# Makenzie Peterson

## An Excerpt From Dave Grohl

Posted on July 31, 2015 by mpeter

To add to our discussion of what we used to be like, oh about 7 years ago, I was the kid on Facebook that would post song lyrics several times a day for whatever I was overly emotional attached to at the moment.  It seems fitting to end this program in a similar manner of blogging about something meaningful to myself.

I, I'm a new day rising

I'm a brand new sky

To hang the stars upon tonight

I, I'm a little divided

do I stay or run away

And leave it all behind?

It's times like these, you learn to live again

It's times like these, you give and give again

It's times like these, you learn to love again

It's times like these, time and time again

*Times Like These – Foo Fighters*

So, right now I do indeed feel like a brand new sky to hang the stars upon tonight.  After the research symposium today, I had a lot more confidence than I imagined in presenting our work throughout the semester.  Part of that was due to the sheer amount of research done on our topic, but then mostly, I gained much confidence when Dr. Claussen would come see us to check up on our work and inform us of his opinions.  The casual conversation about our work was a far better approach for myself, so I'd love to get more involved with the experts of this field or whichever field I choose to pursue, and then I, too, could become some expert (or at least feel like one).

Divided?  Not divided at all about my feelings for this program.  I suppose physically I have to run away and leave this behind, however this experience will always stay with me no matter what I'm doing because of everything I've been exposed to.  Thanks to the amazing faculty here, I've learned so much in 10 weeks that might take people months or years to figure out.

PART TWO:  Alright, the girls got on my case about forgetting to post this draft, so I shall continue on with this before I leave Ames tonight.  They also freaked out as my boyfriend Doug walked in and a majority had no idea he was coming up to help me move out, or that I had a boyfriend at all.  Oh boy, having several girls at your bedroom door getting all riled up is hysterical.  I love you people.

First, I felt really rushed to finish dinner early and make the moving out process as quick as possible.  But then I really appreciated our time at dinner, particularly on our way out when we realized the great opportunity ISU gave us (especially Maggie!  Congrats gurl!).  When we were walking out of Hickory Park for our final goodbyes to the mentors, it really hit me that the program was ending.  Such a relaxed but emotional moment for us all, I'm sure.  Just as I had hoped at the beginning of the program, I got to know 11 great undergrads with similar interests but from different angles as Sarah described.   Everyone has their own quirks, but that's exactly why we love 'em; we are the funniest group of people I've ever seen ever.  I love all y'all, and hope to see you again in a McGee family reunion.  For the final signout: Mak, out.

## A User Experiencing UX Experience

Posted on July 30, 2015 by mpeter

I'd like to poke fun at how oddly redundant the "Experiencing UX" title of the meeting is, haahah, but it was accurate as all of us there were experiencing a "user experience" (hence, UX).  The meeting last night was particularly interesting, since we've had this exclusively academic look into UX.  Hearing it from these real people working with UX in their everyday jobs was nice, and it was so odd to hear that UX isn't as popular as I thought it was because it costs companies money (but saves money in the long run) and some people don't understand its importance.

So then, we are actually down to our last full day here.  Crazy stuff, man.  We've all worked so hard to produce something for this potential journal article (or content for a future article).  I envisioned a bunch of mad writing for this thing during this last week, but thanks to working on it throughout the weeks, the writing was just marginally easier than I thought.  I'm thankful for my teammates contributions since Ogue works dang hard at getting all the right details and Gabe has been totally on top of the results and conclusions.  With a summary of our poster written up and the key points from it, I hope we can make a good elevator pitch out of them.

I bet this is the second to last blog post?  Dang, son.  I'm sure I'll get all sappy and what not then, but yep, I regret nothing from this experience, as it was totally awesome.  I guess I should think of things to say during the video interviews for tomorrow.  Or do whatever post survey is given to us.  Gotta get to it.  Mak, out.

## Munchkin Booty Burn

Posted on July 29, 2015 by mpeter

Delivering my promise on making the quote of Lady Desminda my blog title.  Oh man, this Munchkin obsession will never get old.

Last night's game night was a success, at least I believe so.  Everyone caught on how to play (or particularly screw over people in) Munchkin, which is totally fun.

These cards don't even begin to explain how odd this game is.  Having the French accent seemed to be the most useful because you get to ask anyone of the opposite sex to help you in battle, and Sarah very well took advantage of this.  My favorite cards in the game are all the shark cards, like… The Great White Shark, The Adequate Brown Shark, and The Lousy Pink Shark.  I will absolutely be teaching my friends this game, and hopefully destroying them at it.  Mini Alpha for life.



Unheard/Pictured Accent: Spanish

Whelp, the team has a rough draft of the journal article we've been writing, and we sent it off to our professor.

Hopefully he'll clean it up or tell us how to anyway.  I don't think what we've been researching is exactly publishing material, but it definitely helped the project along the way.  Supposedly it could be published, but perhaps we'll be included in the critical publication.  We shall see.

Oh and then, totally pumped for the UX Des Moines meeting.   I wonder what kinds of people attend these things; I'd be surprised to see engineers there.  But we shall also see about that.  Time to get to it.  Mak, out.


## Cool Tunes Tuesday

Posted on July 28, 2015 by mpeter

I like making excuses to wear certain types of shirts, like today… Cool Tunes Tuesday for your favorite band shirt, the Foo Fighters (I love how the lead singer hates the name of his own band but now he's just stuck with it, haahah oh Dave Grohl).  My personal favorite is either Three Wolf Moon-Day or just Wolf Shirt Wednesday so I can wear my wolf shirts.  Or No Pants Tuesday is always funny because yoga pants hardly pass as real pants, so what a nice excuse to be comfortable and laugh about it.  (I do not feel qualified to enter adulthood.  Send help for me.)

How did I forget to post a blog yesterday?  I do not know, maybe already trying to arrange our reunion is more exciting than blogging about freaking out during this last week, haahaha.  Actually this week 'feels' easier than I anticipated, but obviously there's a lot of work to do.

So then, oh yeah, the weekend.  I live for moments like the hot air balloon festival; it was truly the essence of the Midwest.  Good friends, good food, good music, good times.  Man, The Nadas though, that alternative folk/rock must be my favorite genre of all time.  Followed by bluegrass/folk and then rock.  Turn up.  Oh and apparently nobody belts out Folsom Prison Blues like I do..?  Come on y'all, it's good ole Johnny Cash.  Always a classic.

Paintball was a total riot, although… Now I question our decision to hold off on it until the end of the program because uhhh I have bruises on my legs that are the diameter of three of my fingers.  Good lord, why, whyyyy, haahahaha.  I would go again, but in colder weather so I can wear more protective gear.

Alrighty, that luncheon lecture with Dr. Spikes, totally eye opening.  Definitely not the first time I've heard that topic, but probably the first time I've heard about somebody doing something about our problems in the school system.   More power to it.  I have a friend that believes that resolving these issues should be done ASAP, so I'm definitely gonna chat with him about this lecture… maybe he can hop on board in some way.  (NETWORKING, I'M GETTING BETTER AT IT)

Ah, the homestretch to getting this paper done.  Yikes.  (Personally, all I want to do is procrastinate but uh that is not a good idea.)  Definitely brainstormed some things to do for our paper, so those should probably get done, and then forming the little speech for our poster is a good move too.  Time to get to it.  Mak, out.

## Values Reflection

Posted on July 24, 2015 by mpeter

Earlier in the program, we were asked to write down three of our top values and why or what they mean to us.   Perhaps we're supposed to see if those values had changed or even strengthened through this program.  My values have definitely strengthened, and the details of the values have changed.

I value my family the most, as they were the key factor in how I ended up here in the first place.  There are so many 'generic' reasons why I value my family, but mostly I am so thankful of their support and their great influences.  They teach me so many things, such as what to do or what not to do in life.  And they're always so funny, I can't stand

anyone that doesn't know how to have fun (so I'm glad this bunch of people knows *exactly* how to have fun).

My next two values are intertwined, even though they are nearly the opposite of one another. Independence and support. I find it important to find yourself, and do what you need to do in life. I also believe in supporting others, as we do not get to where we're going by ourselves typically. And in this support, I would like to believe that unconditional love goes a long way, that emotional support can be the difference in being motivated to keep pursuing your dreams or not. So, I see that there is this yin and yang in life of supporting yourself and supporting others. This program definitely helped me see that in a very realistic way, where we were fortunate enough to be introduced to so many successful people and got a brief view into their lives.

And now, the people in this program feel like family and we all support ourselves and each other.

Somewhere, somehow, you know what your values are in life, but writing them out is an interesting activity since they could fluctuate in importance from time to time. Not enough time passed to change my values, but the 10 weeks did shine a new light on them, and sometimes it's more important to see that adjustment you've made rather than changing entirely. Feels like some research of myself, haha.

## I Saw The Sign

Posted on July 23, 2015 by mpeter

And it opened up my mind, I saw the sign(s) (on the floor of the fancy bookstore/fountain building… and they're zodiac signs). The internet is so obsessed with making "Zodiac signs as…" posts, such as "zodiac signs as 00s Disney Characters" (by the way, apparently I'm Phil Diffy). Or, "signs as coldplay songs", "what signs look like in the mirror", "signs as harry potter spells"… Well, my favorite post of ALL TIME is "signs as calendar dates", because oh my goodness, that's what the signs are, that is how you classify a sign, is by their dates. Very sarcastic, much funny.

Holy Tank Photos, haahah, what an accurate representation of our people. Desmond makes me feel like the poster child of all bro things, which I find hysterical. Just as I was about to turn a new leaf for being an upperclassmen, I considered moving on from the bro days, but now I realize I shouldn't give up that truest part of my soul, ahahahha. Don't turn the new leaf, have two leaves instead.

Woooowee, alright, more feedback on the poster, more clarification on what we need to be doing. Getting a lot of new information in the poster, which is good. Hopefully more successful tests have been run by our grad mentor and then also I hope we get good data on the tests we run, too. It seems like a real hit or miss whether or not we get these clear steps, or I suppose at least I'm unsure of why some of our results are poor if we run the exact same test every time. Oh chemistry, how I will probably never quite understand you. Drafts are officially due tomorrow, but… I fear we won't really be submitting one (at least on Friday) since the poster is legitimately due earlier and then we just fill in the blanks when we have a completed poster. Amen, I BELIEVE… that I need to get back to work. Mak, out.

