour nap at some point of the day. The reason I bring this up is because yesterday was broomball night for me. Mariama and Sam went with me, we had games at 10:46 and at 11:15 and then went over to my house for burgers and a small bonfire. We got home at about 1:00 am and I set my alarm for 6:45; only hit the five minute snooze once. I feel wonderful and not tired at all. My team, "exam icicles" is 5-1 with the lost being in the prelim games. Also Mariama got a two minute foul for whacking someone with the stick =0.

Yesterday I did not go to lunch with everyone because I went to the writing and media center to work on my resume. I decided to update my resume since it has changed somewhat. I do not believe in representing myself on a piece of paper but with not having another option I believe that my resume should be as best as possible. I would say that meeting me is a lot more pleasing then actually seeing my resume, which I believe to be good. You should consider visiting the writing and media center if you'd like professional help with writing a research paper. Room 300 in Carver, they are very helpful, I promise!

My writing skills are not the best if you could not tell. I learned English from the Teenage Mutant Turtles and not from school. That was the only television show I could watch as I went with my dad to his weekend job and just helped/hung out with him. Which is why you might see me looking up common words on Google for spelling or synonyms. I would rate my proficiency in languages in this order 1. Spanish 2. Italian and English. The writing and media center is a a great place to go to for help, they got me a much higher grade in my English class than I could have by myself.

“The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places.”

—Ernest Hemingway      <———— Favorite author OMG

## Busy

Posted on [June 18, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

We have so much to do this week! The OpenGL projects are time consuming and are very hard. we have to make a hard end project as well. This is all a bit overwhelming now that we have a direction on our research project. I am sure our research group right now wishes that we had more time for our project. Today's stats class also did not help. I feel like the stats class was not as useful as it could have been; it was still interesting though. Wanting to go home and take a one hour power nap and then be extremely productive.

## Thunder

Posted on [June 17, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Last night there was rain and a beautiful thunder storm. I immediately started looking at more coding and rhino things right after work. I spent my time doing this until about 8:00pm and decided to take a break. I spent the rest of

the night hanging out at my friends apartment in Chamberlain. I fell asleep on my friends bed and woke up at 4:00am and drove back to Freddy. I was up so I made the slide for our openGL proposal. I kept working through the morning as I knew I would not fall asleep. I was very awake the entire day and felt very comfortable, even though I probably got like five hours of sleeping.

I am looking forward to today's activities. It should be tons of fun to go eat. Tommorrow holds another night of wonderful broomball!

## Weekend

Posted on [June 16, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

So programming is coming along now that I have spent more time with it. Today I constructed an interesting loop function to write my name and save myself time. I think it has to do with my good mathematical abilities, also I like coding more now. Designing the 3d objects has been fun. Our research group believes that we are on the right path to accomplishing our long time goal of a rhino plug-in.

Saturday's hike was a ton of fun and very relaxing. I dressed up like an explorer as good humor, but I think people thought I was being serious. I will probably return to the bridge one day, a I live in Ames now.

Not much to say other than I am still excited and appreciating all that I am learning.

**"If I had to summarize my entire life in one sentence it be, 'minor details'"**

— **Guy from last Saturday night**

## Coding

Posted on [June 13, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I am currently a bit frustrated with coding. I know what I have to do but can not do it. It all goes back to syntax. I have learned of a new tutorial website to help me with my c# coding. I do wish I could just learn it automatically. I plan to lowlife this entire weekend and finally figure out what I have to do. Actually I just figured out how to do half of it (ten minutes later).

Maya is an interesting tool, I will explore this program after the REU internship is over. As well as all the coding and cad-ing programs. These are very useful and fun.

This weekend sounds like it will be fun, we will finally have a day all to ourselves, Sunday. I think everyone needs this weekend to relax as I feel people are a little tense from this week's incidents.

I am looked upon my fraternity to be a leader by a lot of my brothers. I decide to take many roles in my fraternity because I really believe in it and believe it will make me a better person. With that being said I would like to apologize if I am not able to attend all the extracurricular activities outside the planned ones. I would like to take part of the food trips and video games being played but cannot because I am one of the main recruiters for the house. Orientation month is big for us. Attending the bonfires, sporting events, tournaments, and barbeques that are held at



my house are a must for me as I have the silver tongue that convinces gentlemen to join. Apologies once again.

