

Jesse Smith

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2014/

The Final Post

Posted on [August 3, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Well, for the last post I feel that I should send out some thanks and inspiration.

First and foremost I would like to thank the program for selecting me and the other 11 interns to this program. It was truly an honor to know that y'all felt that we were the most deserving candidates for your internship. Getting to absorb the wisdom of the VRAC faculty mentors was encouraging and helped to refocus my mind back into research. Being able to interact with the graduate and undergraduate mentors\students was refreshing and really helped create a collaborative and fun atmosphere.

Now for the 11 other interns of the program (you know your names so there is no need for me to list them out), you guys are truly an amazing and inspiring group of individuals. Honestly I couldn't have imagined a better group of motivated young men and women and I am honored to have gotten the chance to meet each and every one of y'all. Much love to my newest friends and I wish you all the best on each of y'all's desired paths.

Well, my thanks and farewell are officially over so I guess I should send out some words of encouragement. Live life the way it was meant, through love towards others and the burning desire to assist those in need no matter the situation. These are simple words to live by, but they truly will make a difference in your life. Thank you for everything good people and there will always be a special place in my heart for each and every one of you.

Peace! Love! And Good Ol' Southern Food!!!

The Finally Post

Posted on [August 2, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Bye...

Almost There I Guess

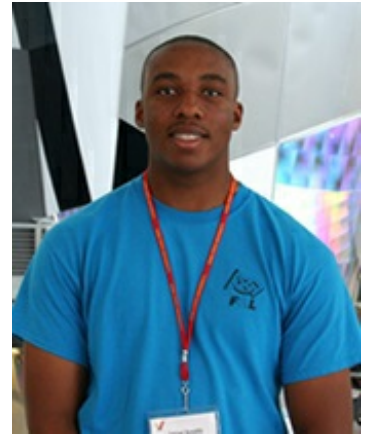
Posted on [July 31, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Just got our final paychecks, the reality has set in. We are pretty much done with the program, all that is left is the symposium tomorrow which will be a pain in the butt. Oh well, all I know is that plane on Saturday will not be leaving without me.

Yayyyy Pilot Studies!!!

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

We ran pilot studies today and apparently they were a huge hit. The video, shockingly enough, got high praise and the app was pretty cool of course. Running user studies is the best, hopefully I'll get to do some whenever I begin to



do my own research.

Long day, but a productive day.

Slowly But Surely

Posted on [July 29, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

These days are winding down to a conclusion. The poster has been made and turned in, the paper is still under revisions but getting closer to becoming solid, the app is now out of our hands and we will finally be running pilot studies tomorrow. This is good, exactly what I'd like to see.

Just to let you good people know, from here on my blog posts will become shorter and shorter. But, no worries on the last day I will surely leave y'all with some words of wisdom, so stay tuned.

It's Monday, Enough Said...

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

... but if you want me to share an actual post let's just say that I thought we would be a lot busier. We might as well restart the weekend.

How Can Someone So Happy Be So Frustrated?

Posted on [July 25, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Well, that question is easy... I'm happy because my girlfriend decided to surprise me by showing up in Iowa a day earlier than expected. She got to meet pretty much all the guys last night and she wasn't too overwhelmed by their craziness. But, the frustration is coming from these football models, I've tried everything, Anthony has done everything he could, Janae and Phil have taken a look at it, I mean this is ridiculous. How hard is it to snap a helmet to a football player without destroying the rigging?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?

I'm so through with this, AAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!

I'm So Through With Maya

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

Why is it that the first model we reduced worked out so well but the rest just will not follow in its footsteps??? This alone has pushed back my progress drastically making me a very unhappy camper. But I have reduced the helmet from hundreds of thousands of polygons to about four thousand, woo hoo I guess...

Now I'm just annoyed at the fact that these models that I have been working on for the past week are still messing with me, not wanting to work or anything. I'm so done with it, I might have to start taking shortcuts (but in reality I ain't about that life).

Back to work I guess.

This Helmet Though...

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

Absolutely unnecessary!!!

Anthony Is The Best!!!

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

I believe the title says it all. No worries Stacy, you're on a different level of amazing that Anthony may soon reach.