## Yoga Pants Need a New Name

Posted on July 22, 2015 by mpeter

I mean, what's the statistical percentage of people that use yoga pants for yoga. Do the stretchy pants really have to be so associated with yoga. Who started this conundrum? I got me some stretchy pants, and my friend IMMEDIATELY assumed I was never going to use them for yoga, I mean I was almost offended, cause I like yoga, but it was too funny that it didn't matter. I plan on going to Yoga Monday for the last Monday I'm here, cause yoga rocks my socks (and makes me extremely sore, what's up with that?).

Oh boy, got some more feedback on the poster. Our images are almost ready to go, Claussen is editing them for us. Now, we gotta revamp our background and intro to include info about palladium and scrap the silver. Hopefully

writing for the poster can translate well into our paper, as the poster should be a tad more brief and then we add in some extra information for the paper.

Yep, so here we go to what feels like… maybe square three?  Where we gotta look up new information and keep writing new things.  The joys of research.  Mak, out.

## Gettin' Serious

Posted on July 21, 2015 by mpeter

Wowza!  Fun luncheon lectures all around.  I'm getting used to going from 0 to 100 real quick during my time in this program.

Okay wait, many things happened before this lunch such as super awesome computer building, bowling (not for soup) and pool, and PRODUCTIVITY.

Ah yes, our baby is born.  Sort of…? Almost…?  Close enough, y'all.  I've always been curious about building computers but was always fearful of how much I didn't know of how to choose what components to have and why and how to assemble them.  But, our experience seemed fairly simple and intuitive; if the pieces fit, put em there.  And if not… make it fit, haahaha.


The birth of Sexy Betty

After a delayed dinner, I made some fancy dancy ramen and combined it with my leftover chicken fried rice, because of reasons.  (Mainly that I am a desperate college student that treats the kitchen like a science lab.)  I was very close to taking a nice nap, but then I really really really wanted to bowl.  So, most of the crew went to Perfect Games again and bowled some games and shot some pool.  Good times, good times.

Then, this morning, we've had to work on specific tasks to complete for our poster, where we're making this image set of our methods so that the text isn't so boring.  The team is learning so much about Adobe software, from Illustrator to Fireworks and even Photoshop.  Transparency, doe.  What a valuable feature.  So we've all been working our tails off to have things to finally place on our poster.  Hopefully they're good enough for our presentation.
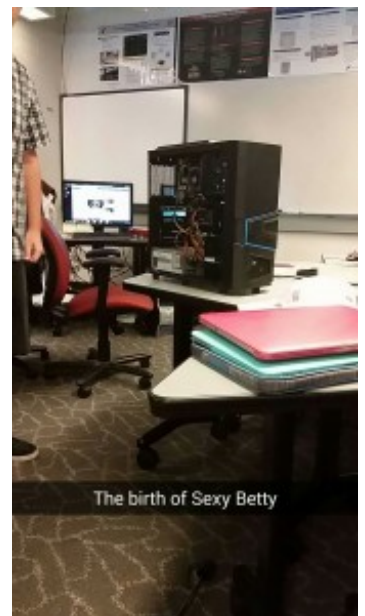
OH-kay, man, haven't even mentioned the luncheon lecture.  Dr. Rover reminded me of the type of professors I have at my school.  Embedded systems are all the rave, so I was catching quite a few phrases she threw out there, but mostly she had me lost, hahaha.  She's a very sweet lady and now I'm convinced that her route is not a bad route for me; for the longest time, I felt as if embedded systems were 'outdated' in a sense, where the interest in them peaked maybe 10 or 20 years ago.  That could be very well true, however after hearing her story and research, I believe they are still crucial in this technological era.  And then there was Dr. Gentile.  What a man, what a man he is.  Quite the pistol in his presentation (oh god, violence references).  I'll bet my career path and decisions won't be directly related to his because of our different fields, but I totally enjoyed his crass comments made towards what a career path even is.  And things got real serious real quick when talking about media violence and its effect on this society.  I agree with Dr. Gentile's comment about attributes to violence: the many terrible influences things adding up.  So I'm sick and tired of hearing how bad video games are for people, cause they're hardly good or bad, they just 'are'.  But indeed, I was fortunate enough to grow up with all the protective influences, so I feel just fine.  And now, I shall wish happiness upon everyone, so that I can be at peace with myself.  Time to get crackin' on this presentation.  ALL THE PHOTOSHOP.  Mak, out.

## Just a Handful of Almonds

Oh, dang it, what's her face… some lady comedian made a joke about how obnoxious it is for one to suggest that if you're hungry, you should eat "just a handful of almonds" to fill you up.  Like yeah right.  I brought my almonds into work today cause I need to get those things gone in two weeks.

Holy reality of this program ending soon hitting you in the face.  I do regret not making it to either of our game nights, especially cause I was an advocate for it, haahah.  But, I also enjoyed going back home for a day to watch my brother kick butt at pitching in baseball once again.  You go, Cole.

I loved paddleboarding on the lake with Sarah, as we felt like true pioneers discovering Party Cove and what not (or at least I felt that way).  Oh yeah, and frisbee with the crew is always good fun, like making David jump over a hole several times on accident and then the numerous other hilarious things that happen to us.  After a delicious lunch of burgers and sodas, we adventured back to Ames and I proceeded to (unwillingly) do my homework, finally.

Well… I believe most, if not all, of our experimenting is done, at least before we decide to scramble for clearer results.  Meeting with Claussen tomorrow should be good for us, I wonder what advice he's gonna give us for finishing our project up.  I've uploaded a drastically different design onto CyBox and hopefully it's usable.  If not, I hope we find a new awesome design soon.

SoooOoOoOoo… I've been looking up some more grad schools, particularly for HCI now since I have more passion for that then telecommunications, and boy is there a variety of things to study.  Gotta love the interdisciplinary part of it.  The search continues.  Mak, out.

## MOA:GROPU02 – The Mak

Part 1:

The UX I had at the mall was fairly enjoyable, the mall is huge and you could never get through all of it in a day, making it desirable to come back.  Also, the symmetry of the mall makes for nice organization, however it could possibly be disorienting as you feel like you are in the same place, no matter where you move.  What sets any section apart from the other is how updated its architecture/design is, where outside Forever 21 it was very nice and shiny, but maybe the food court had this old 90's mall feel to it.  Not much to get around that 'issue', but it's good they update at all.

The light rail was simple to use, as it's fairly similar to this CyRide we use here in Ames.  Except it's even simpler because it only goes in two directions, but perhaps a lot more people use it since it's convenient to travel those longer distances.  I was surprised there wasn't more security on who's allowed to come on the rail and who isn't; it'd be inconvenient for users to have to scan their ticket as they entered the light rail, but it'd be a far more efficient way of keeping track of passengers and not allowing people to bum off the service.  Actually, I don't know how to make it very efficient, but I also don't know how they get people to buy tickets since the security was so low.  What I did like was the map seen above the door to effectively communicate where the stops were in relevance to one another and then the orange light would flash when the door was about to shut.  The light was noticeable, but not too bright to disturb anyone.

Finally, Target Field was an impressive baseball stadium.  I've only ever been to the Lincoln Saltdogs field (UNL college ball/minor league ball field), the TD Ameritrade Park (College World Series field), and the KC Royals field.  Much like the TD Ameritrade Park, Target Field had a 'new' and updated feeling to it.  The sign in the first picture is large enough to read and make sense of which section you're in.  Also, the indoor viewing in the second picture had a nice aesthetic of the text on the windows.  Overall, the Twins field felt smaller but taller than the Royals field and also had a cozy atmosphere to it.

Part 2:

Minneapolis is this gorgeous city, or at least what I got to see of it.  The buildings are tall, but not comparable to perhaps any NYC skyscrapers, where you can still see the sky here and it doesn't make me feel like I'm lost in a concrete jungle (Clarification: I've never actually been to NYC but I imagine that's how I'd feel).  So then, all the skyways are very interesting, as the the design of each is fairly unique.   I bet it keeps pedestrians off the sidewalks to make any rush hour easier.  Lincoln has maybe a total of two, but the downtown area is smaller and some buildings are becoming quite dated.  In Minneapolis, the buildings architecture may be a few decades old, but it still feels nice and new; there's a balance between the beautiful, interesting tall buildings and the classic brick structures.  Omaha has an arcaic 'neighborhood' downtown called the Old Market, and it has brick roads, classic storefronts, and nice restaurants, so I'll bet Minneapolis could have one of those sections too.  If not, the spacious courtyard pictured above makes up for it.  Also, converting the entrance of a building to a tennis court is totally awesome, and unfortunately I did not get a picture.  You go Minneapolis.



Light Rail – See map above door and orange lights around door

Our biosensor project can relate the most to Target Field, where the baseball players could utilize that technology: the dehydration of the baserunners and outfielders, or maybe the fatigue of a pitcher's arm.  Or, fans and enthusiasts could participate in demos of the technology or purchase it there at the field.

# Nostalgia City

Posted on July 17, 2015 by mpeter

Holy mackerel, that science center, mannn.  A very interesting approach at usability, where our testing/procedures have to do with mostly adults and at the science center, they have a multitude of audiences to cater to.  However, I enjoyed the explanation that they aren't only concerned about the audience, but more so the engagement the users have within the activity.  Hmm, designing museums, what a fun way to learn about information all of the time.  And I totally miss playing in those types of children's museums.



Well, last night there was fun with frisbees, lakes, and smores at Amy's campsite.  I ate a garbage load of food that my body couldn't handle beforehand, so way to go Mak.  But then the tummy ache passed, especially after playing some frisbee with the cog shaped death object (which was safer than I thought) and heading down to the lake for some good ole entertainment from the interns.  I don't think I've made smores in a while, so I was excited to try the chocolate graham crackers: instant classic.  I think I can still count with only two hands the amount of bug bites I got, so that's kinda nice.  Made it out alive, man.

About time for Journal Club, let's go Detecting Threat.  Mak, out.

