

Post-symposium

Posted on [July 31, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

This symposium was the best one yet. This was my 4th one, but I really don't think presenting gets easier. Presenting what you've done to someone is FUN, yet speaking about it clearly and thoroughly is the tough part for me. I want to keep talking about our research from this Summer because it really is versatile and pretty easy to understand. I'm excited to send the abstract to conferences and see if we can all meet up once again and present! That would be ideal.



I learned a lot from this symposium about other programs as well. I would really like to look into the other ones they offer here maybe next Summer. There were some projects that I could see myself working on at Doane because of how they implemented Biology with Computer Science. I really want to do that, I just need to find what I like to research on. That will come with time, but for now I am just thankful for this experience. I cannot believe it is over already. We have so many memories and also so many new things we learned. This finalized my decision on pursuing my education past UG. I know I am still Pre-Med, I just need to find that thing that I am super super interested in. I am going to keep learning coding, and implement that language into data analysis so I can use that tool when doing future work. I can see myself most in the wet-lab setting, so having that language will help a lot.

Betty the Computadora

Posted on [July 30, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

An explanation of Betty:

CPU: Central Processing Unit is the brain of Betty. It handles all the instructions that we give to her.

CPU Cooler: Just like the name. It alleviates the heat that comes from the CPU. Betty can get really hot.

Motherboard: This is her most essential part. This is what holds everything, basically. It can contain the CPU, memory, and connectors for other devices. Also is a series of expansion slots which can be used for extra video cards or other things.

Drives: This is where Betty stores her data until it needs to be used. Hard drives store her OS and software. This can also include the drives for reading a CD or DVD. Connects to the motherboard. Storage: Along came storage, and this is where the data is held. This is how and where we will access things.

Cables: Basically what carries the power and data to other components.

Memory: This is the device that holds all her memories. It is used as storage for her wonderful memories with us all!

RAM (Random-Access Memory): This serves as a place where the tools you need to use Betty wait until you use them.

Video Card: This piece connects to the motherboard and outputs the visual things that we all want to see on a computer screen.

Case: Her case is just plain hot. We all can agree Betty is a fine piece of machinery. This part is essential when containing all/most of the parts of a computer.

Power Supply: If we didn't have this, we would have a dead Betty hanging around. This PSU is required when wanting the components of a computer to work, it's what brings them to life!

This is Betty's life in a nutshell. We all know Betty like we've lived with her in a small town in Iowa for all 18+ years of our lives. Yep, that happened. Thanks Justin!

Wednesday

Posted on [July 29, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Today has been just fine. We were able to make changes to our poster and reprint it. It came out so nice! It's shiny and smells good, like a newborn baby 🍼 (weird I know). We are really focusing on writing this week as our goal is to come up with a conference level paper. I am wondering if the paper we are writing will be used to be the skeleton of a greater paper that our mentors will use to get published. I wonder how long that process takes and if our names will be on it! That would be so cool!

We are working more on writing and preparing our poster speech. That will be fun too! We present our poster tomorrow at the LSAMP symposium. That'll be exciting!

Alright, bye!

Monday's Mood "on a Tuesday"

Posted on [July 28, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Monday went smoothly. We worked on what was needed to work on, and also had good talks about other things that happen in life. This week should go by fast, which is kind of exciting but also nerve racking for me. I want to make sure that I have asked all my questions and am not leaving here wondering more things. I'm glad to have a conversation with Dr. Gilbert on Thursday because I can brainstorm some questions before hand and ask those, then.

The LSAMP program that I am in invited David and Maggie to come to the symposium that we are having on Thursday. I'm excited for us because we get to get all of our nerves out a day ahead of everyone else so on Friday we will be less nervous and more prepared. I think presenting twice is going to be great for our group, and I'm excited to have them by my side. I don't know if I could of presented everything we did this Summer by myself!

Wow.

All I can say is wow about Dr. Spikes. He has opened up the deep passion I have once again, and it's making me question what I am doing to better society and the education of others. He is a natural motivator and really really passionate about what he does. He is also from Texas and that is just great to know someone on that same wavelength. I can see myself doing similar things in life, I want to explore that passion more and find ways to implement that into my college life. With studies, and work, I have to find that fine balance between pursuing a passion and also getting what needs to be done, done.

Man, I am just motivated as ever. I wonder why he was saved for last.

(the best is last that's why)

Anyways, we need to work on our speech for our poster. See ya!

From Friday

Posted on [July 28, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Blog post from Friday since I was blocked from this account and couldn't log in:

Well I don't see anything changing. Faith, Love, Stability were my three words and I still plan on living by them. I wrote a lot about thanking God for being able to wake up another day and learn. Some of you may find this cheesy or fake, but these are the things that I find very important. The fact that I was given a great opportunity like this is amazing, and I am thankful every day. Times get hard and everybody strays away from what and who they really want to be, and I can say I have had that happen to me. But learning from them and recognizing once again those three words that stabilize you and bring you back to who you really want to be, is what will really lead you to the right direction.

Stability is important to me and will forever be important to me because of growing up with a single parent. Now a days, it happens a lot that people grow up with one parent barely making it by. We understand and recognize that things can be harder, and we still thank God for what we have, but we also know that we have to work hard to get what we want. I've seen situations that I don't want to be in again, and that is my motivation to accomplish my goals. I feel like this won't change, I will forever want to give back to my mother and brother and to everyone who has helped me achieve my goals. I can't wait to keep learning more about science and more about what I really find passion in.

I'll probably keep this letter, to remind myself later on that these are the 3 words I will live by. They'll probably change, but so be it.

Aquafina

Posted on [July 22, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Today has been a good day so far, yesterday we analyzed data from our pilot tests. Which was a great learning process because Eui taught us in a way that no other teacher could! Part of it was review but we still learned new things especially how to code the data in excel. I'll be using that a lot in my field, as I am sure that a lot of others will be using it too.

I went to a LSAMP IINSPIRE lunch today and we participated in a research study for analyzing our time here this summer. It was pretty fun, and the food was good! Now, for the rest of the day we will be performing another pilot test on one of Maggie's friends. We will take that data and analyze it, as well as show Dr. Dorneich what we have been doing!

Sounds good, bye

Panera = great

Posted on [July 21, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

I didn't get a chance to blog yesterday. Therefore I will sum up what we accomplished yesterday. We got a lot of work done editing our physics problems. But when we pilot tested, it turns out that we need to cut down the problem size. We originally have 11 problems, and one that is a sample problem. We may of decided to switch our design from within subject design to between subject design. Meaning that our problems will be kind of cut in half and

distributed evenly between no frustration and frustration conditions. Hopefully we can come up with a way to present these problems sometime soon so we can continue collecting data from these pilots to include in our poster. WHICH IS DUE MONDAY BY 8 AM AT THE LATEST. We are basically done, we are just going to improve on it with our new data we found. However, I still long for IRB's approval. How great would it be to get that approval? Someday...

Today we will be continuing our pilot testing along with analyzing data from those tests. Eui will be teaching us how to analyze and code data into a basic and easy way! I'll be able to take this home with me for future studies so I am very excited. We also had TWO presenters at lunch who were the complete opposite of each other. Both great in their own ways. I had a mini reflection on how many cool professors I've met this Summer which was pretty cool to have because I really can't believe we are almost done. I keep writing things down that I can share with my mentee's so we can better the future for the people I will be mentoring.

#ScienceSelfie

Posted on [July 17, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

#ScienceSelfie

Beneficial!

Our view from the balcony of Café Barratas!