He has been much help to the Game Day Visualization project with working on the stadium to get a better frame rate, decimating player models to reduce the polygon count, helping us out with our many random questions, doing whatever Vijay needs him to do, oh and let's not forget that he is also working on like two other projects at the same time. Mans be working hard and honestly it's time to give him the credit that has been long overdue.

Thanks Anthony you're too awesome!!! Let this post inspire you to reach out to someone who has helped you out, or is just working extremely hard!

Later!!

If Only, If Only...

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

Everyone in favor of swapping the work week and weekend (meaning 2 day work week and 5 day weekends) say 'I'!!!

We'll have so much more time for activities!!! (vague Step Brothers reference if you're unfamiliar) Like this weekend we had paintball, Holly's lake house, True American, B-Dubs and me time (which is the best time), but what if we could do much more??? The possibilities are endless!!!

But, no this just ran through my head because this weekend was fun and as always I'm looking for ways to make it last longer. Too bad we can't travel back in time yet, come to think of it maybe that's not a good thing. If that were to happen who knows what will happen to our world. Google would no longer be called Google and that alone leaves no hope for the future.

Now that I'm done rambling about random nonsense, maybe not the Google part we've become too dependent upon them, I would like to say that our group may be coming down to the final stages. Oh and Stacy's back!!!! Even though she decided not to come in today which saddens me.

This was great everyone, y'all will be hearing from me pretty soon.

Moving On From Yesterday

Posted on [July 18, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

I had a little episode yesterday when I came down with a migraine, not the most fun for people who are unfamiliar with its symptoms. Because of this Eliot came by and sent me home for the rest of the day, which even though I didn't want to it was much needed. To that I thank him.

But, today is a new day and I'm feeling a lot better. Still slightly numb and have a minor headache, but nothing that can stop me from working. Today we must figure out how to turn the players into FBX models which is a lot harder than it should be. Spent the afternoon trying to figure that out yesterday, but today it is definitely going to get done.

Well, that's all I have to blog about. Catch y'all on the flip side!!!

Ad Posting: 'Man's Willing To Work'

Posted on [July 17, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

I don't know about the rest of y'all, but this brotha really wants some work to do. I do not like sitting around doing nothing when I know that work needs to be done.

This feeling has been driving me crazy all day, work is the stress reliever that keeps me going. Down time is not acceptable in a working environment. So please, give me work or let me free!!! I need to do something.

Back At The Grind

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

I woke up at 8:20 this morning for some reason, way later than usual, went to work and then realized that it was Wednesday. Very slow day, but we are working on the Sprite sheets for the animation. Other than that nothing special is going on, so this is where I say Peace!!!

Today Is Like The Jeopardy Theme Song

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

We are waiting around trying to find something to do to pass the time. The poster is being worked on by Janae (since her artistic ability supersedes both me and Phil). I'm just checking emails seeing if Vijay wants to talk about the next steps moving forward. And until our team meeting later, life will continue to be the 'Jeopardy' theme song.

Oh well, hope others are being more productive. Until next time.

Better Late Than Never

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

Sorry for the late post, been working on the football player models all day. Good news is that they are completely done, both teams!!! This makes me happy. All we need now is to find Vijay and show him how amazing they are. Oh, and just an aside, we need to discuss the poster with him.

Well, that was short and sweet just the way I like it and I'll be sure to check in with you good folk sometime tomorrow. Until then keep the peace and show someone that you've never met some love!!!

See ya!!!

Long Time No Blog

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

So, it has been a while since we have posted. No worries we haven't forgot, it's just that we have physically been unable to do so. On Wednesday, the internet across campus was down, so posting was practically impossible. Thursday, we had presentations that ran until 4:30, no way we were going to blog after those. Now it's Friday and we can again share what's been going on in the internship.

The past few days have been rough. Like I've stated earlier we had mid-summer presentations of our projects. I can only speak for myself, but the nerves were getting to me that morning. Our group was probably the least prepared and I was struggling to remember my portion of the presentation. But, as soon as we got into it I had to bite the bullet and move forward. I still struggled through my portion, but all in all we did very well (and this is coming from our project mentor). It probably helped that we went first and had to battle all the technical difficulties.