# The Ugly Gosling

Posted on July 16, 2015 by mpeter

My title was about to be "Oh Deer"… As in… Hannah Deering… Okay yeah no that was a failed attempt, haahaha.

But now it's another reference to my bro tank, thanks to Ogue.

So, wowwwowowow, the luncheon lectures are still better and better.  Definitely enjoy hearing about the people in industry because it's a path I'm heavily considering if I don't find the research field that I'm absolutely passionate about.  I definitely want to believe my job is worthwhile, like Hannah was saying, and I think that HCI / UX related fields is something I believe in.  Now I gotta be like all the cool kids and get a comp sci minor, ahahahah.  Just kidding, that would be nice to have the programming experience before getting into grad school, but I do suppose grad students can learn all sorts of things on the fly.  Thanks to this program, I have plenty of questions in mind regarding my future.

Uh huh, about time for Craft of Research, where hopefully we'll get a lot of good feedback on the titles and abstract, and about posters in general.  Hmm… I've been in a zombie mode all week and I think it'll stay that way as long as the team is working late to turn drafts in on time.  Oh well, the weekend is coming up and we're just about at the finish of the project.  Go hard.  Mak, out.
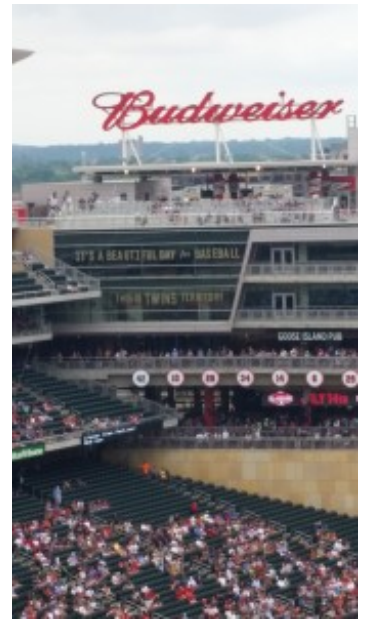
## Goose, Goose, and another Goose

Posted on July 15, 2015 by mpeter

Oh David, you're a unique one, as that is definitely what my bro tank says.  (It's a picture of two ducks and then Anthony Edwards, aka Goose)
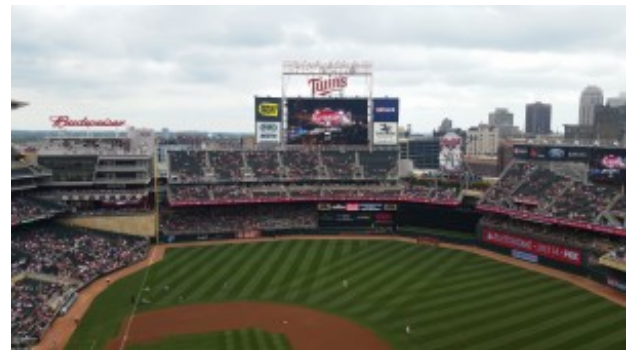
Man, all of this morning felt like a highway to some danger zone: much pressure, very speed (to get the presentation going).  But there was great success!

Also beforehand, there was great success in group photos, where I hope these ones are 'serious enough' for the website.  I wanted to put a whole whopping 1.51 GB worth of the group photos on my flash drive to take home but gal dang, that takes like 30 minutes!  Ain't nobody got time for that, at least right now.  Tomorrow morning tho, I'm coming for ya, Group REU pics.

Obviously at first, I was totally dreading the presentation, especially doing it via webcam + teleconferencing, but it was far easier to do than I thought.  So glad we made the changes we did to our presentation, and that made it a lot more smooth sailing.  So, oh man, I thought this was the REU of all REU's (which it is), however now I've got my eyes on that USC one for myself, and if anything I'm recommending it to my friend who might love it.  Just more programs to look into, more options -> always good.  Even though it seems the USC students weren't as formal as we were, I enjoyed the conversational approach in understanding some concepts better.  Man, their projects were really neat; I feel like ours have more application but their topics were incredibly interesting.
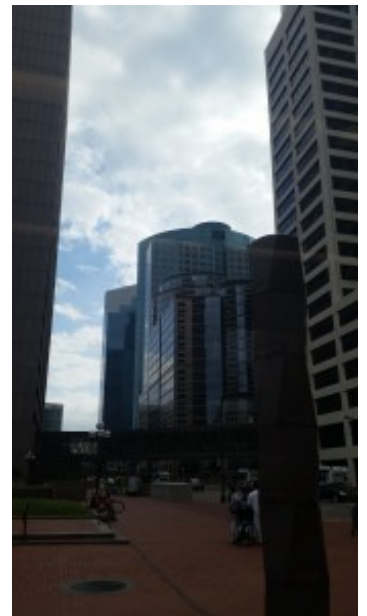
So now, there are plenty of things to get done for Craft of Research, but I'm going to /REDIRECT/ my motivation to going to the gym, so that I can technically redirect my walking to standing still maybe on a treadmill.  Lel, alrighty.  Imma go ride that bike to a whole lot of nowhere.  All for a single cookie.  Mak, out.

## "Sweetie"

Posted on July 14, 2015 by mpeter

Well what if I don't wanna share my Diet Coke with my supposed "Sweetie", huh?  Did you think about that Coca-Cola, what if I'm sick?  Then that person would probably not want to be my Sweetie anymore, haaha.

Alright, bring it on Tuesday, there are so many things to do and I might be able to accomplish half the things I need to… (Better than none).  So, there's much to do about our presentation for tomorrow, and then also the poster draft that's due.  Oh boy oh boy, at least the team is getting through our editing and figuring out what's important to present and how to present it.  Very ambiguous as to what's actually "important" to us (as it all seems incredibly important), but we'll come up with something nice.  In finalizing our experimentation, I hope the data comes out looking great for drawing some conclusions.

Oh golly gosh, those presentations yesterday.  We all actually did a nice job, but I'm so glad we were given feedback on how to do better.  As cool as the team wearables experiment is, right now I'm absolutely despising how much scientific information needs to be packed on our presentation.  That's alright, it's another challenge to overcome I suppose.  I liked the idea that we include extra slides in the back of the presentation in case people ask for more detail on our methods.

So wow, more contemplating life and grad school, haahaha.  I assume there will be 3 more weeks of this, and then once I'm back home I don't quite have the resources to ask about it, so I better ask up now.  Time to start making that list of schools and then contact and visit those places.  Jamiahus and Sarah had awesome stories about their research and their life; now I'm wondering about taking a year off or something short to do at least one thing I've always wanted to do.  Bucket list fulfilling time period ☺

Then it's BACK TO THE LAB AGAIN, YO THIS WHOLE RHAPSODY, WE BETTER CAPTURE THIS MOMENT AND HOPE IT DON'T PASS US.

Mak, out.

## It's just another manic Monday

Posted on July 13, 2015 by mpeter

Like dang, The Bangles anyone?  Walk Like an Egyptian = classic.

Whoop whoop, the Mall of America trip was a great success, as I actually bought the things I wanted in a smoother fashion than ever before… Maybe I should rush myself while shopping more often, or not… Yeah maybe not, haha.  Also, excellent Wingman Sarah and I had quite the same feelings about shopping, so that definitely helped streamline the shopping experience.  A+
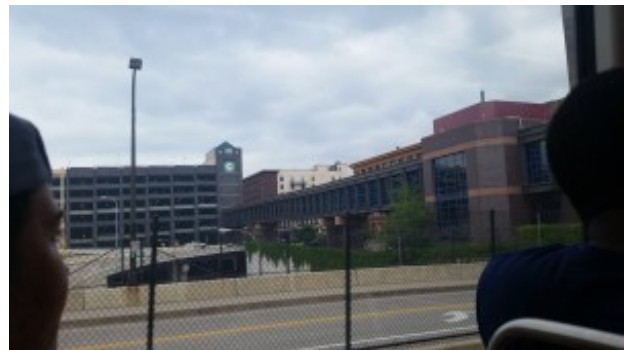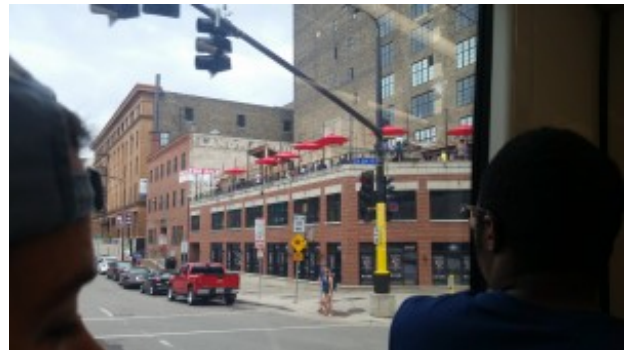
The Twins game was a sweet way to relax for a bit, sit down in the nice weather, watch some good sports. "Beat The Other Team", god I want that shirt, haahaha. But guess what y'all, I got myself another overpriced hat, so I'm just as satisfied. Also, the super quality time with Phantom and TFAT Crew was just wonderful. Much stories, very funny.

And then on Sunday, I scoffed at this "heat advisory" in Ames, IA because the temperature here is not as bad as Lincoln; I thought this place was full of wimps and I was like, "Whatever, I've sat through baseball games for hours in weather worse than this". Those past experiences were meaningless, as I still wanted to die going back and forth between Freddy and Best Buy three times. At least I got to listen to an entire Foo Fighters album along the way, all worth it, maybe, haahahha.

Today feels worse, yikes, how even? What even? Makes me appreciate how ice cold the lab we work in is, that's pretty comfortable compared to outside. Did some more tests today, and I suppose one of our labmates has to have her poster completed by next Tuesday? Oh boy, haahah, whatever puts the pressure on for us to be very productive, I guess I'm down. So, time to quickly rehearse the presentation and potentially return to lab. Mak, out.

## Long Time, No Blog

Posted on July 10, 2015 by mpeter

Sike, I literally blogged a few hours ago, but now I suppose I can talk more about Friday and this weekend in detail.