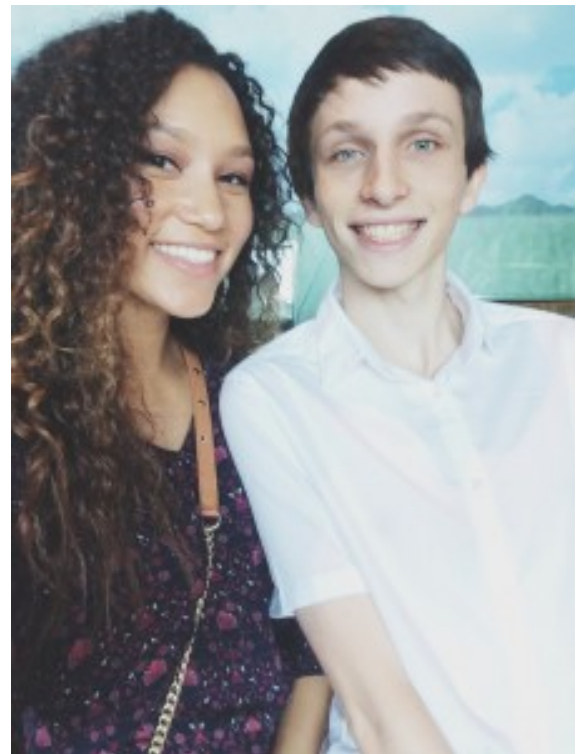
Building an arch!

Today we went to the Science Center of Iowa and it was just great. We were able to learn about the center, and how they really consider user experience. I saw a lot of connections to usability tests when our tour guide was speaking to us. They seemed to love their job, which made it a better experience for us. They provided good information about the center, and it ended up being a really great time.

I also will look into the Girls of Science program because I would love to promote young chickas who are interested in STEM to have big goals and never stop till they are achieved!

The Café had tasty food, except for the small portion size Nancy, Alex, and I got with the Baked Cheese Ravioli. So we got the Chocolate Chocolate cake and it was DELICIOUS. We just finished Journal Club, and now we are getting ready to work for our experimental materials. We will be pilot testing on Monday, so today is just finalizing our script and power point slides for that. We will also have time on Monday to do this too.

Today was a great day!



Buen Trabajo!

Posted on [July 16, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Today went very well. I finally got an inside look into a cool industry job. I noticed a lot of the interns got really excited when Hannah talked about her job. I have to agree, it is pretty cool to know that some people don't need a masters degree to get a job.

We have been working on a lot today. Our experimental materials for our next pilot test (could be on Monday) and also our discussion, conclusion, and results. The way I set up our rough draft for Discussion/conclusion is in the outline of the moves. Once we get more written, we all decided to use the RWT software to help with our writing.

Today, I have been in a lot of pain from my wisdom teeth coming in, so I will not be going to get smores tonight. I prefer to rest, and also work on more things at home. I am beginning to get nervous because my teeth are feeling weird, and my throat is hurting.

Hopefully it gets better! Bye!

Presentation Day!

Posted on [July 15, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Earlier today we took pictures and I didn't get bit. So there's that.

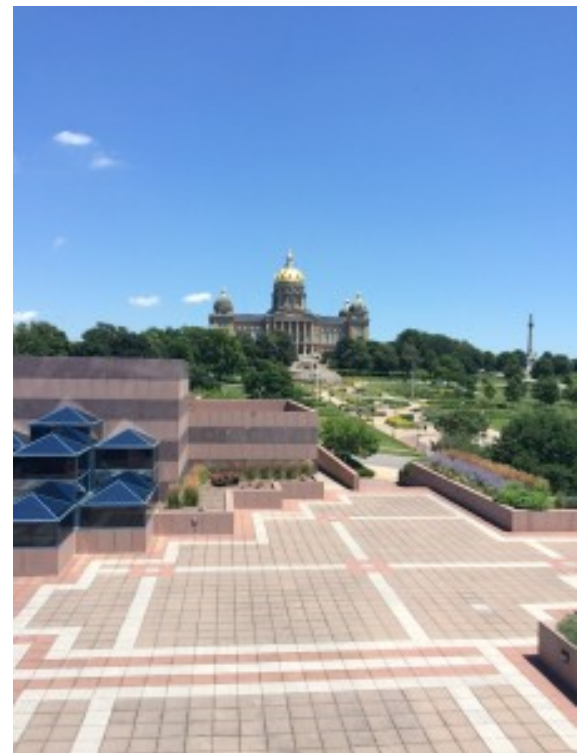
The pictures were pretty funny. We. Are. So. Original.

I was so so so so nervous to present today. I thought it would be more formal and the camera's quality would be better, so since I was wrong, it made me feel a lot better. (lol) I forgot some of the things I felt were necessary to add, but I don't think it hindered the audience's understanding of the problem we are trying to solve. After working on these slides more, I feel really confident talking about our research more now! Like super confident.

I'm waiting on Eui to come to our meeting one day and say we were approved by the IRB! That would be such a great day, I really want to start gathering our convenient sample! But before that, we need to prepare our experimental materials and with that perform another pilot test to test them out.

Hopefully all of that will work!

Presenting to the other REU program was pretty long. It would of been really cool if we were informal like them, and sat down and just spoke to the other person about what we are doing. Since we prepared like crazy to perform super formally, it made me really nervous and also anxious to see what they had to present! I was kind of let down because they were informal and we expected formal like how we had. I hope that is the right way of describing it! Anyways, it was interesting to compare our REU to theirs, and I just become more thankful for this experience. The fact that we get to work in teams is so beneficial for us while we grow into professionals. We need to learn how to work efficiently in groups since everyone will be working with some people most likely in their life— graduate school.



I want to consider this next time I try to find a REU program for next summer possibly. Hopefully I can find another one quite like this, with a mix of biology and computer science. That would be great! But yes, back to working.

Jordan

iWork

Posted on [July 14, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

We have been working on our presentation all day. It's been good! I actually enjoy presenting, it's like that fear of remembering what to say correctly is exhilarating. I want to keep practicing until we get this down (which I know we will).

We need to sometime today work on our poster conclusion and introduction so we can have that to turn in for tomorrow. Hopefully I'll have time to go home and change before the movie, since I usually get really cold at the theatres. We are still waiting on IRB's approval so we can hopefully start our testing! I am super excited for that! I

can't believe we only have 3 weeks left. We will hopefully have data to present at the end of our time here, and that is very exciting to think about. I can't wait to see what we come up with for our final poster.

I am still concerned about finding a laptop for next year. If anyone is reading this and has any suggestions on what to get, let me know please! Thank you!

Monday Madness

Posted on [July 14, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Man, it was a busy Monday. The time has flown by though especially with all of this work we are doing on our presentation slides for Wednesday. We presented our slides in front of Dr. Dorneich and Eui and received some really good feedback. It was very helpful to have our mentors and peers go over our slides! We really needed help with portraying our story. We need to make sure we portray what we have done this Summer instead of what we haven't done. We have done a lot actually and we need to make sure we get that point across.

We also have 3 things due this week to keep completing our list of milestones:

Poster Rough Draft

Discussion

Conclusion

We will need to work hard to get these tasks done efficiently! Let's keep working hard everyone! ☒

MOA:Group01_Jordan and Alex BFFs

Posted on [July 13, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

BAD UX:



The stairs at Hard Rock Café are bad user experience due to how many there are to climb. Even our waitress complained every single time she came back to our table. I can see why though because walking from downstairs with 8 drinks and 8 different meals is pretty dang hard.

BAD UX 2:

On the 3rd floor it was very difficult to locate the escalators to return back downstairs. Therefore, we had to wait for a long time to get on a elevator. However, we made a funny memory out of our time in the elevator! A young child played with his iPad on an app that made funny noises that sounded like a old man grunting. "UHH..UHH..UHH.." It was hilarious!