“I’m not concerned with your liking or disliking me... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being.”  
Jackie Robinson

## Broomball and sleeping

Posted on [June 12, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

So I decided to catch up on my sleep yesterday. I slept from about 5:30 till 8:00. I then read a little and went to my broom-ball games later that night. We won both game on the last minute, very exciting. On my way back a biker went in front of me and I had to swerve to the left of the road to dodge the biker. I ended up messing up my gear shifter module, the fuze was blown from the abrupt stopping. I had to open the console and automatically change the gear by disabling the module, which was on parking. I then had to drive home with pliers for a stick shift because it was stuck. I now have to go and get a new module for the stick since it is stuck on park.

Stilling try to find ways on how to code our plug-in. Feel really bad about Getch having to do all the coding /: but he is being very good about it.

## Etiquette and professionalism

Posted on [June 11, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Started looking into ways to do object orientation in C#. I think I spent abut two hours after lab time trying to learning the code. I really want to get this coding thing down so that we can construct our plug-in for rhino. I respect Ming-Cheng a lot and wish to deliver results to him as soon as possible. Kick Boxing with Andrea was also fun at yesterdays extracurricular activities. Going to dinner last night was also fun.

Today we had a dinner on proper American styled etiquette at the dinning table. I really enjoyed the brush up on proper American etiquette since I am used to continental. I have always enjoyed fine dinning and fine cooking. One thing that I do not mind spending extra money is good ingredients for cooking. I enjoy cooking good food, and the only way to enjoy good food is with proper etiquette.

//////////////////// weak stomachs do not read////////////////////////////////////

Monday night held a new experience for me. I walked into my fraternity house to see my brother skinning a rabbit. I asked him what was going on and he said that he saw a rabbit get nicked by the car in front. The rabbit died from a hit to the head. Well my friend is into hunting and knows how to skin rabbits, so he picked it up an brought it home. Well last night we all got together and made a huge pot of soup with rabbit, vegetables, and chicken. It was a spicy

soup and very well done. It was my first time eating rabbit. It was also my first time seeing an animal skinned, other than a fish.

////////////////////////////////////

I wanna bamboo all night longgggg 🍵

## watermalon watermalon :)

Posted on [June 10, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

*Watermalon Watermalon*, yum yum, I love watermelon, there is no denying it. I buy so much watermelon that I sometimes lose track of it. I found a watermelon in my backseat yesterday and I ended eating up half of it. A full sized watermelon at that. I am going to eat the other half today, Id say i go through at least two watermelons throughout the week.



We know what we have to do for our research project and just have to learn how to do it. We have to learn C# programming and then write a plug-in for Rhino 5.

Learning solidworks has been very fun. We have had two good teachers and I am personally looking forward to the next class. I'd wish there were more hours in the day, there is just so much I want to do.

I played soccer yesterday at MWL fields with my brothers and some strangers, we had lots of fun. I remembered how much fun it was to actually play a whole entire field of soccer with a good sized team. We played 8 vs 8 for about an hour. I got kicked really hard on my calf while defending. I had to go buy some tiger balm to rub on my boo-boo. I should be fine to go to the gym today and do some kickboxing as tiger balm works wonders for bruises and wounds.

Speaking of kickboxing, me and Rey (today's lecturer) are going to arrange some kickboxing work outs. This sounds like fun given Rey's personality. I appreciate that Rey is who he is and can still talk to you as any friend would. Talking with him gave me a good feeling about going to grad school. I see know that my personality doesn't have to change after I graduate with a bachelors. Other than that have an awesome day!