Journal Club was nice today, as Kinect did a sweet job of presenting their article and had fantastic discussion questions. Will latency always affect us? I suppose we'll have to… wait… and see the results… (OH my god I need to not do this right now haahaha)

Next up is HCI, and I think we'll have fun discussing our products we created. I really liked the app demos the other groups created, but we had some good feedback too on the described operation of our Muffin Button. I hope we aren't quizzed again..? Cause… I'm sorry to say that I don't remember much of the details of HCI, haahaha. I promise that I'm actually interested though!

But yep, super pumped for this weekend's field trip to the museum, mall, and Twins game, y'allllll.

## The Three-4-One Dealio

Posted on July 10, 2015 by mpeter

I mean, if I ever saw that sort of bargain presented to me, I would probably (mistakenly) DO IT *Insert Shia Flexing Pose*. Like, 3 for 1 Windows Surface Tablets? YEH, ALL THE TABLETS ON THE TABLE. 3 for 1 tattoos? SURE, BRO. 3 for 1 cappuccinos? TRIPLE THE CAFFEINE, TRIPLE THE PRODUCTIVITY.

Obviously, the last one is most likely to happen to me… and I actually voluntarily do… on some days… where it is heavily required, haahahaha.

Alrighty! I missed out on two days of posting so here's THREE-ish (2.5 rounds up to 3, math) days in one. Can I even remember what happened? Let's see.

**Wednesday:**

Hump day-eeee. Hmm, what happened that morning… Oh I think the Muffin Button design and presentation was finalized, round of applause for David, what a guy. And then Justin and Nancy definitely gave their 2 cents which was helpful. So then, wow I'm not sure what I was doing that morning, but I hope it was something productive, hahaaha. Then group pictures came, and oh boy, my lack of being able to make a serious face is hysterical. I think

I'm just confused.  That's easily how I feel when I'm trying to be serious.  We got some nice pics, doe!  Man, I do love saving all these on my computer to look back at later.  Y'all are awesome people.  And then after the pictures, the team looked super official in the lab with our polos and lab coats, like dang.  Got some feedback on our experiment graphs; they sure look pretty, but I hope they're valid in the way we're experimenting.  I'd say the EQUIPMENT ISN'T VERY USER FRIENDLY, and maybe I'd uhhh redesign some of it to make it easier for the user to perform experiments.  That's alright, we live and we learn.  Oh yeah and now our experiments are supposed to have more time between depositing H2O2… *le sigh* Now lab time is extra valuable.

**Thursday:**

The team spent the morning creating a poster draft for Craft of Research, and for how simple it was, we got quite a good idea of how the final product might look.  Surprised the color scheme wasn't too simple, but I guess we can keep it or play around with it.  Oh yeah, and then these bloody 45 minute experiments in the lab are really getting to me, making us late to class, haaahaha.  All the reminder of why I stay out of the chemistry labs; however, the final product and data from these experiments are very fulfilling, like, "Really..?? Something happened from that? YAS."  Then we got cracking a little more on the Monday presentation… which we'll have to finalize like hopefully today so we can practice a lot this weekend.  Oh boy.

Oh yeah!  Grad student party hang out presenting sesh in the conference room, good times.  Makes me confident that whatever happens in my life for grad school, it'll be alright.  But, you can look out for some signs to make sure you're not getting into something that doesn't work to your advantage, or see the things that do work for you extremely well.  Instead of the industry trips at my school over fall and spring breaks (which are DEFINITELY my favorite part of college, road tripping in a bus with buddies and having a good ole time), I think I'll do my own road trips to grad schools and scout them out.  Ask all the questions.  Figure all the stuff out.

**Friday (Morning):**

Whoop whoop, here we are again, it's Friday, Friday (not finishing that one this time).  Well, I accidentally got trapped in google searching cool tattoos for like two hours last night, so I didn't do much of my tech writing homework.  BUT, the assignment is to create an instruction manual, and guess what folks, it's gonna be about the Muffin Button.  BOOM, all the double dipping (as one of the grad students suggested to do, haha).  Still got that speaking presentation, so that's probably what I'll go ahead and do now.

## Prototype_HCI_Muffin Button

Posted on July 8, 2015 by mpeter

Prototype Pictures:

Usability Test:  The users read the following instruction set based on how one would use the Muffin Button, and a picture set involving more pictures like the ones shown above were provided as a visualization of the procedure.



Muffin Button User Procedure:

1. Select muffin flavor – Premade or homemade batter
   Open rear lid
   Place into the batter holder at the back of the machine
   (Above muffin in Figure G)
   Place muffin liners in the back of the machine (Above tin in Figure F)
   Close rear lid

2. Turn timer knob to desired baking time
   Three general settings (minutes): Soft (18), Normal (20), Well Done (22)

3. Press the "Muffin Button" on top of the machine

4. Wait for muffin to bake – "Ding" prompts user that the muffin is done

5. Let muffin cool down
   Remove from Muffin Button Machine

6. Enjoy muffin!

7. Before Next Use: Dispose of batter remains and clean cup holder in case of spill

Please refer to the image set on the next page for the visualization of the procedure

Feedback:

The scaled response feedback on the Muffin Button was generally positive or neutral.  Users found it relatively simple to use and most said it was a convenience in their life (except one).  All felt that not a lot of effort was put into using the Muffin Button.  The greatest variation in feedback came from if the users thought the muffin took too long to bake, where two were neutral, one wholly agreed that it took too long, and the other said it did not take too long to make the muffin.  All users would like to use premade batter instead of their own handmade batter (depending on the day though), and they also found the design of the Muffin Button aesthetically pleasing.  A majority of the users would use the Muffin Button again.

The open question responses were also generally positive, where most users would recommend the Muffin Button to a friend; however, one user brought up a good point that the appliance could be a safety hazard.  All users found the timing function a critical component of the Muffin Button and most users would also use a function that kept their muffin warm after being cooked.

## Commitment, what even?

Posted on July 7, 2015 by mpeter

Yeah I mean, what is that commitment stuff anyway?  Yikes man, thinking about all the grad school stuff, places to apply, things to do with my life.  Today's grad school application process lecture with Thelma Harding kicked butt; it's good to know what to do and what not to with this application process.  I actually think I might ask her more questions about grad school in emails or in person sometime soon, I'll come up with a full arsenal so I'm not wasting anybody's time.

And then Jared Danielson's Luncheon Lecture was totally cool, too.  Yet another professor/researcher that found their way into the field in the middle of their career instead of the start.  I have somewhat of this interest in making sure students learn with the appropriate technology, however I still haven't figured out how much that field is in my path.  I guess I'll keep looking.
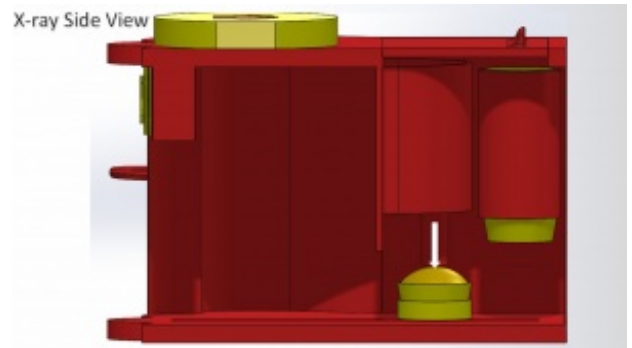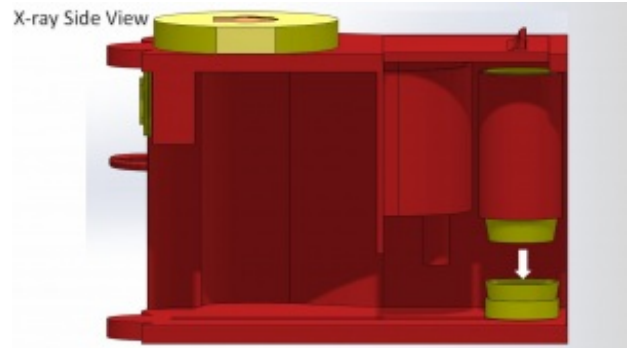
Another day in lab, and whaddya know, the experiments changed again, haahaha.  Finally, we will be able to see some results from our data and should be able to go on our poster.  Time to get to it.

## Just Own the Night

Posted on July 6, 2015 by mpeter

Like the Fourth of Julyyy

BAM Katy Perry all day everyday.

Hope everyone had a fantastic Fourth, as I totally did with some friends back home and family up in Iowa.  It only takes me, what, three days to get back in the "summer mode" of wanting to not do work, ahahaha.  But actually I'm excited to come back and do some good work with the team.  Actually wait, I forgot to post on Thursday, I suppose I was too excited to celebrate 'MERICA.

Thursday started out straight in lab, where the team had even more confidence and knowledge about how to perform the experiments we need to.  I was pretty impressed by the way we coordinated our actions (instead of like tripping over each other like we did in the first few times in lab), where Gabe ran the data collection program, Ogue and Fahmo set up the experiments, and I helped run the experiments themselves as well as helped wherever it was needed.  A few mishaps occurred, but hopefully they don't affect the data too much… But if so… I guess we run them again? Research, though.

Last week had this really relaxed feeling, like where you can get confident about how 'ahead' you can feel by doing work early since it isn't due til next week, but now here comes the time where laziness kicks your butt and will put the pressure on for the following week.  Assignments feel pretty manageable, so that's nice.  Always something to work on.  I suppose I'll get back to it… Only after these few patriotic pictures:



So, the first picture is about as patriotic as I got… Ogue found this flag sticker on the bus and she suggested I take a picture with it.  Unfortunately, my RayGun Omaha shirt, blue and white striped pants, and red chucks are not pictured.  But it's all good.  A friend that saw the picture was confused whether I was excited for USA or Arizona State… dorkus, haha.

The second picture is a pretty sweet summary of what life is right now: a new chapter.  I brought this fine young man, Doug, up to The Ridge to camp with my family for a night, and he fit right into how my family likes to have a good time… with driving fast in the woods in that Polaris RZR behind him, hahaha.  I'm not sure if my dirt bike is too visible in this picture, but believe me, she's there alright.  My family also got a new Golden Doodle, and her name is Presley; she definitely likes Doug quite a lot, as seen in the picture.  I think my family is already jealous.  God bless the good times ahead of us all.