GOOD UX:

The Touch Screen Ticket Booth at Nickelodeon Universe was quick, simple, and easy. Resulting in a great user experience for all 7 of us wanting to ride the Spongebob Rock Bottom Roller Coaster. There was no line, it was cheap, and we were able to get on the ride faster than waiting in a regular line counter.

In comparison to the essay we read, MOA was definitely not just a marketplace, it was an experience! Not only did the MOA have 520 stores, it also had fun and quirky things to do for all ages. For example, there was mini golf, a mirror room, the amusement park, a video game competition, and several other unique little things.

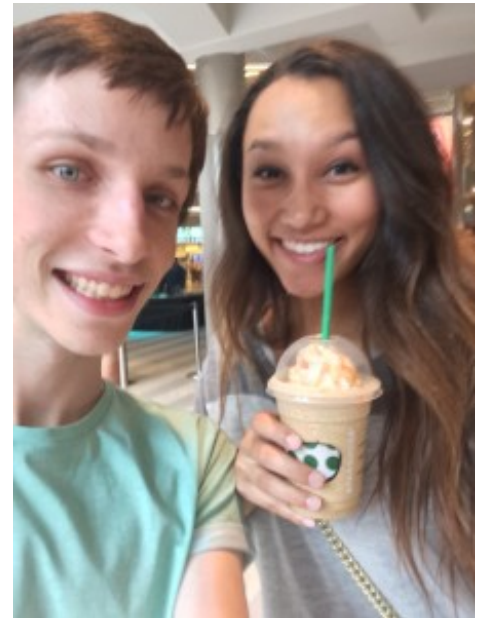
MOA:Group01-Function

Posted on [July 13, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

1st Floor including a tall caramel Frappuccino.

2nd Floor at Hard Rock Café.

3rd Floor.



Affect Aware could/would help MOA with upgrading their map system with voices to help navigate shoppers throughout the mall.

Detecting Threat could help the MOA especially because Security is a big concern for the MOA. It would be important for Security officers to recognize what behavioral characteristics are associated with concealing a weapon

or shoplifting.

3 Beetlez

Posted on [July 9, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

I loved the presentations from the graduate students. They opened my mind to things that I have been exposed to with my previous Biology courses, but never thought could apply to engineering. I have truly been compelled by Hannah Bygd and what she does, and I am sure everyone can agree. Luckily for me, there are a lot of professors at Doane who do research with polymers including my (now) graduate mentor at Doane. I can actually continue his research and emphasize it with Materials engineering. Hearing about her research struck me into really finding a way to implement engineering into my Biology interests. I can actually start doing research this next Summer at Doane, but I want to keep listening to different ways Biology can be reinforced with engineering because it is just fascinating to me.

Chase is a hilarious presenter by the way. Goals.

I surprised myself by not feeling nervous to ask a lot of questions today! I am making progress with that and I hope to continue it.

One of the graduate students brought up really beneficial questions to ask your professor for graduate school or even advisor “Are you happy here?” Of course I would rephrase this, but it is a question I never thought to ask until today. When the time comes for me to start reaching out to faculty in a graduate facility, I will have tons of questions to ask them. However, I may need to ask Ogue for some that I didn’t write down because I feel like she wrote them all down. ^_^

I’m also excited because if I can get our poster’s abstract down, I can send it in for approval to a conference in Washington, D.C. I am keeping my hopes up with this one!

Anyways, today has been great and I am looking forward to getting my mind off stressful situations with some tie-dying!

Bug Attack via “IN THE LAKE”

Posted on [July 9, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

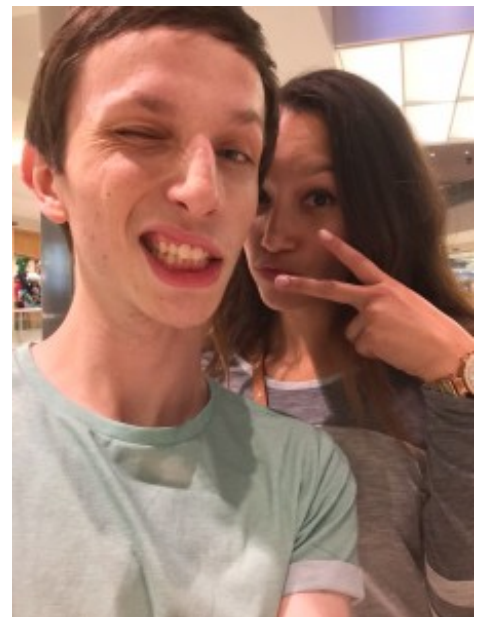
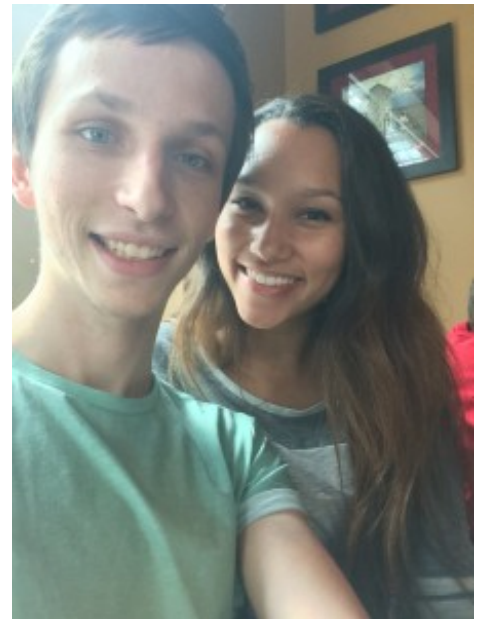
Taking pictures — IN THE LAKE.

Get a bug bite — IN THE LAKE.

Ogue and Maggie know how this is said.

We were strolling TO THE LAKE.

Paul snapping photos of us AT THE LAKE.



When a long came a bug of an unknown nature...

Stung/bit my face... and I don't remember the rest....

Just kidding I do, I'm fine and I just had some antihistamine and iced it. Before taking pictures, we had a nice morning of catching up on what we need to do for classes and individual things. For me, I looked up other programs I can apply to for next summer and even after I graduate from Doane. I have a plan, but it is definitely subject to change, which is fine by me. Changes are always good.

I also went to a LSAMP workshop for writing a personal statement and it went really well. Professor Schumacher was super sweet and gave great advice on how to "put yourself on paper". It came in handy with what I was looking at for next Summer. I'll have to prepare many personal statements whether they be for scholarships, graduate school, or something else that requires a personal statement. Not too excited, but I want to start preparing some thoughts on paper for the near future.

Yeah, that's really it. I never said anything about being taught how to do prepare a blood smear, but that was awesome!!!

Getting Closer

Posted on [July 7, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

So we are getting closer to the end of our time here in the SPIRE-EIT Program. We are starting our poster and that is making me really excited. This is what I can truly contribute to the group, since I have felt like I can't make quality contributions about programming and CAD these past 7 weeks. I really want to help out with this part because this is what I know. I just want to make my group happy about the contributions I have made.

I have loved all the new things I have learned, and it makes me so excited for this next semester! I can share my knowledge with everyone at Doane and let them know how fun REUs are! It's a lot of work, especially trying to figure out things for yourself.

Lately, I have been thinking about the year after I graduate. I've been thinking about maybe trying for a Master's degree, before applying to medical school. I don't know if I should do that, or just find an internship somewhere, or even a research job. However, the program has definitely influenced me to do something great after graduating and made me really make sure to plan it out in advance.