After the presentations our group stayed being to finish the marching band texture (many thanks to Janae, I know that after a full day of sitting and listening to presentations that was the last thing we wanted to do). But, we pushed out the marching band members and are now moving onto making a football team.

Also, this morning I had a phone interview with a reporter from the Chronicle for the 'Say Something' series. I was extremely nervous throughout the interview, but hopefully what I shared will shed a bright light on UMBC and the Meyerhoff Scholars program. I am truly grateful to be part of such an organization such as the Meyerhoff program and I look forward to seeing/hearing what the reporter was able to take out of our conversation.

Well, that's the update from the passed few days. As always with every rough patch there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, and this weekend serves as that light. All negativity aside this week was fun and a tremendous learning experience. So this is me advocating that if this week was a struggle to you as well, find the positives from it and let them taking you into the weekend.

Thanks for reading, live life, love life and stay breezy!!!

It's Tuesday...

Posted on [July 8, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

It is Tuesday July 8, 2014, now why am I so ticked off???

We sat through a talk this morning about how to prepare for grad school, had an interactive luncheon talk with catered Hickory Park, and now we are working on the presentation for Thursday.

This seems like a normal work day, but something is off and I can't figure out what it is. Anyways, enjoy the rest of your day, hopefully a happier Jesse will appear tomorrow.

Alright good people!!!

Many Thanks To The Baiotto's

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

If you thought spending the 4th in Iowa was going to be dull and boring, well think again!!! A group of us had an amazing time at Holly's parent's lake house. From kayaking and paddle boating in the lake, to the grilling and cooking expertise of the Baiotto's (phenomenal, absolutely wonderful), then the pontoon boat adventure around the lake; just the perfect way to spend a 4th of July.

Food

Now, let me give you a one sentence summary of the food we had. Catfish, seasoned pulled pork sandwich, homemade cheesy potatoes, fruit salad and most importantly of all apple (or peach) pie over the fire pit!!! If you like a more in-depth description then I would advise you to experience it yourself. There is nothing better than when the food speaks to you so eloquently.

Water Activities

As mentioned before we were out on the water paddle boating, kayaking and whatnot. Also, I got to sail a remote control boat (way more difficult than you think, just ask Mr. Baiotto or Kelsey). Others went off the slide into the lake, stay tuned there will be a video from our most animated REUer Phil. There was also a water bazooka, poor Getch he never stood a chance. And we ended it off with the pontoon adventure, seeing the lake in its entirety.

Fireworks

I'll just put it plain and simple, was not too impressed with the fireworks display. I was told that this year's was poor compared to past year's, but it wasn't bad enough to take away from the entire day. So, all in all some fireworks were good enough.

Conclusion

I'm sure that there is more that I can harp on, but I'm breaking my own traditions with writing such a long post. So, I will end by saying you all are wonderful and the Baiotto's are truly genuine. Thank you very much and hopefully we will get a chance to visit again before we leave.

Now, enjoy Phil being Phil!!!!

(P.S. all pictures and videos that I took are in a folder called '4th at Holly's' under the REU2014 folder on our computers, please feel free to add on if you have more)

Hump day Friday!!!

Posted on [July 2, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

It is Wednesday before the Fourth of July extended weekend so work is coming to a close. Pretty much what is left to do this week is getting the marching band uniforms made and well put together. Also, we started working on our mid summer presentation, just to kind of get it out the way.

Not much else to say so please enjoy your 4th. If you don't enjoy it for yourself, then enjoy it for me!!!

See ya next week!!!

So, When Can We Go To Sleep???

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

This morning is pretty much going exactly like yesterday, get here early and get some writing done; nothing more, nothing less. But, where the Déjà Vu forks off into a different direction is when the scheduled luncheon lecture happens.

Informative talk about the possibilities after undergraduate education and interesting to hear about his experiences that has led him back to ISU. Not to say that anything was wrong with the topic of discussion today, but I feel that it is kinda getting redundant hearing about this for the (insert value here)th time. It's to the point, in my opinion, where you listen just to listen, not to take anything away from it and learn more about the vast possibilities.