Last but definitely not least, a picture of my mother in Kansas City.  I hope she wins some complimentary bro tank, I mean look, she's already sporting the no-sleeves gig.


The New Chapter

## Stand Back…

Posted on July 1, 2015 by mpeter

…our team attempted some SERIOUS SCIENCE today in the lab.  And by that I mean we actually put on our lab coats and I got to spill this solution all over the magnetic plate shaking device.  Good work Makenzie, you're a real scientist. After a while, the team and Fahmo, the high school student that knows more than we do (I'm pretty sure), became more coordinated in the small lab space where we would actually help each other out instead of being in the way.  Can't wait to try the experiment again tomorrow.  Hopefully all goes well.

So I feel like we're in this limbo where things need to get done, like the research paper and the poster draft, but what our experiments are and what the results could be are so up in the air that it's hard to make progress.  But oh well, any sort of outline for the poster would be progress and then fixing what we know needs to be fixed in the article draft can be done.

Yep, this is definitely a short week and my motivation is at about half capacity… so like, kinda average, but definitely not feeling rushed to do much.  A nice feeling for now, but I should actually get back to work or something… yeah, something like that.  Mak, out.



## Roy is STILL my boy

Posted on June 30, 2015 by mpeter

Haahaha, oh my, I'm so not used to 1v1 smash battles, but talk about getting that heart rate up and sweaty palms.  My friends call me "Clammy" for this intensity I bring upon myself, lol. Gg, everyone.  The battles last night were absolutely entertaining and so much fun to watch and play.

Saturday felt like being home, where my family would frequently go to the farmer's market and get some fresh produce and enjoy the live music.  We went to art shows a couple times, but they were nowhere near as cool as the Des Moines one… Unless I'm getting older and what used to be 'lame' is not lame anymore.  And then my family hosts guests quite often and I do miss playing outside like we did at Norene's, so that was extra fun.

I was triple sad this weekend to return home for the nostalgia of what summers used to be (like the happy sad kinda thing?? I make sense), to go to a doctors appointment (ain't nobody got time for dat), and to miss a Monday here in VRAC with you guys (yeah, I'm sappy, haahaha).  But I've been hearing it's strange to not have so many things for us to do, like everyone is lost since there is such a thing as… "free time", I mean what is that stuff anyway?  Haha, ok but really, I'm excited to make more progress on the paper and begin some outline of a poster.  I'm still nervous about the speech and making a good enough poster, but Stephen's insight on 'how to not stink at presenting' was totally helpful.

Literally, I don't know how many times I'll have to keep saying this, but the luncheon lectures are STILL. GETTING. MORE. INTERESTING.  Totally verifies that academia is awesome, however I wish I had the drive and little need for sleep to pull these dang all-nighters.  I mean, actually I pulled my first two all-nighters on projects last semester
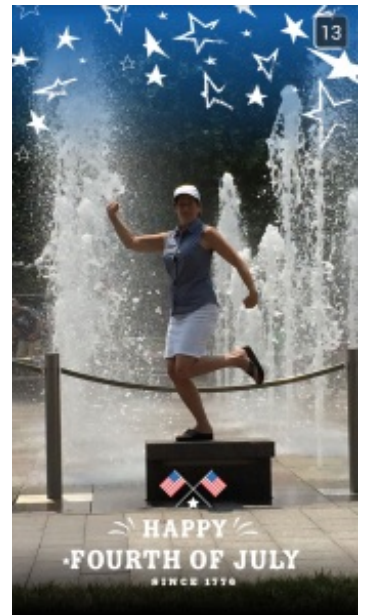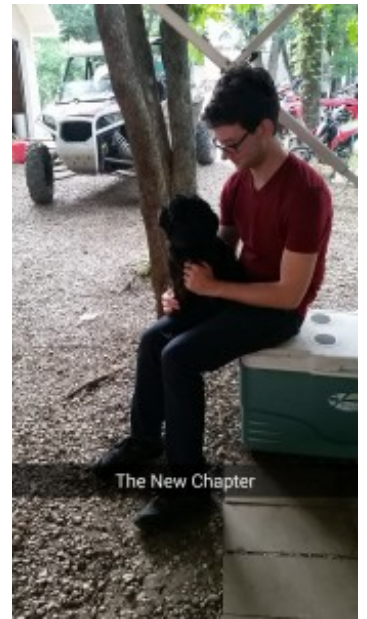
where I so should have been ahead on them, but uhh, procrastination got the best of me.  Afterwards I kinda felt like I was decaying on the interior… and exterior… just everywhere… Not such a good feeling.  But I learned a lot those nights because I was forced to, yikes.  The quest to see what career is right for me continues.

In the meantime, I'll catch up to where Ogue's at on (re)learning chemistry and read up on graphene sensors.  Mak, out.

## The Ole Switcharoo

Posted on June 26, 2015 by mpeter

Today in lab, we were informed our experiments will change pretty much entirely, shifting away from platinum and focusing on graphene.  Also, I've never felt more informed about what our experiments actually are, thanks to Dr. Claussen.  Our mentors have been doing a great job of explaining what's happening in the lab, but Claussen really broke it down for us (like that Hydrogen Peroxide ayeeee).  So now I'm thankful that Gabe was wanting to wait on formally completing our intro, but I still would like to have some form of our work 'submitted' today.

Phew, got the Journal Club presentation out of the way.  The more we do this stuff, the smoother it gets and I'm glad we're practicing discussing these articles because I'm one to nod my head and be ok with understanding a concept the best I can, but I ought to be questioning ideas further and getting a real understanding of what these articles are saying.

HCI, oh man, ohhh man.  Wish I remembered what more of those terms were for the quiz.  I totally want to get to know the ideas behind HCI so I can be an educated individual.  I'd like to tour around the different grad programs in the next two years and find a good fit for myself (although the ISU one seems to kick butt compared to any others I've looked up).  So anyway, best of luck to all the teams for the products we must prototype.  Have a happy fancy Friday.  Mak, out.

## Early Bird Gets The Post

Posted on June 25, 2015 by mpeter

…done early because she is having a SUPER HARD TIME FOCUSING ON READING MANY ARTICLES.  So, this post has officially been started before the luncheon lecture, and perhaps I could do a quick recap of yesterday's events.

The stats course was interesting, as I always appreciate Dr. Jordan's prezi slides and her humor.  The course may have been a tad long-winded for the information provided, but I felt it was a good review of concepts of what stats are used for.  Embarrassingly enough, I took stats last Fall but I totally forgot a lot of what the variables and terms were and what they meant, so the course was a good pick-me-up .

After that LONG 9 TO 5, got to go home to work some more with the team.  We made a good outline/draft of what we wanted in our intro and then took this morning to cite the sources in our text, and if we didn't have a source, we quickly looked one up and made sure it had the information we needed.  So then, we'll need to be working hard on that methods section tonight, and hopefully it comes easy if we all have good enough notes on what we've done.

**The Present**

Alrighty, just got out of the luncheon lecture with Dr. Kelly and was he a chill dude or what!  I enjoy the Cali relaxation, except I do agree that I would not be living in LA, yikes.  I almost feel bad for these professors that get to lecture us the farther we go into this program cause we're all getting tired and we all have a decent idea of how research goes now and don't have many questions.  So, I do absolutely appreciate Anna chiming in with her questions about work life balance, because that's exactly what we want to know for choosing a career.  I know one

kid in my engineering program believes he wants to have a super repetitive job and make some money and have lots of time for doing whatever he wants, while others take quite a bit of pride in their work and don't mind investing many hours into work they're passionate about.  I love my free time, but if I could have fun during work, that'd be awesome.

Anyhoo, yep, here let me repeat myself again: so so so much to be getting done still, so I ought to get to it.  Mak, out.

## What Would You Do for a Klondike Bar?

Posted on June 24, 2015 by mpeter

Probably not contaminate South Korea's waters, but for millions of dollars, sure, this is 'Merica.  Just kidding, that is not the decision I would make, or the reasoning behind my beliefs.  Oh man, I did not have a lot of answers for Eliot's questions.  It would be easier to answer if some things were defined as possible and impossible to happen or what's in the scope of our issues, but that's the whole reason to discuss ethics.  The rest of this course should be very interesting, and I will give a Klondike Bar to whoever 'wins' an argument against Eliot, cause dang, that's looking impossible.

Oh lordy, that etiquette food was so delicious, almost worth walking in that rain for (I hate rain beyond all reasonable measures).  Very insightful for us to know how to conduct ourselves in business situations, where if you make a fool of yourself, you could end a career by not even starting it.  Luckily at this age, we can get away with minor flaws in our behavior, but I do hope I am professional enough to make good impressions on people above me.

Yesterday in lab was… interesting, as it always is.  Finally got to work with our hands a bit in cutting the textile strips.  Saw some results in CV tests, and also didn't see some of the results we needed.  Thus… We could be adding a new topic to our intro.  Yikes?  I think our grad mentors are kind enough to direct us to where we need to go, but I do hope we have some definite topic to write about cause it's all very ambiguous where we're going from here.

Hmm, now what's left to do… Oh, whaddya know, like everything, haahaha.  Keep chipping away at our projects in our free time.  Mak, out.

## User_HCI: Team Muffin Button

Posted on June 23, 2015 by mpeter

Product Description

The Muffin Button is an appliance (similar to the Easy-Bake Oven) which will provide the user with a muffin at the press of a button.  The muffin batter is located at the top rear section of the appliance, where it is then poured in cups provided below.  Then, the unbaked muffin is moved to the front compartment to bake.  Voila!

The type of muffin baked depends on which batter the user puts in the appliance. Also, cups need to be placed in the back before usage.  There is only one button for operation, with a timer included at the front of the appliance to select how long to bake the muffin.  On average, a muffin can be provided in 30 minutes.

Target Audience

Busy people without enough time for breakfast: "9-5 Workers", students, or lazy people

(DBZ Fans)

User Consideration

Simplicity: Single button use, timer provided

Aesthetic: Hidden batter/cups

Useful: Handy, compact

Users should be familiar with muffins, but they probably do not have the convenience of easily baking a singular muffin for themselves.

Sketches

# Follow Your Nose

Posted on June 23, 2015 by mpeter

It may lead you to tacos, which is always /ALWAYS/ a good time.