Anyways, we were able to talk with Dr. Danielson about his research with teaching Vet Med students through Lecture Capture. His findings were great, and I hope that he and his colleagues can continue the research. It was a great lecture because of how interconnected his research is to our Affect Aware summer project. I didn't think I would be so interested in this field of study, but I find myself liking it a lot. I could see myself incorporating College

Biology into this type of research. I am sure someone has already attempted this, but it's something I could see myself helping with.

I enjoy finding out more and more about the aspects of science, because that's what I really love. I want to learn about all types of science, hence why Vet Med could be a possibility in my future. Who knows, I am just excited that there are so many choices for the future!

Went home for a weekend!

Posted on [July 6, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

It felt so nice to get to go back home to Texas for a couple days. It was a great way to celebrate Independence Day! I was able to relax, watch two great movies, see fireworks, and eat good food (that I made). >:)

Instead of watching fireworks on the 4th of July night, we decided to stay cool and go watch a new movie called Me, Earl and the Dying Girl. It was good, and well worth the time to watch. It is pretty funny! It had interesting parts that made me think, agree, and sometimes be confused with decisions the characters made. All in all, great movie – will recommend.

We also were able to see the movie Inside Out, that was just so great. It was hilarious and a great movie for everyone to watch, not just children. It was sad, and I could find connections to it which is what really intrigues me in a movie. Hence the reason I don't like *most* action movies. Anyways, I would watch that movie twice.

Grilling was fun in my boyfriend's backyard. I do have a crazy story. So, we were having a tiny bit of trouble making sure the coal was lighting due to us not having a lighter available. Therefore, my boyfriend decides to use the stove to light a paper towel on fire and throw that on the coals. As one of his family members comes by to say hi, we asked for help. He reads the bag of coals which clearly state "DO NOT USE LIGHTER FLUID" and replies with "Oh! Sometimes the coals need an extra boost of lighter fluid to get started." Well....we warn him that wouldn't be best, but as I sit there awkwardly with him as my boyfriend goes inside to light another paper towel, he starts adding A TON OF LIGHTER FLUID.....

My boyfriend comes out quickly from inside and throws the paper towel on the coal only to have a huge flame jump at him, the flame was taller than him, and he is 6'5. It ended up burning all of the hair on his right leg off, thankfully not burning any of his skin. Just the hair. Wow, what a crazy experience. Thanks to God! We could of been spending the rest of the weekend in the hospital.

Other than that, I had a terrible time trying to fly standby back home. But I ended up getting here late last night.

Major shoutout to Alex for picking me up at the airport! True friend!

Great weekend overall, but I am thankful that everyone made it back safely, and now we all look forward to this weekend!

Yee

Posted on [July 1, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

The name of the song I am currently listening to.

Yesterday, my group and I met with Dr. Dorneich and Eui to work on more of our research. It was helpful to hear Dr. Dorneich's advice on how we can actually teach the users something through the task that we chose. I had ideas but I always find myself feeling less confident in my ideas. I want to over come this by the end of the time here so I can share my ideas with the team.

Today, we really worked to figure out strategies when teaching Algebra, a Word Find puzzle, and a Building Task. After looking for strategies on the internet, we came together and wrote on the board sample equations, word find, etc. along with possible feedback examples. It's pretty effective, now we just keep working until 2 pm to go see Anna's Thesis Defense which will be super cool! Anna is such a great speaker, she always seems comfortable when teaching all of us and makes great eye contact! Not trying to suck up or anything but I really want to be as comfortable as she is when she speaks, when I speak.

Tonight we are invited to a Mid Summer dinner at Thai Spice which is really exciting! I am excited to continue to spend quality time with everyone. I love these people, they all are so funny and don't judge on how weird I can be.

Love you guys!

Jordan

:3

Posted on [June 30, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Wow, I really haven't realized how busy things have been these past few days! From work to the weekend, we have been booked up! To give a brief summary on what has been going on these past few days, I'll start with Friday!

Friday:

My team worked really hard all week to get our work turned in at the appropriate time, IRB, Methods, and Intro Paragraph! Man, was that a lot, but I have to say we really came together and worked hard. There were times where we butted heads (a little) but hey we all want to get the work done in the right way!

Saturday:

Des Moines Farmers Market!!! That was so much fun, I loved it so much and we made good memories. I really enjoyed tasting the fresh fruit and buying homemade granola YUM. I also got homemade "puppy chow" for \$1. We also were able to experience the Art Festival and that was really fun. I was able to buy a cool \$5 T-shirt and observe some really interesting art! Although the art was overpriced, it makes me more motivated to do what I am striving to do so maybe one day, buying a \$52 mug won't be so much trouble. We also went to Norene's place, however we weren't able to meet her due to a family emergency and I really hope her family is okay. We had a fun game of volleyball and that made me miss playing a lot. Might even change my mind for this upcoming year. Who knows?

Sunday/Personal:

It is official. I'll be receiving an athletic training scholarship for the next semester in place of playing volleyball. Due to the time constraints of volleyball, I have chosen to focus more on academics while staying at Doane. Doane is a great place and is full of great professors who offer amazing opportunities such as this program! I am just getting more excited for the next semester.

Monday:

Well well well, I am learning more about Statistics! I had a 3 hour class yesterday with Dr. Rollins, which was intense yet he achieved his goal of wanting to make us WANT to learn more about statistics. I have learned that I don't like to learn a little of something, I like to keep learning more and more about a subject. Not just cut it short in the middle.

Today:

Today's luncheon lecture was once again so great. It really makes me motivated to personalize my path and not

follow exactly in someone's footsteps. No two people follow the same path (I'm not sure if someone famous has said that once before, but I just did) Dr. Bergerfer was one of a kind, her story is impeccable. I commend women who can continue following their goals along with the tolls of life. No matter what, she kept going and not many people can do that. Her story is motivating and I really get excited to think about telling my story later on in life.

I also loved learning "How to give a talk and make a poster" those are both things I always want to improve on, especially talking. It was great that we were able to do the short activity today because it really helped ease my fear of speaking. It's not necessarily a genuine fear, it just gets me all nervous and anxious to know how I am doing. I wish we could have a whole course on this due to the amount of public speaking we will be doing in college. At Doane I did a lot of public speaking in just one year, and I have really recognized my faults and strengths. In the future I could really see myself taking another speaking course, however this will have to be off campus because Doane doesn't offer one. I'll be able to be confident in my speaking skills one day (hopefully).

Now, we have to get jump started on a lot of work for the future! Posters, storyboards, and more reading.