Now what hasn't helped this morning is the fact that I am tremendously tired and worn out for no reason at all. It has been a battle to keep my eyes open all day and I can't wait until the program secretly implement nap time into our schedules. (Just saying it would be nice.)

Well good people time to get back to work. I think I'll try to sneak a nap in before our team meeting, we'll see how that goes. But, in the meantime, or until I hear from you next, enjoy life!!! Ain't nothing more precious in the world, why do you think they call child birth a miracle... just saying

My Oh My

Posted on [June 30, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

I have been reading and writing all morning, and technically for the past few weeks. For those of you who are reading this post and know what type of person I am know that this is not typical of me no matter what the situation. I absolutely despise reading, maybe it's because I'm not very good at it, and writing is difficult especially since I am so informal with almost everything I do.

This morning I pushed through the final edits to our IRB and turned it in to our project mentors. Hopefully we will not have to see the lights of that document ever again, but knowing the review board we'll be seeing its ugly face within a couple weeks. How wonderful... (sarcasm just in case you didn't get it)

Also, I am finishing up my section of the literature review. It's extremely short (and late), but at least it will be done. After this reading and writing madness is over, I'll be able to step into my part of making edits to the Jack Trice stadium. Finally, a light at the end of the tunnel.

Well beautiful people, stay wonderful, love unconditionally, and enjoy this short week. No worries the fireworks and American pride are coming soon.

Peace.

This Is Not Friday!!!

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

It looks too dull outside, strike #1. If it looks dull, or boring, then today just won't go the way it should.

Too much reading, strike #2. I am sick and tired of articles. This is not the way I wanted to spend my week, reading article after article. But, Team Tutor picked a cool article so I'm interested in hearing what people have to say about it. I don't have many thoughts of my own on it, I just want to sit back and listen as usual.

Writing, editing, and re-writing, strike #3. I'm so through with this IRB; and having to write the methods and lit review paragraphs on top of that, poor scheduling I believe.

In baseball you only get three strikes before our poor pathetic tail is sent back to the dugout. Trust I am familiar with this experience, but instead of being done with an at-bat, I'm just completely done with this day and the rest of the week.

You cannot trick me into thinking that today is Friday, because I am absolutely sure that Friday was yesterday and somehow we skipped straight into Monday today. Oh well, it is what it is.

Why Wouldn't You Want To Read This Post???

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

Somebody please explain to me why our mentors are so awesome. No luncheon lecture to watch the World Cup, unheard of unless you're in VRAC. Such an awesome two hours, even though the second hour was spent gathering my thoughts to write my portion of the lit review paragraph. Also, lunch was pretty decent today, no sandwiches, no pizza, no burrito bar for the millionth time, just quality chicken breast, rice and green beans. Healthy just the way I like it.

Had a wonderful conversation with my mom this afternoon. Thought of her so hard when the August Alsina song "Mama" played through my headphones earlier. Really good song that brings you back down to earth, check it out on YouTube if you want. I loved it and my mom appreciated it if that gives you an idea of how good it is.

Tonight is game night here at VRAC. Hope everyone brings their A-Game because Mario Kart is not a joke. In the truly legendary words of Shamaria Engram, "If you're not first you're last!"

Everyone have a wonderful rest of the day.

Enjoy life!

Live long and prosper (or something like that)!

Yada, Yada, Yada!!!

Peace!!!

It's Already 3:45!!!

Posted on [June 25, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Where did the day go, it's like we got here and one meeting later it's almost time to go. This is how everyday should go, free time to get whatever you need done, lunch, an occasional meeting, then get ready to leave. There is no way it's Wednesday because it has been way too chill.

Pushed out some edits to the IRB (yeah we're still working on that), didn't have the best of lunches, sat through an interesting course where the speaker drew parallels between her work with Tostitos and Autism, Diabetes, and whatnot. Kinda cool actually!!

Everyone have a great rest of the day. Peace!!

"It's Like Moving Mountains!!"

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

IRB is almost out of our hands for this week. Phil has worked hard on fixing the issues that Stacy and Vijay sent us and now we must send it off to Norene to get our final feedback before we turn in our first draft to go off to the Review Board. Can't wait till it's all over, but in the meantime so much work has to be done with our stadium app. It has a solid foundation, a few improvements here and there will send this project over the tremendous mountain ahead.