## “Rawwwrrr”

Posted on [June 9, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Hey all! Meet Lenny! Lenny is a black bearded dragon, I am taking care of her for a friend who is in Korea. I am terrified of it for some reason, although it doesn't bite at all. This past weekend I cleaned her cage and had to pick her up. I was very scared but still did it, as one should always conquer their fears. Well turns out that Lenny was a sweetheart! Lenny was very friendly and was even scared me. Which is strange considering I am about 100X her weight.... Well me and Lenny are pals now, I even gave her a “shower”, which is just putting her in a bowl with lukewarm water.



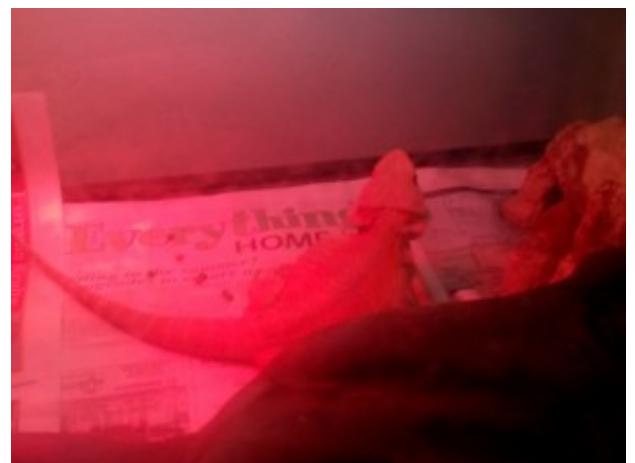
I am excited to forget about C++ for a while, well only to learn C#. I will go back to it some point of my life and proficiently learn C++. I will have to concentrate on C# for the rest of the summer since it will be used in my research. Dr. Winer suggested that I not try to learn two languages at the same time. CAD is exciting, I used Inventor before coming to college and picked up basic Solidworks while designing a tornado for the Science Center of Iowa. I will hopefully be as good as I am in Inventor by the end of this crash course. Everything seems to be going well in the program, I am very excited and happy still.

## Little Bio

Posted on [June 6, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

So today during lunch Kelsey asked me to tell her something about myself. As you all know I came to the program late and therefor missed out on all the ice breaker type of games. So here is a little but about me. I am the youngest of three siblings, I have two older sisters, Nancy and Amy, 23 and 21 years old respectfully. I was born and raised in Chicago, Ill, I just finished my freshman year in Aerospace Engineering, I am big on community service, and I am very active.

I believe that I have been very blessed to be where I am at in my life, so therefor believe that giving back my community is very important. I was in charge of educating special needs children back home for about three years. I spent about 5 hours with them on the weekends and about 2 hours on weekdays and learn to appreciate the children. I was in charge of enhancing there social, moral and scholarly skills. I am the current philanthropy chair for my Fraternity and organize



small, but fun, events that can range from a night time concert to a food booth. I usually work with a group called Autism Speaks U.

Going on, I am a very active person. I enjoy being outdoors as much as possible, which is weird since I am an engineer o.O. My fraternity has taught me to get involved in everything I can and to be the most social person I can be. They have also taught me to have a switch, as to know when to be serious. Which is why I would like to apologize if I am not as social during the work day. Work hard play hard ☺

I enjoy reading outdoors, long walk on the beach (just kidding there are no beaches in Ames) , playing sports, outdoor activities, learning, meeting people, attending soirees, and working out. I live by my own made panda code: heavy hands yet scholarly. Just meaning I do believe in brains and brawn but do not believe in violence. I do a lot of heavy sided sports like kick boxing, Taekwondo, lifting, etc. I also enjoy cooking a lot! If anyone would ever like to have a food exchange let me know, maybe even a putlock o.O?

P.S. I usually am doing something fun, so if you find yourself bored and wish to do something just let me know. I am a bit shy when it comes to asking new people to join me on something, but I am also extremely welcoming!

## italian tutorials!

Posted on [June 5, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Found some Italian tutorials for Rhino, very excited !~!~!

I do not get to practice my Italian much, or even hear it!

Omg 49 videos, my mind is melting of joy!!!