User_HCI: Oreo and Milk

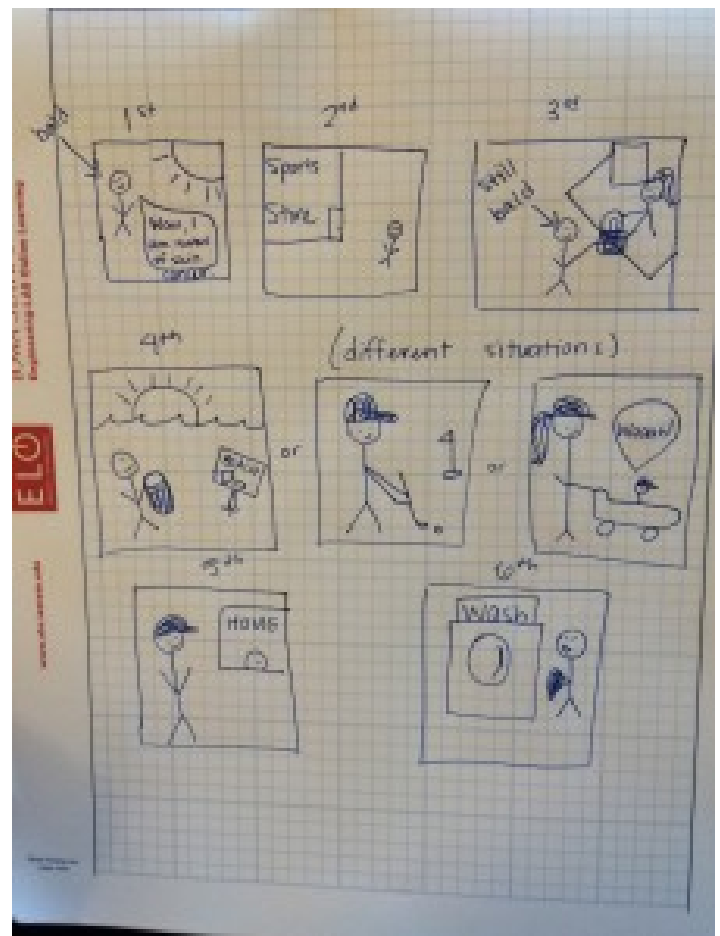
Posted on [June 25, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Target Audience: Any age from infants to geriatric.

Product Description: A hat that has a UV sensing chip inserted into the sort of like the Nike+ chip in your shoes. The chip has capabilities that allow it recognize and measure the level of UV rays from the sun. The user can obtain these data on the App on a smart phone. Users can also input their own personal data into the App eg. the SPF of the sunblock and how much water they have drank. With these data from the user, the app can provide helpful and preventative tips for protection against the sun and overall safety while being outdoors.

Features:

- UV Sensing
- Time calculations for sunscreen
- Warn users when to reapply sunscreen
- Recommend which SPH to use according to the day
- Communicates with The Weather Channel to provide weather information ie. humidity, temperature, and wind
- Extra shield options
- Multi-age and several sizes
- Unisex and there are different styles



Posted on [June 25, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Yesterday:

We went to a really fun Etiquette lunch and learned all about the proper ways to eat and speak at a fine event. That was really fun and good for everyone to do in their life! I never would of thought I would be able to take a class like that! I never know when I'll be invited to a formal lunch/dinner, but I know now that I will refer to the things we learned in that class. I told some of the LSAMP members that I just came from that class and they all said the same thing "I really want to do that!" which made me feel special that MY REU Program gets to do it.

We also had a class on Statistics, a class I have never taken before. Although, in my first semester Biology course (The one that introduced me to research) we learned about ANOVA and p-value, continuous, and categorical. Those terms were used a lot because we had to actually do that for our data that we had when we were trying to isolate a bacteriophage from the environment. I'm taking a Biostatistics course next semester, so I'll have a definite jump ahead if we can continue to have that course by Dr. Jordan. I think it is way cool that her email is "zjordan" because that matches my name! ☺

Tomorrow is time to revise our Introduction again and keep improving it. Revising is actually becoming more smooth, and more fun because I feel confident in the help I can give to my teammates.

Too-da-loo!

STEM

Posted on [June 23, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

After finishing another active learning from yesterday, I am feeling more excited for my Sophomore year! I can now know what to expect from college as a whole, and that will hopefully make for a better year. I'll be mentoring new students, which connects well with the workshop I went to yesterday for one hour. Dr. Tim Sunday taught us how to be an effective mentor/mentee. To be an effective mentor:

- Empower mentees to take responsibility for their own learning and career development
- Counsel
- Inspire
- Enhance self-awareness and self-confidence
- Challenge them and help them grow
- Be accessible

These are all great tips that I took from that workshop, which will really help me be an effective mentor when I return back to Doane. I'm really excited (I've probably already said that)

Today, we had another luncheon lecture from Dr. Caroline Hayes, and she was very interesting. I'm beginning to believe that the lectures during lunch are my favorite thing! They are always offering great advice and reflecting on their life experiences. Their experiences are what have changed them and usually what has swayed them to go to their particular field of study. It's always nice to hear that someone was/is interested in Biology too, because I find that aspect of science to be my favorite...like I said to Dr. Hayes today though, I am challenging myself by learning ALL aspects of science, and that is what I want, is to be some-what fluent in all flavors of science.

Now to talk about MAYA:

I really enjoy this program, it's really fun to use and learn...however, I need someone to answer my dumb questions

and I don't know if I have that right now! I really want to learn this because I feel like this is the program that I could potentially be some-what good at. Hopefully that will happen, but for now, I have a ton of reading and revising to do before Thursday!

See ya!

Yesterday

Posted on [June 23, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

This Weekend:

We went to the Des Moines river, and that was really fun and very memorable. Some of us got stuck LOL and I have to admit it was probably hilarious to watch! We went to BWW afterwards, which was really good. On Sunday, we were fed some great Hamburger Helper! My thanks to the chefs!

Yesterday:

We presented our OpenGL projects to the group and it was really cool to hear about how other teams produced their game/animation. Congratulations to Pacman! They really deserved it, it looked really clear and concise.

Q-bert...will be dearly missed.

We have a lot to do this week, I really think it's because this is teaching us time management skills and really to increase our knowledge of analyzing scientific papers and research. Which, in my case, I need to be exposed to more and more. I'm looking forward to tie-dye tomorrow! Just hope it doesn't rain.

See ya!

Crazy in Love

Posted on [June 19, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Can someone guess the artist of this song?

Today was a whirlwind! I swear the time F L E W past me! We had so much to get done before today and I was reminded of the fact that it is best to get things done early not later.

I'll do better next time. But yesterday's activity was so relaxing. We went to the biofeedback center on campus and it was just really cool to interact with our own selves really. I was reacting to my body's signals. I really liked that and there are interesting ways to incorporate their technology into our own Affect Aware project too.

Well, in my Active Learning Workshop for the LSAMP program we learned the steps in research which is short and to the point. It's good for me since I am just beginning in research and really since I have a plan to continue doing research later in life.

My group has to do a literature review over the weekend, and we all need to start on our new homework for Intro to HCI early too since that should take awhile. Sarah and I are working together which should be productive!

I am looking forward for tubing tomorrow, I hope it is really sunny.

I do have to say I have been feeling really disturbed lately about the 21 year old shooter Dylann Roof who shot 9 people, in which they all passed. I had nightmares about it, and I just don't feel safe anymore. Anything like that can happen at any moment. It really really bothers me, I just want to stop these things from happening.

Jo

Colors (Culture Code Remix)

Posted on [June 18, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

I just decided to put my title as the current song that I am listening to. Ok.

Yesterday:

We had more of the Computer Graphics Course and it's still very challenging. From what I've heard, it's giving more people trouble than with C++. Hopefully all of us can somehow figure it out. I don't like to complain about how much we have on our plate because I KNOW graduate students have a lot more. At this point, it's a lot of reading and analyzing what the authors are saying. It isn't light reading that is for sure, but I can't help but think that I am getting such good exposure by keeping up my scientific reading skills. It'll make reading these articles better for me in the future. I still can't wait to share all of the knowledge I am learning here at Doane.

Today:

We had a special guest for our luncheon lecture, Dr. Lee. She works with product design and innovative technology, e.g. a 3D Body Scanner. That was pretty interesting to hear that there were actually those scanners in malls. I wish I was able to experience one at an airport or mall near me before they took them away. Dr. Lee is very wise and again I believe she learned a lot from her experiences. She introduced a lot of ideas that I could see myself working on. I can interpret emerging technologies into biomedical research. That's the dream, find what I love learning about, and implement the newfound skills of CAD, C++, OpenGL, etc. into that particular research.