I swear, the luncheon lectures keep getting better and better as we go.  I absolutely enjoyed the honesty of Dr. Caroline Hayes today in that everything you do is the right choice, and if not, then you just go pick another right choice.  I thought it was a great benefit to all of us to go around the table to talk about ourselves and our projects, and hearing her individual feedback was so helpful and insightful.  I'd like to check out that Herb Simon autobiography, just add it to the list of things I wanna do, yikes.

This morning, we did more work in Maya with the Goofy Dog character, except we took a different direction to making the 3D model, which worked INFINITELY better for me, haahaha.  Actually, knowing what I know now, I bet I could keep figuring out how to do the big cube and taking away from it, reshaping it and what not, but this more SolidWorks approach to putting in a shape and altering it and adding to it caters to my problem solving abilities.  Can't wait to see what tools we'll learn how to use next.

Yesterday, the team did some article summaries to have a nice 'base' to start from in making this introduction.  Our professor gave us his own version of the introduction outline, so hopefully we can mix and match the sources provided to us, and ones we found on our own to fit this outline well.  Still can't quite tell what's important information to include in an introduction, like whether you overstate or understate a topic, so I think I'll go back to the Craft of Research slides and notes to figure that one out.  Ay ay ay, so much work to be done between writing the research stuff, doing a paper for the 3D printing modeling, FANFIC WRITING, and my tech writing class… Oh and wearables has to present this week for Journal Club.  I got dis.  *Takes "Warrior One" Pose* Yoga, doe.

Oh yeah, and then I can't believe I didn't even talk about Sunday in my Monday blog.  Family dinner was totally awesome.  Actually, I was hardcore procrastinating on a tech writing assignment and I was kinda freaking out about it.  Thought I'd finish it right after we all ate, but nope, this group actually decides to live their lives to the fullest with something called /social interaction/, which was beneficial for my health anyway, haha.  Settlers of Catan was
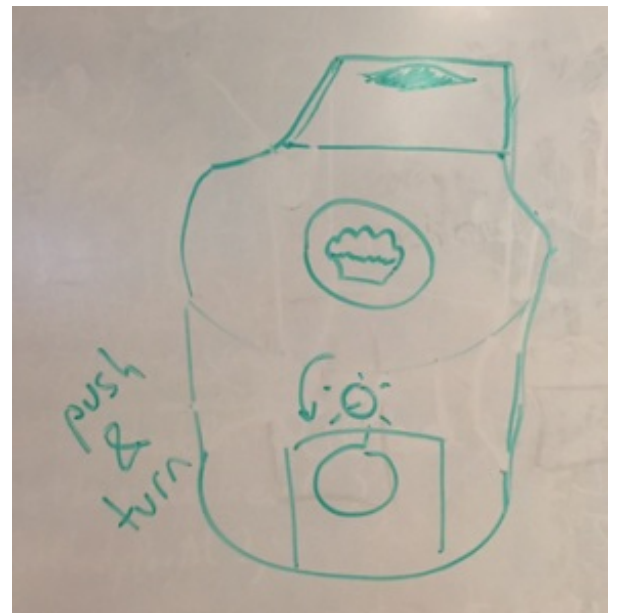
intriguing, as my extremely forgiving and generous side of me was showing, which basically threw the veteran players off.  So puzzled, hahaaha.  The Uno group was 20 times more rowdy than we were, even though you'd expect more yelling coming from our game.  But all went well, and I got my work done, and that's all that matters.

Time to chip away at one of these 40572 assignments due in like 2 and a half days.  Mak, out.

## Maya: An Abbreviation

Posted on June 22, 2015 by mpeter

An abbreviation for "the source of /my aggravation/"

I feel like a pilot in an airplane with all those dang switches.  Actually, it's not as awful as I'm making it sound, but oh boy, are there so many tools to become familiar with.  Programs like Inventor and SolidWorks seem a little more intuitive with their click-and-drag functions.  But with Maya… One poorly executed drag of a vector, and I have no idea how to return it to the non-chaotic state.  Sometimes I go too far and not even ctrl + z saves me.  I think I'll start over on this Goofy Dog and incorporate what I've learned through messing around in Maya.

But anyway, less depressing topics, the weekend!  What even happened again?  It went by so fast, dudes.  Saturday tubing was a blast; all the shared memories and relaxation.  Oh yeah, gotta develop that film on the disposable camera Allie and I got.  I know I want copies of each picture printed out for my own 'scrap booking' uses, but maybe the pictures could also be scanned in and put on the website.  We'll figure it out when we get there.  And then who could forget the rescue mission.  I'm so proud of the rescue-ers for going out in the water again and the rescue-ees for making it back safe and sound… more or less, haha.  If anything is to be said, it was all quite an adventure.

Then basically all of Saturday (as y'all would never ever never guess in your entire lives), I watched 10 hours worth of some hilarious dude playing Pokemon while I was playing my own game, which I got 15 hours worth of gameplay in with the magical speed button.  Man, I love emulators.  Lessons to be learned: A randomized Pokemon game feels like life.  You have an understanding of how the game should go after looking so far into it.  Some opportunities are taken because they look really good, and some are missed because you simply weren't ready for them.  They can lead you to great places, or nowhere at all.  They can stick with you for what feels like forever, or they can be taken away in an instant.  This game cut me deep, man, haahahahahah.  Just have an insane amount of potions and pokeballs on deck, people.

Alrighty, well, there are plenty of things to do this week folks, so I ought to get to em.  Mak, out.

## Now Qualified to Work at Coldstone

Posted on June 19, 2015 by mpeter

Oh man, after that Journal Club presentation, I feel like I can sing on the job at a place like Cold Stone or something.
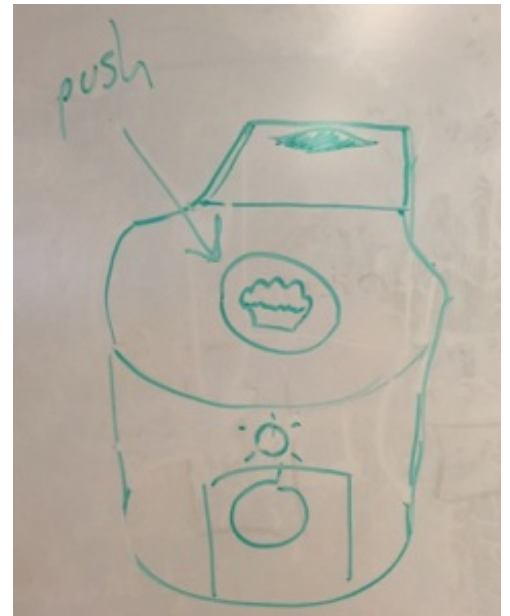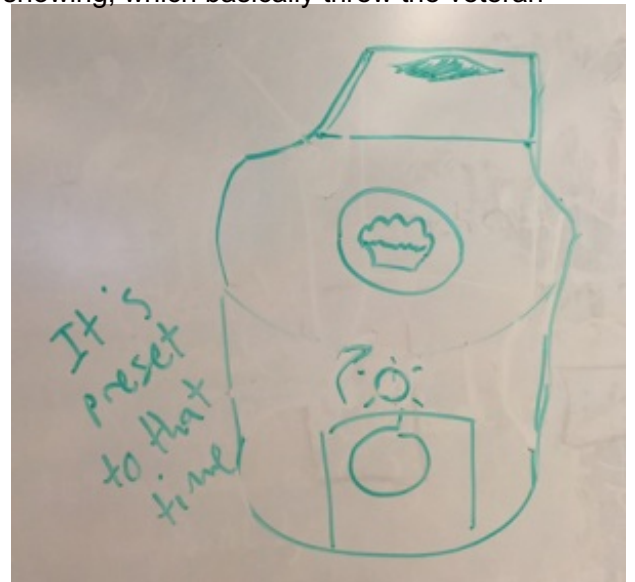
We all did a pretty good job at analyzing those articles, but holy mackerel, now I wish our team had 'synchronized' a few opinions or at least went through what we would say about each slide for a bit more organization and a fuller presentation.

Yesterday… Craft of Research, always helpful in teaching us how to correctly write a research paper.  I know I'll be looking back at my notes and those slides to write the intro and what not of our paper.

Oh and then, biofeedback!  Dang, what a nice place for people that need to chill out for a bit.  Of course, I am not so capable of being as calm as some people here, but I appreciated the little breathing exercises.

Aha!  And now Pac-Man is done, and the team thanks Vijay and Joe for their assistance in making this thing happen.  This whole week, we definitely split up the work where some people focused primarily on Pac-Man and others did the OpenGL assignments with the planets; I must say, it was a productive way of getting everything done this week.  Sometimes I don't like the idea of not being involved heavily in projects since I feel like I don't learn as much as I should, but the reality is that you can catch up to understanding somebody's work when they explain to you how it's working and what not.  So it's all good.

Next, we have some more of the HCI Intro Course, where I bet we'll discuss our interface analysis blogs.  Then, it's looking like a pretty free Friday.  Fri Freeday.  Dri Freefay.  Alright, I'm losin it. 
 Mak, out.

## "Well, back in my day…"

Posted on June 18, 2015 by mpeter

"…we used to LEAVE the house to try on and purchase clothes, none of this 3D body scanning + Amazon business, and surely not growing any 'leather' vests in the backyard."

I picture myself saying this to my kiddos in the future, except I won't sound so bitter cause that sort of future would be totally rad.

Yesterday… (My god, it's becoming so hard to remember what I've done each day, and I'm not even old, like what is this monkey business) After blogging, the team made some great progress on Pac-Man, got a tad further in the planet lighting, and finished finding 10 journals for Craft of Research.  So when I say the team worked on Pac-Man, I mean Gabe is still kicking butt, and then Ogue and I give him our 2 cents on how to solve the little errors he has, so yep, it's still a team effort.  As for the OpenGL, Alex was kind enough to hop on over to our table and tell us what he knew about lighting up the planets with different colors.  And later, we sent our list of journals to our mentors, and luckily we got feedback that 3 of the 10 journals seemed pretty feasible to publish in.  Or at least attempt; so we'll have to decide on one and write our article based on its needs, or something of the sort.