And let the adventure begin.

Marvelous Monday

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHIL!!!

No class, so no unnecessary headaches while trying to work on our summer project.

IRB will be sent in by the end of the day.

Quiet workday, cause everyone seems so focused.

And, I actually feel like going to the gym today.

Open GL, IRB, Gym... OH MY!!!

Posted on [June 20, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

So, the Open GL project for class this week has not even been thought of by these guys. We'll get to it sooner or

later. IRB, probably the most annoying form that we have to fill out, but I understand that it is extremely important. It just blew me that the final draft, per Andrea, was not due today. All those long nights for nothing. Gym will be hit hard to day. I feel the gut from today's lunch and I don't appreciate it's existence.

Have a great weekend everyone, and if you're struggling today just remember it's Friday, life is always better on Friday unless on the off chance it isn't.

Why Can't Our Life Be Like 'Click'

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

If you haven't seen the movie 'Click' with Adam Sandler no worries you weren't missing much. What made it special is that he wasn't given a remote control to control his life and how he wanted to go through each day. Watch it if you want to just burn an hour and a half of your life on silly nonsense, otherwise you'll never know how it affected his life.

But, no worries I just want to focus on the first part of the movie. The following are a list of the buttons and how I would like them to affect this week.

Fast Forward...

through today and tomorrow so that I don't have to stress over work anymore. An end to this week will be great and much needed, especially since the workload just kinda jumped out of no where. The course this week was tasking especially trying to combat it with the Game Day project IBR and lit reviews. Getting to this weekend will be nice.

Pause...

so that we can catch up with the amount of work that was dished out in the past two weeks. Like Phil said earlier today, "There just aren't enough hours in the day." So, being able to pause the day will be extremely beneficial in getting back on track with what we have to do.

Rewind...

because I have been thinking of a few ideas as of late about random stuff. It would be nice to go back to the beginning of this week with what I know now so that this week could actually go more smoothly. Also, for one random day this week, the flight tickets to LA was extremely cheap for the 4th and I would like to have that day back since now I know that it only skyrockets from now. Knowing that the IRB application was due this Friday would have been nice to have known earlier in the week. Deadlines are crucial remember that.

Mute...

just because there were some things this week that I just did not want to hear.

Skip...

to next week because classes are finally over and we can focus mainly on our summer projects. Absolutely essential.

If there are any other buttons that you wish to add please feel free to do so. Have a wonderful rainy day everyone.

Please Don't Kill My Vibe

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

Today will be extremely busy with the schedule not letting up until 4pm this afternoon. Our mentors, being concerned with how packed the day was, decided to reschedule our HCI course that would have been from 4-5pm. Thanks guys, really does help relieve some unwanted stress.

I have determined that today is going to be a good day, a productive day, a day where no one can bring me down. This morning was slow given that I didn't really understand the graphics class, but knowing me if I have time I can figure anything out. Besides, seeing Janae playing around with the graphics models after the lecture was quite funny.

So, like I've already stated today will be a good day. I have my music, I have my space, so good luck taking my joy away today. Time to get some work done, Deuces!!!

What's My Motivation?

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

I was just asked this question about 30 minutes ago, and the week before that, and the month before that, and the semester before that. I would say that I am getting tired of being asked the same question over and over again, but to me it's just a personal question that has nothing to do with graduate school and more to do with my family. So, the answer to that question is I don't have the motivation to do much of anything, I just don't want to go down a path that I have seen all my life. I have seen the possibilities of what I can do with my life thanks to the Meyerhoff program and Dr. Hrabowski, and I just simply strive to achieve more than the bare minimum because I know it can be done.

So, what I'm trying to say is that yes being motivated may help certain individuals, but to others it's just a pointless open-ended question that will not be answered in the way that you may think. Life is grand, people are awesome, so let us form our own opinions and be our own person without being put on the spot. The talk with the grad students were great, very informative, great atmosphere. Sorry for going on a tangent today, my personal feelings led this post unfortunately.