She also mentioned how important it is to have different paid internships under your belt. Emphasis on different. That was my main goal of applying to this specific REU. I read up on it and it seemed so great, interesting, and it definitely wasn't something that I was familiar with. Something told me to just go for it! So I did, and now I am learning amazing things. Like Dr. Lee said to us today, explore in different fields and that's what I am doing so I feel more reassured now.

Another busy day today, but Craft of Research should be a nice time to be around my fellow interns and talk about how dark chocolate can encourage weight loss. Interesting topic, so it should be interesting.

Okay, I am going to get some more things done. Maybe make some coffee. You can never have enough. You probably can but what?

Wyfy

Posted on [June 17, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Hey again, yesterday's meeting went well with the entire group. We established clear and concise objectives. We need to make our Research Question clear so we can turn that in on Friday.

I have a load of reading to do, powerpoints to make, and online courses. I must get this all done! >.<

We didn't have much planned for today therefore that is more time to work. I think we all need that. Other than that, I've been content and also excited for this weekend. Hopefully it doesn't rain!

Jo

Beautiful day today!

Posted on [June 16, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Yesterday was pretty productive! We were able to meet with our mentor, Eui, and talk for an hour about potential ways we could go about our “testbed”. It was really good for us to do that, and we are getting pretty far along. We also were able to look at our pictures from the Ropes Course, and I’ve never laughed harder at pictures before. Everyone had ONE funny picture about them which was GREAT. I keep looking at them and every time I just break out into laughter. Mine and Anna’s were pretty embarrassing LOL. Oh well, it’s something for us to laugh about later in life.

Today, we had another OpenGL course, which was pretty lengthy. It’s still super hard for me to listen and not *do*. I need to be working as a listen! Programming is my worst enemy right now. That’s okay, I know I am not supposed to be an expert in one week of learning it.

We had another luncheon lecture and I can finally say my questions were fully and effectively answered by Dr. Winer. He is really thorough when he gives speeches so I am guaranteed to have my questions fulfilled. My mind is blown away by what Dr. Winer and his colleagues created within the App! It was so amazing, and I could really see myself using that down the road. It also makes me want to create something like that too, I have some ideas that I think about putting into an App, I just never know how to go about it. When I can get my ideas concise, I should talk to him. But, it was nice to hear some of the life experiences that he had to go through. It helps me recognize that people do get through the hard times. You always have to push hard.

I’m feeling more motivated, but also nervous. I just want to be great. I have to really work hard for that.

That’s really it! I have a lot of work to do.

Swing of Terrible Choice

Posted on [June 15, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Weekend:

I didn’t realize how scary that swing was for me, but it was very scary and embarrassing to do. I feel like a wimp ☹️ But it’s okay, I’ll be fine. I’m glad I climbed up the tower at the Ropes challenge because that felt great. Sunday was a much needed day of getting my mind back together with everything that has been going on. It was nice.

Today:

We started learning about OpenGL and I do have to say I am not as confused as I first was with C++, but it still is a tad complex for me. I’ll get better at it, because I am determined to come back to school being able to identify key points of coding. We also had a short presentation from Dr. Gregory and she told us all about the program SWE. The group is definitely what I am wanting the world to come to. We need to have more groups like this for underrepresented majors. I wonder if they have one for Women Biologists? I’ll have to find out. The Career Fair would be such a great experience as well, so I may have to consider going to that. I would LOVE to see my fellow internship friends there too! I don’t ever want to lose contact with you all, I love you guys.

I’m looking forward to the luncheon lectures and also tubing this weekend. I just really hope that we don’t get rained out.

Rain, rain, go away, come again some *other* day.

Words on a blog

Posted on [June 12, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

I'll start with yesterday. We ended up having an activity with current graduate students at a "hipster" coffee shop. It was deceiving...on the menu it offered a "Bread Bowl", so I'm over here thinking it's like Panera where you can choose the soup to go inside of the bowl made out of bread. But it definitely was not that, it was an actual bowl of chopped French bread with a side bowl of olive oil. So my friend Alex actually got this, and surprisingly it turned out to be pretty good. So now I know, some bread bowls are deceiving.

To get to the main point of why we were at Stomping Grounds, basically we received GREAT advice from the graduate students. Man, Ben is my ultimate favorite person. First of all his girlfriend is in the Veterinary college, which is something I could definitely see myself doing. But not only would I want to speak with his girlfriend, but he was just a character or even an icon. The way he sees life is how I see life, smile until your cheeks hurt. There is absolutely no reason to not enjoy life. We are blessed to wake up and see, breathe, be free. All reasons that should make everyone thankful. Man, I want to just soak up all of Ben's happiness he was just amazing.

But, so were the others, all of them each had their own intimate story which is so cool to me. It lasted pretty long, but they did have great information. Also, I still feel like no matter what we should always check to see if everyone in our group is with/behind us. We should never leave a single person behind when traveling somewhere. Sorry Ogue.

Sincerely,

Jordan Zonner

I love cats

Posted on [June 11, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Random title...I know. My emotions have gone all over the place lately. I've gone from entirely stressed out to calm, intuitive, and also a little h-anger. But I'm in a good mood now. Just cruising a long with every thing as more obstacles come my way!

Yesterday, we really worked hard on our research paragraph and caught up on assignments that we need to read. Since I just finished my first year of college, I still feel less than everyone as far as managing my time and how to read scientific papers. I read "a lot" in my first year, but I feel like that is nothing to what a graduate student does and is used to. Basically what I am trying to say is that I am still in the process of learning how to read like a scholar. It'll get better though!

After work yesterday, we made cheeseburgers and pasta, which was super good.

Then we received comments from our graduate mentor which really helped us create our second Problem Area draft. Then we sent this newly edited draft to Dr. Dorneich, and he also provided us with great comments. We are now in the process of fixing this again, and I am looking forward to having our peers listen to our paragraph in the Craft of Research class. That will be helpful because our peers are great, wise people! I'm still amazed by how funny everyone is. Whenever my friends ask me how is the group of people, I respond with "funny." I love you all!

We had another luncheon lecture on this rainy Thursday. Her name is Dr. Dark (must I say that is a RAD name)! She has a Ph.D in Cognitive Psychology, which is SUCH an interesting topic. I am beginning to understand that once you work your butt off to get all your degrees, YOU CAN DO SO MANY FUN THINGS. I want that life so badly, but I also want to contribute to society in many different ways. I just want to love what I do. (Wow that was all so random and all over the place, but this is how I think so it's okay.)

Her lecture was 20x what I learned in Psych 101. She is such a wise woman, and her pictures of sea lions are adorable. Her area of research isn't something I would ideally like to do, but it would be something I wouldn't refuse if I was given the opportunity. Power to Dr. Dark!

Today, will be a day full of reading papers. I'm nervous because I hope I am interpreting the papers correctly. We'll see.

“Life is...

Posted on [June 10, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

...getting up an hour early to live an hour more”.

– *Caribou Iced Coffee cup.*

I'm the type of person who gets moved by a saying on a coffee cup. I like that saying, but half of me also doesn't because I enjoy to sleep in. Anyways, yesterday we were able to meet with Dr. Dorneich, Dr. Gilbert, and our mentor Eui again! It was a very beneficial conversation between all of us, and we received a lot of help to finish our Problem Area Paragraph Rough Draft. As we talked more with Dr. Dorneich, I was able to understand his opinions and expectations more which is really what our team needed to hear. I feel like we all have a better idea of what we should be doing now and what we will be doing. It's very exciting work, and I am so happy to be a part of this.