And today… more OpenGL, more planets, more textures, MORE QUAKE.  Holy childhood reference.  Man, the walking camera motion was hilarious because it was this soft bobbing action instead of a hard and fast running
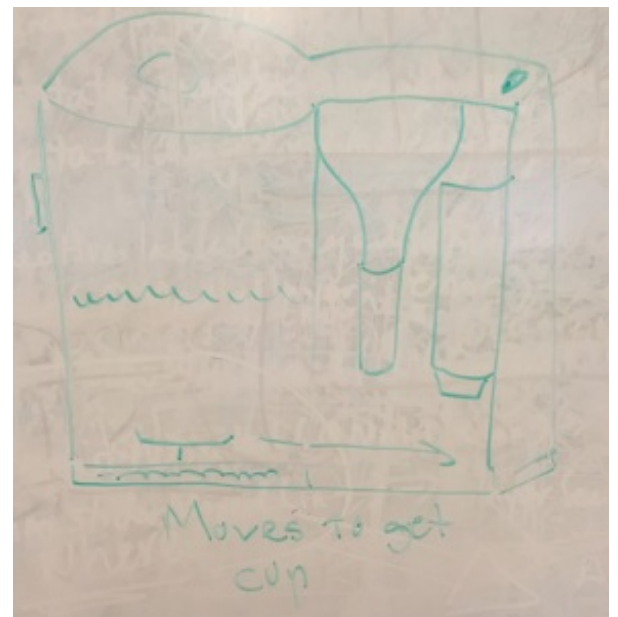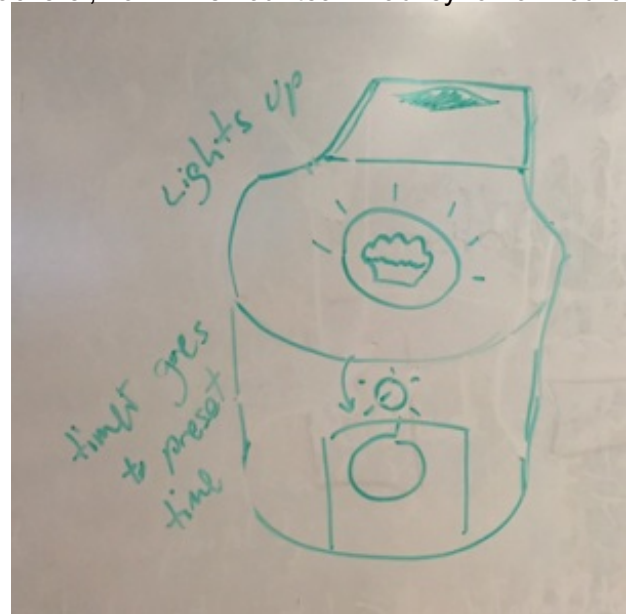
action.  Anyway, plenty more Pac-Man progress has been made, and now I'm trying to figure out how to get the rest of my assignments done.  Defs gonna work tonight with Team Slythenclaw on the Journal Club presentation, after working out man, gotta have that summer bod (I wonder what the 3D scanner would show;  I would not recommend scanning right after eating lol).  Oh yeah, Dr. Young-A Lee had a super interesting story.  What I remember about her story was that her parents were in the medical field and she was very capable of becoming a doctor, but her friends asked her what she REALLY wanted to do, and changed her schooling at the last minute!  Also, I enjoyed how she found that work life balance after getting a puppy.  I find myself with a similar problem where I can't stop thinking about the work I have to do.  One of the only criticisms my family has of my success is that I work too hard.  Work too hard?  For the longest time, I couldn't figure out why that was a bad thing.  But I gotta step back and smell the flowers, man.

I smelled the flowers today by stepping outside and getting a coffee with friends, so that was nice.  For now, it's back to work.  Mak, out.

# InterfaceHCI

Posted on June 17, 2015 by mpeter

First Analysis: Netflix Interface

Task:  Stream video (e.g. TV Shows, Movies) to users on a screen
Context:  Used at home (typically), for relaxing or entertainment
Working:  The top screen interface is informative and eye-catching.  The bottom screen scrolling works, and the information about a specific show is good.
Not Working:  I did not like how clicking on the show 'poster' automatically started the show, and instead you must click on the show title to get more information.
Solutions:  When the show poster is scrolled over, provide 3 or so buttons to choose "Play Now", "More Info", and "+ My List", or something.
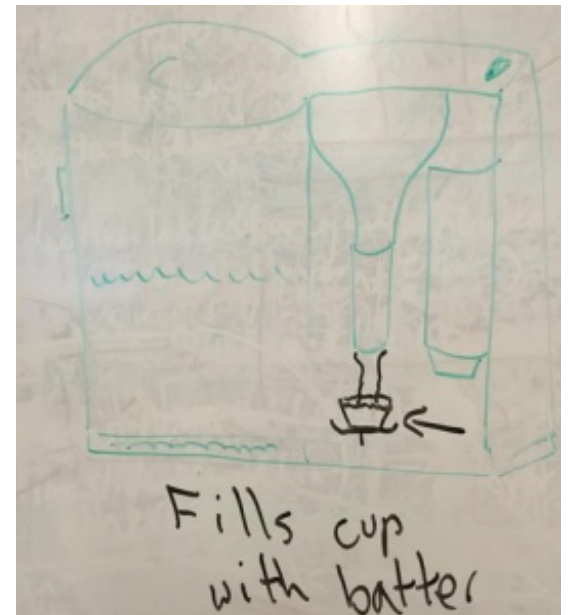
Design Values:  Online as well as by mail order, replaces need for video stores
Conceptual:  Streaming service for quick access to video
Behavioral:  Works as well as your internet connection, keeps track of your interests
Interface-Level:  Image oriented for navigation and usage

Second Analysis: Hot Dog Toaster

Task:  Cook two hot dogs and toast buns for eating
Context:  Use for cooking, specifically hot dogs
Working:  Intuitive design, simple use, heats up hot dogs well
Not Working:  Buns do not fit well in the bun slot, dilemma of getting toasted bun right and undercooking hot dog or cooking hot dog right and burning buns
Solutions:  Separate cooking setting for hot dog and buns?  Use a microwave

Design Values:  Design of a common toaster, has warnings that metal gets hot, not very pragmatic… unnecessary

appliance, super elegant coke advertisement

Conceptual:  Specialty appliance for hot dog fanatics, should provide 'the perfect hot dog'

Behavioral:  Does not provide 'the perfect hot dog',

Interface-Level:  Intuitive if you've used a toaster, labels cooking levels, has stop button

## With Great Blogging, Come Great Meme References

Posted on June 17, 2015 by mpeter

As y'all can tell, I'm already on the downhill with this one.  Sorry, Team Slytherin.  But this one is now purely for my own entertainment, as 90% of these blogs have been.

Alright, looking back to being Desmond's navigator on the way to the Ropes Course, we were having some good conversation and the topic of superheros came up.  Obviously, one must ask the other who their favorite superhero is; like a fool, I did not have a definite answer at the time and probably said Iron Man.  Well well well, here's my new official answer: Spider-Man.  The Tobey Maguire movies will always be close to my heart because any superhero movie you watch when you're 7 is the greatest story you've ever seen.  Also, they always came out right around my birthday, so there's another bonus.  But then for some legitimate heartfelt reasoning as to why I enjoy Spider-Man is that he's the most relatable character I've seen, where he's this nerd in school that's trying to do the best he can to take care of the people he loves.  Plus, he's pretty dang funny, like his name should really just be Sassy-Man, which leads me to the 1960's Spider-Man memes.

Yep, so yesterday, the team got fairly productive with finding potential journals to submit our article to as well as making progress with the planets.  Then after work, we went to the lab for the FIRST EXPERIMENT!  So exCYting, for real.  Our mentors asked us to read up on the terminology of how we're testing our textiles, which we totally did read the articles we were supposed to… But I'm not sure how well the information stuck with me, since I wasn't able to answer questions with any real confidence.  Although, after seeing the experiments in person, it became much clearer what the experiments were telling us and what information we could pull from the data.  The super duper hard work I've done so far involved cleaning off a probe/electrode by rinsing it with water.  I was extremely worried that it wasn't cleaned off well enough and that I already messed up by doing, well close to nothing.  But this is what that interaction felt like:

So now, I think the team has a good direction to go in, where we know some information to put down in our report.  Oh golly gosh, so many things to get done this week.  Gabe's got a kick-butt start on the Pac-Man game, so then Ogue and I can get to working on other assignments, like starting that report or finishing up the planets animation.  I thought I had a good grasp on how lighting should work… But then OpenGL had me like:

But, it's all good.  Just keep coding, keep Googling, keep asking questions.  Keep looking forward to the weekend!  Must obtain motivation to work rull hard to not fall behind.  So I guess the tasks on tonight's to-do list include reading the two articles for Journal Club and getting something going on GoogleDocs or some jazz to organize The B Team.  I see this turning into an all out argument of whose presentation was better, like "DESMOND, WHO DID BETTER, DID WE WIN, WAS IT MY TEAM, HUH, HUH, HUH??"
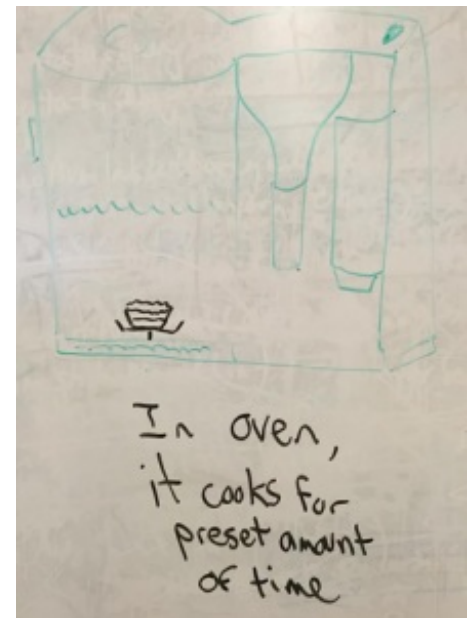
Maybe we settle down, maybe we don't… But then this is the question of all questions:

…Yes, Hypothetical Desmond, of course we did.  Or at least I hope we did.  Guys, now we gotta put some effort into this.