+++++ GRAD SCHOOL +++++

I get very prance and excited when I hear about grad school. I just finished my first year of my undergrad and already want to go to grad school. I have always wanted to go to grad school and receive my masters in Mechanical Engineering. After hearing Dr.Winer's discussion on not doing what you plan, I am not so sure about wanting to dedicate my life to "rocket science". I will keep an open mind when advancing in my engineering career. I am sure I will enjoy what ever it is I decide to do with my degree. Still planning to go to grad school, not sure what I will be doing. Still hoping to decide rockets and flying thingamabops.

+++++ BROOMBALL +++++

I play co-ed broom-ball on Wednesday nights, we have two girls that play but need another as the girls get exhausted! let me know if you want to play broomball on my team! I've included a link to a youtube showing what it is. No worries, it is not as intense as this video, I play in my sperrys and what ever t-shirt I happen to be wearing at the time <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xy9sy-jwYVI>



## Hickory Park last night

Posted on [June 4, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Going to hickory park was really fun last night! I enjoyed spending time with my colleagues and getting to know each one a little better. The food was delicious as well.

Matt's and Mitch's beat-boxing always tend to make everything more dramatic then they need to be. Car drives become car chases, or a race against time to get somewhere before something devastating happens.

Was very impressed with Kelsey's musical knowledge, very diverse, from R-Kelly to Taylor swift o.0?

I am very excited about our research project. Our PHD student adviser and professor have cleared up a lot for group. They have even purposed the publication question that they think we should write about. I need to also learn the c-sharp coding language. There are a lot of interesting research papers to read about as well. Our proffesor said that he would like something in two weeks, a start to our plug-in application for rhino.

C++ has been getting better, I swear that Matt is an amazing teacher. I will probably learn the equivalent in C++ in these four days as when I learned Fortran in six weeks of class.

**p.s. probably will go disc golfing today!**

## C++

Posted on [June 3, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

Learning programming this past year has been very strange for me. I learned matlab and then went on to learn fortran this past school year. I never even thought about programming before coming to Iowa State. Programming to me was a bunch of numbers in black and green, especially zeroes and ones. Learning C++ has been a bit difficult these past days but I have been able to understand and do most of it. C++ is very much like fortran. I enjoy learning code though. I wish I had had the opportunity to have learned programming at a younger age. Especially since I will have to program the rest of my life as an Aerospace engineer.



**I will be disc golfing tomorrow if the weather is appropriate. Let me know if you'd like to go!**

**p.s. I can acquire some discs from my friends if needed.**

## First weekend- Finally settled in

Posted on [June 2, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

I'd like to say that the first weekend was very entertaining! The rope course was extremely fun and worth missing my last day of work at the odyssey event!

Matt is in my research group for isogeometric analysis, and I got to know him fairly well during the day's activities. My other research partner Mariama had an eye scare, but she is ok, and that is what matters :). Mitch and I also motivated each other to climb the "harder" of the courses; belaying did not help.

Later that day I drove me, Matt and Mitch to Walmart, which got to be a bit difficult. My back seats were being occupied by boxes and other arbitrary items. So Matt and Mitch took turns sitting on each other's laps in the passenger seat. I was a bit worried about getting pulled over by the cops, but we were ok. We did pass a few cops on the way though 0.0

**If anyone is willing/wanting to have a bonfire sometime with smores and hotdogs let me know and I can set it up . There is usually two bonfires at my house per week and everyone is super friendly.**





## Busy week

Posted on [May 30, 2014](#) by [amoreno](#)

What a crazy week it has been.... I came back from Chicago Friday afternoon to having to move into my new apartment. Luckily all my fraternity brothers helped me move into my apartment for the summer. I actually did not know I was going to move out until the day before I came back to Ames. My fraternity brother had his roommate move back to his home country of Nigeria and abandoned him with double rent! I told him I would live with him until his summer lease was done so he did not have to pay double rent. So I moved from my fraternity house into an apartment in West Ames. After this move to my new apartment I was hired to work a one week event at ISU, odyssey of the mind. An awesome opportunity to have a 60 hour work week, or 80 hours with overtime. Finally I am now starting on my new adventure with REU INSPIRE for the summer. What an exciting week: new friends, new apartment, another new apartment, and finally an opportunity to do some amazing research.