After working, we were able to go to our dorms before 8:00PM. But by 8 we had to be at the Physics Hall for the Planetarium tour! Wow, that was so interesting. We were given a sweet tour by one of the fresh graduate students, who really knew what he was talking about. He was a great tour guide as he told us about the Greek mythology concerning all of the stars in the sky. It was such a beautiful thing to learn about the stories behind most of the stars in our sky. I would love to go up to the telescope area again and again and just sit up there and enjoy looking at the stars from so up high. That was excellent and I wouldn't mind going again. That AND rock climbing.

As for my day today, it's been hectic. I am running around campus going to seminar's for the LSAMP program. The Ethics one that we had this morning wasn't so bad, actually it was interesting! I learned and discussed the ethics regarding how we are now able to genetically create a human baby from THREE parents. Yes, THREE genetic parents. Basically what they have found is to take the mitochondrial DNA from a parent's ovum, and replace that for another parent's ovum that is lacking DNA. Basically you keep that process going and each time, the DNA obtains genetic material. Our professor said this could be to save a human child from genetic diseases or disorders. What are your thoughts on that? Would you do this for your child if you knew they would receive the genetic disorder that you had to suffer with your entire life? Ethics man.

Anyways, that was pretty interesting, along with other things. But my group made significant process on our Problem Area Paragraph and now we must read read read, and READ. So, I shall get to that!

Thanks!

Jordan

We Are The Future

Posted on [June 9, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Yesterday, our group's game “Bottom Feeders” was voted as the best game by our peers! I feel very proud of this because I have never really mingled with programming and the first time I attempt it, my group and I win! I couldn't of done this without the help and support of my fellow teammates. Not even though them, everyone always helped

me when I needed it. I just really love everyone here, they are all so funny and nice. But yes, good job group!

After that we had time to work on homework, which was for the modeling course. I finished my first tutorial on how to use SolidWorks! I really like this program and I may even consider figuring out how to get it on my laptop. I wouldn't mind continuing how to learn CAD. I know I probably said this yesterday but I really like modeling rather than C++. However, I really want to keep working towards learning more C++. Nancy told me that there are free online tutorials so I'll be sure to do that.

After work, Nancy, Alex, Sarah, Ogue, Mak, and I went to the nearby waterpark in Ames! It was seriously so much fun. The weather was perfect and jumping off the diving board a lot of times was so cool. I love to be outdoors which parallels perfectly with Desmond and Anna's definition of our group as a whole. We all love to be outdoors! I mean who doesn't? There is so much to do on campus and outside of campus! I hope to go to the waterpark 3 more times. Three. Specifically.



Today, we learned more modeling from Alex Renner. I liked how calm he taught us, it was different. I am a person who needs hands-on learning when it comes to working with computers (so I realized). Which makes it rather difficult when we are being taught modeling through powerpoint. That is just my opinion though. But after the modeling course we had another Luncheon Lecture today and I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT. This is starting to be the best thing of the week I think. We get to pick the brains of professionals who are/could be doing things that we could do too! Dr. Jordan was the prime example of who and what I want to be when I am older. She dabbles in every subject, basically knows a little of everything! She was just the right amount of peppy, and she really informed me on the CHI conference. The "design" one really struck my interest because of how she described the topic that she and her teammates had to do. The topic was "homelessness" and that really made me want to help out with that particular topic. This is now one of my goals, to get into the conference seems like such a challenge that I could see myself taking. I will go to that conference and give back to the world somehow.

We also were able to listen to Dr. Enruo's defense for her Ph.D! That was also very good exposure because who knows? I don't plan on getting a Ph.D but I could be in her very same position one day! Enruo if you are reading this for some reason, thank you for letting all 12 of us add more pressure to your defense! It went so great.

Tonight we will go to the Planetarium and get a glimpse at the night sky. I really can't wait for that. Hopefully I can catch a short nap between after work and before star gazing because Jordan is tired today.

Anyways, the past couple of days have gone pretty good.

Oh yeah! We get to finally meet with Dr. Dorneich about our research project and get a better idea of what we should be doing and will be doing. Very exciting!

Two Programs

Posted on [June 8, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Well, I have to say. After Part One of LSAMPS-IINSPIRE program orientation, I was a tad overwhelmed. I was like, wait I have two programs to do at once?! That is tough stuff...however I'll be learning more things that can help with developing myself as a professional. The reason I am doing these two programs is because I am a member of the LSAMPS program for underrepresented people. I found this REU program through the LSAMPS website! Both programs are SO beneficial, and again I can't believe I've been given these opportunities. To come from having to

work hard to get what you want, I feel like for once, my hard work is paying off. But I cannot stop there. I want to continue this forever.

Today, we learned about CAD (Computer Aided Design) and I feel much more comfortable tooting around with this program. I can see images instead of reading code that could make an image. However, I still want to tackle C++ and keep learning more of it. I like the challenge! But with today's class, the instructor's really helped us a lot. I can't wait to see what else I do with CAD!

I REALLY HOPE WE GET TO GO TO THE WATERPARK AFTER WORK!

Okay, I'm done.

Enter title here

Posted on [June 5, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Last night's activity was GREAT. We were able to do 2 hours of light painting with Paul and it was super fun! That was by far my favorite activity, and I know I want to do it again while I'm here. Today we had our last day of Computer Programming and it went a lot better than other days. I should expect it to, I mean, it *is*, Friday. Stacy is such a great help, she is so patient and nice, and it really makes me feel better because I know I am not good at coding so when she helps me, I feel better.

I really want to go to the Art Walk tonight, take some pictures and enjoy looking at some interesting art. Oh yeah, I like when Journal Club is competitive! I get to break out my skills I learned from being an athlete.

But anyways, our group is coming along nicely. Today isn't all fun and games though, we will be working on our story board with Eui and that could be challenging. Tomorrow I get to sleep in, yay!

Bye world!

Struggling...

Posted on [June 4, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

The poor Biology major is not understanding the wonderful, lovely, and beautiful concept of code. I am the type of person who wants to get really good at something even if it smacks me in the face. Therefore, after this week of Programming, I want to continue to learn how to code. I don't want to drag my team during the process of our research. They are both so nice and help me whenever I need it, and I am beyond thankful for them.

We also had another Luncheon Lecture from Dr. Oliver, and he was different from our speaker Dr. Stone. They both provided so much helpful information about graduate school, and what we should be doing to prepare. It's helpful to be reminded of what I should be doing to prepare myself for medical school. Even though most of the 12 are planning on taking the GRE and seeking out professors for funding, I still find the information very helpful.

Today has been going better, and I am extremely excited to do our evening activity tonight: Light Painting with Paul! Woo! Sounds so fun, and it'll be a nice relief from the amount of work we have been doing this week.

It's all been great, and I know I say this every time, but I still am so thankful to be here, networking and meeting such amazing people. I love this.

Rain Rain Go Away

Posted on [June 3, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Come again some day other than tomorrow, the next day, and Saturday PLEASE!

Come again some.....day other than tomorrow, the next day, and Saturday PLEASE!

I am looking forward to Ledge's park this weekend, I just want it to stay dry. We need to get out doors more often, as we are inside most of the day. Which isn't *that* bad considering that we have a lot on our plate to do. The one thing that is challenging me the most right now is definitely the Computer Programming. I want to get better at it, so I try to get hints then figure it out myself but I find my mind always blank. I found that C++ for Dummies is \$4 offline, but Maggie found it for free in a pdf! I'll try to read that in my free time so I can get better at coding, because I would really like to.

Today hasn't been the best of days, as most people don't have good days all the time. I just fight it by smiling and laughing, both are the **best** medicines.

Other than that, my teammates and I have been collaborating extremely well! I am so proud of how well we speak with each other and help each other when someone needs help.