Saturday Sanity

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

Ledge's Sate Park was probably the most peaceful time that I've spent in a long time. It was great to walk through the paths, become one with the outdoors; so quiet and not overloaded with people. Sitting next to the small stream at the park, listening to the water flow over the rocks, letting nature bring me back to my sanity, absolutely beautiful. But, what am I saying it was just grass, water and bugs to other people.

Today has been a good day except the fact that UDCC was closed. Oh well, our awesome mentors ordered food for us to take care of this problem giving us a good amount of needed free time. Great day, great weekend, great program.

Take care everyone, enjoy the rest of the day.

It's Just One Those Days

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

This weeks just hasn't gone in a positive direction, and it seems to have continued into today. Maybe I'm just speaking from personal experience, but a positive that I can grab from the week is that I have got the jist of what we need to know for our project so far. Oh and we had a great time playing Mario-Kart last night.

I don't want to be a Debby Downer, just summarize my view of this week as all.

Who Needs Etiquette??

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

The very simple answer is, ALL OF US!!! You don't want to be out at a business meeting not knowing how to carry yourself. That is quite simply the easiest way to take yourself out of the running for a promotion, or to even land a job. Etiquette dinners are starting to become a lost art, but please do not underestimate the influence it could be on your life.

It was fun to partake in another proper event such as this one, especially when you sit at a table with a bunch of foolish friends (much love by the way). It's great to see everyone take to their sophisticated young adult roles, or the attempt to, and just absorb the experience.

Thank you guys for reading, please post if you have some funny thoughts/experiences that happened during the lunch.

Life Is Short, And So Is This Post

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

Junco, probably the funniest professor/speaker/human being/whatever... no more needs to be said.

Food diet... FAIL!!

Paragraph on head mounted displays (HMD)... PENDING

The next 4 hours... OH BOY

Gym... YES LORD!!!

No New Friends!!!

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

We had the REU Picnic yesterday afternoon, where all the REU programs on campus gathered together to have a fun day of games, activities, and food (shout out to Hickory Park). It was so much fun, at first a bunch of us did not want to branch out and mingle, but as time passed we all slowly found other groups to talk to. Everyone seemed to be enjoying their time, but as soon as the cards come out... It Was On!!!

Let me tell ya, you really find out who your true friends are when the UNO cards come out, and Spoons... let's just say that a few people didn't make it out without a few cuts or bruises. It gets real, but we all had so much fun.

Modeling started today, the basics of course, and it seems like there might be a slight learning curve. We'll be able to determine how deep it gets throughout the next few days, so stay tuned.

We get to present our projects today!!! I'm so glad because it surprised me at how difficult a simple game of Trouble is to program. The fact of keeping track of up to 16 pieces and having them interact with each other, kinda challenging.

Well I think that's all from me, so have a great week everyone!!! BTW I finally got the 8192 tile on '2048', I'm officially done with that game.

Sincerity At It's Finest

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

So after a wonderfully, exhausting day yesterday I decided to stay up till around 3ish (in the morning by the way) working on our group project. Now, I know that I was complaining about the itis yesterday and having an energy level of about -23 (sounds like a good number), but underneath it all I realized that it was just an excuse to be lazy.

But, having an interesting and heavily awkward dinner last night with Mari, Anton, Holly and Kelsey at Noodles & Co., don't ask just know that it was a night full of laughs, I finally came to my sense and decided to make up for the work that I skipped out on during the day. Although I probably totaled about 3 and a half hours of sleep last night, it was all for the better since the project (Trouble) is now only a few alterations away from being done.

Shout out to my fellow interns that I've been slowly getting closer to, and Andrea, Caglar and Stacy for being such awesome mentors and friends. Also, kudos for those deciding to make healthier dietary choices, the process may be slow but it will be worth it in the end.

One Love!!!

The Itis Is So Real

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

For those who do not know the definition of 'Itis' let me quickly catch you up.

Itis: the sleepy, or drowsy, feeling that you get after eating

We have all in some point of our lives acquired a case of the Itis. Whether it be today, sometime along this internship, as a baby, or sometime in between, it has occurred to each and every one of us without fail. All I do know is that throughout this entire program as soon as lunch is over a huge wave of the Itis just crashes upon me. I wonder, is this true for everyone else??