Last night we made our T-shirt design, and it's hands down hilarious. I can't wait to see Desmond's face when he sees this.

¯_(\ツ)_/ I feel like this is Desmond.

But anyways, hopefully today gets better and maybe working out will help decrease the stress.

June 2:

Posted on [June 2, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

We started off with Day 2 of our Programming Course and it was very confusing at first. I preferred to be sitting at my desktop, physically working as I learn. That way I could listen, then type to make sure that I understood everything. Alex came into the rescue AGAIN and helped me solve my issues when I ran my 'Math Quiz' program. While trying to figure out how to write the code by myself, I just kind of winged it and copied everything from the template. Then I entered in my own numbers and computed them, making it more original. I feel like I am progressing with understanding the symbols, but not really understanding why I need them. That should come with time, I just have to be patient.

My favorite part of today was our Luncheon Lecture special guest, Dr. Rick Stone. He was super enthusiastic, engaged, and a tad intimidating. He also came off as very confident and wise, which is what you want from a high level of authority. I don't know if I could truly give my all to someone who was doubtful and passive, most people would feel the same (hopefully). His fields of study ranged from things I am very interested in to things I don't want to even go near. For example, the mines. Don't go near the mines. Anyways, he really spoke about fields in engineering that I didn't know were possible, and it really opened doors of opportunities for me to look into. Ever since I was little, I knew I wanted to help people, encourage others, and love my job just because of what I've seen my dad do for his patients. Now, my dad's job isn't the type of field I particularly want to do because he helps just the general community openly. I believe that I want to continue researching and helping others both face to face but also behind the scenes. I'm not sure what job that could be at this very moment, but that is what I would love to do for the rest of my life. Well, and I would like to retire early ^_^ (doubt that would happen but hey a girl can dream right?). But, hopefully someone will share their story and it could shine light onto what I want to do.

I really really really loved Dr. Stone's talk, I wish I could hear more and talk to more people who have that wide of a range in fields of study. Everything sounds so interesting, I just have to keep having this open mind.

Also, I can't wait to clean tonight. Weird? I know.

A New Week

Posted on [June 1, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

I've come to conclusion that none of my titles are clever or funny like everyone else's.

There's that.

Monday has been productive and rewarding. We started our first Programming Course and it was very confusing for me. I have never taken a Programming course before, and it was just like taking Spanish for the first time. However, once I took more notes and understood what the abbreviations meant, I really got the hang of it. I appreciate how well Stacy taught us, she didn't give us too much information but it was definitely a good starting point. Plus, I have to give Alex Hornick recognition because he helped me a lot and I really appreciate that. That is what good team members do for each other. Thanks Alex!

Lunch was also pretty good today, I was able to make my own grilled cheese and dip it into tomato soup. That was very good. To change the direction, I am still a little nervous to meet with my group project team today as we don't have a structured schedule as to what we should work on first. That shouldn't bother me too much because this is RESEARCH, we have to come up with our own starting point and make it do-able basically. Hopefully we can get some progress today because I truly have high goals for the end of this project. Along with everyone else, we all want to make our project special and known.

I may actually work out after our meeting as well. I need to work off all of the Insomnia Cookies. LOL!

Mood=Content

Sunday Funday

Posted on [May 31, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Wow, today was fun. There is absolutely so much to do in Ames! It's really great because I don't have that much to do in my college town, so it's a great change. I got to sleep in today which felt very nice, and a bunch of us went to the State Gym again. We went rock climbing *GASP*! It was a great combination of a workout and fun. I can't wait till the entire group gets to go and I can show off my newfound skills, HA! We also took a refreshing swim in the State Gym pool which was also very fun. The pool is very nice, and I want to visit that again.

While walking around campus we were able to find some food, I think the name of the pizza place was Jeff's Pizza. Most of us came and it was very good! It was such a beautiful day outside, I just wanted to stay out there forever. Can't wait for another Sunday Funday! Next time, I really want to try The Fighting Burrito.

Back to work tomorrow woo-hoo!

First Saturday in Ames

Posted on [May 30, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Waking up earlier than usual wasn't too bad, but the weather was very cold. I would of preferred to wake up to a shining sun and have birds chirping BUT that was sadly forsaken. What I enjoyed was seeing the downtown part of Ames and going to that Café Diem coffee shop. However, my favorite encounter was with Remington the cat in the nearby flower shop. He was just the cutest thing, and really made me so happy. After seeing him I was almost on a cat-frenzy and I wanted to just see more and more.

After taking a luxurious nap, my roommates and Alex and Gabe went to the gym to play some basketball! That was really fun to get out the house and get a workout in. I'm even more excited for the rock climbing tomorrow and hot tubbing! That sounds so much fun.

Overall, my Saturday was great with awesome people who I just love to get to know better each and every day.

Dia Cuatro

Posted on [May 29, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

On the fourth day of this program we were finally able to see the C6 room. Previously, we've only seen the beautiful outside of it, but today we were able to look inside. We were greeted by "VJ" and man was he a funny and wise man. That is someone that I would see myself getting along with. He briefly told us about the C6 and how expensive it is. It's so generous of them to let us use it because it is not cheap to use even once. Interacting with the C6 was super intriguing, we were given glasses to trick our mind into thinking we were in real world, but it was all virtual. We saw two different programs, one was a model of a corn "chucker" for John Deere, and another was airplanes and jets for Boeing. I didn't know what to expect from that tour, but it really blew my mind. I am so thankful to be given this opportunity! We took a pre-test today on programming, man, I feel super dumb. If I get judged then oh well, but man... I couldn't answer much of anything. I am really getting nervous about this situation I am in, I just hope to get better at this. I have no doubt though that my group members will help me, and I know I will be working my butt off to learn this new material. It will happen and I am excited to see how far I can get.

Anyways, later on what I found interesting was the talk from Joe in the JB Conference room. He mentioned that he worked with medical visualization of MRI's and CTS's which really got my attention. I would love to speak with him during this program about how he got into that particular field, and really to hear more about it. It was also pretty awesome how they implemented biology of plants into a game for high school students. I wish I had that in high school!

Overall, today has gone really great. It was such a blessing to be able to experience two different programs in the C6. Not everyone can say they were hit by a plane and lived.

Mood=Accomplished.

The Definition of Naive

Posted on [May 28, 2015](#) by [jzonner](#)

Hello public world and everyone in it! This is my first blog post and I'm not sure how to come about it syntactically... but I'll give it a shot. So, today we were told we will be blogging every day and I am actually very happy to blog my experience. I want to remember my emotions and the tasks my team and I accomplished together throughout these 10 weeks. It's very exciting to know that I can look back on where I was when I first came into this program.

We were also given a power point presentation from our project mentors today for the full information about each project. My group leader went first and it was very nice to know that I correctly understood the given articles before arriving in Ames. It is a pretty straight forward objective, however there are various ways to start it, which ultimately should make it super fun.

But if I am to be honest, as I should, I am nervous. I'm coming to the program with not a lot of sense of programming nor HCI. However, that does not make me incapable to learn and keep an open mind. The entire reason for me to come here is to keep my mind open to subjects I would never think of learning about. I don't believe my college is too savvy with HCI, therefore I may not of ever been given the chance to learn about such amazing interfaces. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to expand my knowledge and really approach my weaknesses as an emerging professional.

If I were to stay in my comfort zone, I would of been in the wearable devices project, because that is mainly what I

am interested in and seeing myself doing something similar in the future. BUT, that is the whole point of this program. For me to be thrown out of my comfort zone, into a scientific field of study that I need to receive more information about. I am blessed to be in this position, and so excited to see the progress my teammates and I make this summer.