Oh, and programming is awesome, making progress on our Trouble game, the lit review process for our actual project is coming along, and everyone is still super amazing.

'Slow and Steady...'

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

It's been pretty much a slow day so far, no real excitement just a bunch of coding and sitting around. We have been tasked to work on a group project (within our teams) that will be presented next Monday. Every group has decided to code some sort of game for this project, and we, following suit, went with the classic 90's board game of "Trouble".

The rest of the day will practically follow in the same path as this morning, but as exemplified in "The Tortoise and the Hare":

'Slow and steady wins the race!'

HAPPY HUMP DAY EVERYBODY!!!

You Know You're Having Fun When...

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

... you're able to share a laugh with your team members in the lab about accents from all over the country. Much love to Stacy!!!

... you start to understand how C++ works so much so that you start making your own programs.

... you go around helping out your fellow friends learn how to code. Shout out to Getch and Phillip, and anyone else that I may not have caught.

...

C + Project + Fantastic

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

Today is our first course in C++. Getting the basics down is extremely important going forward in this syntax heavy language. For those who have been fortunate enough to avoid this nasty language, first kudos to you, second I'm sorry for what's to come.

This week will be filled with cramming C++ into a crash course, so fast-paced, intense, and hopefully engaging fun. If you are not familiar with programming in either C/C++ or Java my best advise is to just dive straight into it. Don't wait for someone to come around to help guide you in the right direction, just start writing code for anything you can think of. I am not familiar with any specific website that gives tutorials of how to code in C++, but what I can tell you is that Google will be your best friend. Honestly, it is so easy to get caught up and not know how to implement certain code, but if you just search what you want to do many helpful websites will pop up.

I mean I'm just throwing out an idea, but if you are able to find websites that specifically cater to C++ feel free to comment to this post with the website. All in all, this will be fun.

Peace At Last!!!

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

I don't know how many of y'all have had the wonderful experience of having a whole bunch of little kids running around a college campus with their energy at full blast. It's awesome that they are here to challenge their minds while being extremely creative, but at times you just want some peace and serenity.

It was wonderful to have a nice, calm lunch with my fellow interns where we were able to sit down and enjoy each others' company without yelling over the noise. I just love the fact that time seems to pass so much slower when there is less energy in the room. You know I can get used to this.

One For The Early Birds

Posted on [May 31, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Good morning everyone, it is now 6:30am and our wonderful mentor Andrea has just sent out a text to the REU to wake us up. To some, who am I kidding most, this is feels way to early to even think about getting up, but it is going to be a fun day filled with adventure at the Ropes Course in Marshalltown.

Before moving on in the day I would like to briefly highlight the amazing day we had yesterday. (insert animated montage) Tech support, another programming test, CONGRATS Caglar, variety of personalities, food, introvert/extrovert convo, basketball at State. Well, I hope that was brief enough... but on a serious note it was really great to see all the results from the Myers Briggs test. It really proves that personality wise there isn't many of

us who are actually the same (and I found out that my results are so unique that it doesn't have a description, how cool is that). Caglar awesome job yesterday, it was really cool to sit in on your defense and experience the stress and pressure you had to have gone through. And, shout out to the peeps who decided to go to State yesterday, we all had tons of fun ballin' it up and just spending time with one another.

And now... LET'S GET READY TO ROPES COURSE!!!!!!

Ready! Set! Go!!!

Posted on [May 29, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

We have heard from all the project mentors and leads today briefly going over the four research projects this summer. They all sounds exciting (obviously Game Day will be having the most fun) and full of interaction. The first team meetings for each group were also held today, allowing for one-on-one time with the project mentors and graduate assistants. This period of time was great in order to gain a better understanding of what is expected for each project going forward. Hopefully each meeting was smooth and productive and I look forward to hearing the progress being made on each later in the program. But first, it is time to get our tour on and see the fancy equipment VRAC has to offer!!!

Top of the Morning

Posted on [May 29, 2014](#) by [Jesse](#)

Looking forward to see The C6!!! Who's with me?