And to conclude this excessively long post, I shall say I am super pumped for tubing this Saturday, even though it's looking like it's going to rain.  BUT WILL IT ACTUALLY RAIN??

Mak, out.

## A Walk In The Park

Posted on June 16, 2015 by mpeter

So like, where we had that REU picnic was really nice and pretty, right?  What a beautiful place to take a Monday evening leisurely stroll.  Except for the fact that nature has a lot else going on, like BUGS and stuff.  Doesn't bother me too bad, except for when I find a tic on my head after sleeping with it all night.  *Shudder*  Thank you, Allie, for saving my life.  As well as David for going on that adventurous run (that turned into a walk, haha).  Don't forget your hats, kids.  I think I'll stick to the gym for exercise for a few days.  Or just choose from one of the 760239 hats I own.  Just kidding, only that most significant digit is even accurate to the number I have… or was it 8?  I don't know anymore 😊

(Sarcastically) My favorite comment I keep hearing from these adults with fantastic careers is "Oh well, I got here by accident."  Oh?  OH?  Well, great… haahaha.  Actually, it's fine.  I feel like I got in here by accident anyway, and I find myself falling in love with the new
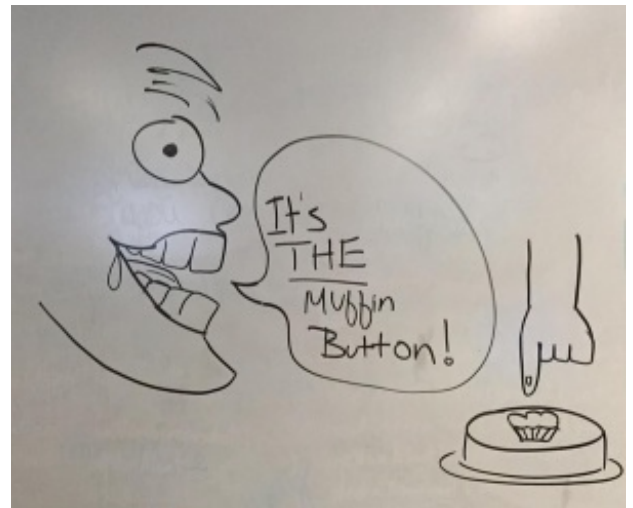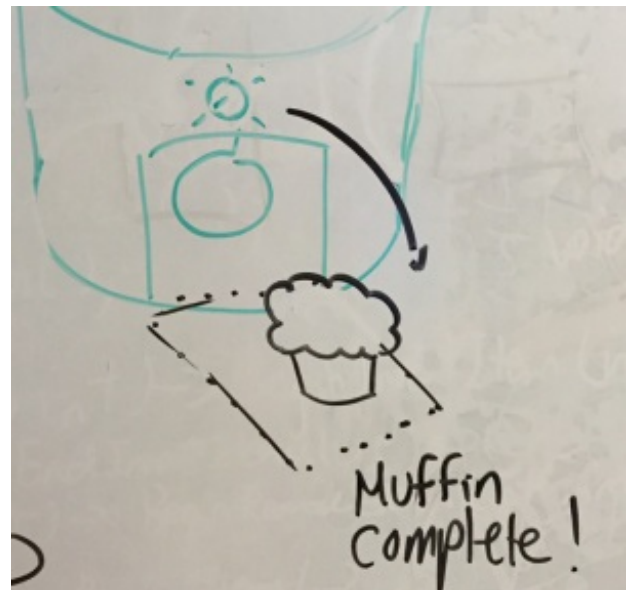

Netflix "Homepage"

things we learn here.  Just never stop learning, man.  I'm starting to develop some questions for the people around here about my future, but for now I'll try to ponder them a while longer because they mostly get answered in these luncheon lectures and other daily meetings.  But then most importantly, I gotta figure out who to connect to, whoever

has the free time to talk.  Man, more like whenever I have the free time to talk.

Hmm, this morning, more OpenGL, more shapes, more movement.  All cool stuff.  I feel like I have a decent concept relative space and the 3D orientation from practicing CAD, so I hope those skills transfer over well into the



Selection Menu
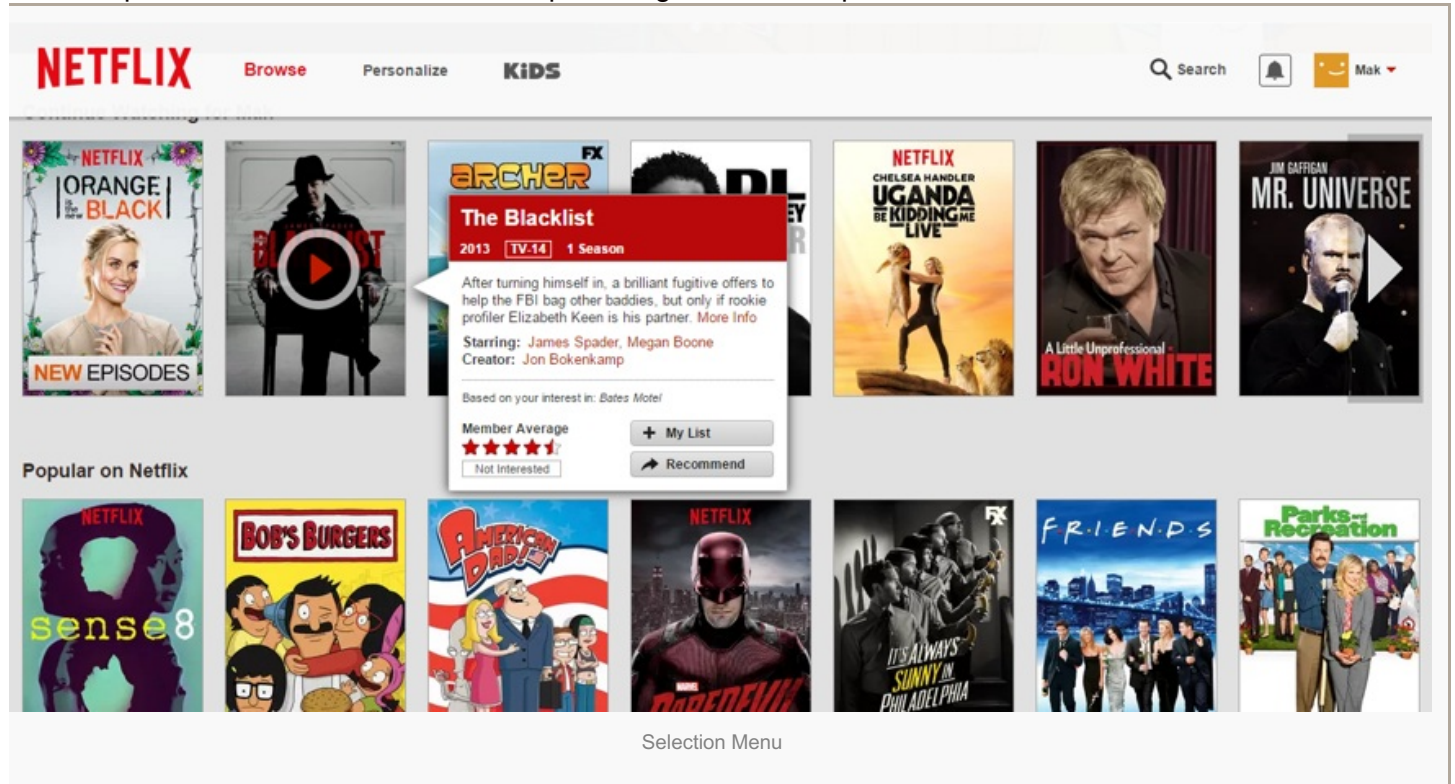
CAD/coding tasks at hand.  Pac-Man should be fun to make with the team; I should tune into my inner Pac-Man by practicing playing as him in Smash.  Watch out boys and girls, after this week, I'll only be average at using all of his attacks, haha.

Research is actually happening later today, so I'm sure I'll be talking about that in the next blog.  So for now, it's time to CREATE THE UNIVERSE (of three wire planets).  Mak, out.

## Scuba Dooba Do

Posted on June 15, 2015 by mpeter



Yeah, so when I put my hood on before stepping into the rain, I looked at my reflection in the mirror and had to stop myself from laughing so dang loud, looking like some scuba lunatic.  I fear that zipping up my jacket with my hood up for the ULTIMATE DIVER LOOK would make me laugh so hard that I'd implode.  Or it'd be a really great ab work out.  Apparently for The North Face, functionality > aesthetics.  Unless they actually want people looking like scuba divers.  But, I mean, that hood will not fly off my head, even if it's really windy.

So last Friday night
Yeah, we saw Jurassic World
And then we swung and then we twirled
Luckily nobody hurled

(From Jurassic World, which was amazing… To the ropes course, which was also amazing… that was my attempt at

switching subjects, I give it a C+… Or a C++? I'm stopping now.)

By the way, y'all, that CLASSIC KATY PERRY HIT CAME OUT 5 YEARS AGO.  2010.  I cannot accept this fact.

Anyway, holy mackerel, that ropes course was a blast!  I definitely loved pinballing and swing by choice.  And then I was almost regretting the hanging logs path on the super tower, cause oh boy, was I running out of juice for that one.  I seriously thought I was gonna give up and come down from the second log.  Being told to "just get my left leg up a tad higher" sounded easier than it was.  Then I 'rested' (there is no real resting on that tower) for a second and gave it another go, and whaddya know.  I'm thankful for the support of my team and the crew, couldn't have done it without ya.

So then, Sunday-Funday came around and so did my friend, Rahmeen, from Lincoln.  We went to the Mucky Duck Pub (very British, much Doctor Who references), where I tried out some Bangers & Mash.  Rahmeen wikipedia'd because I had absolutely no idea what it was but I ordered it anyway (it's mashed potatoes, gravy, and cut up sausage).  Next stop was Gamers, where I finally got Smash Bros for the 3DS.  When I got in the car, I absolutely said: Now I have Bangers & SMASH, GET IT RAHMEEN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND.  I think he gave me a pity laugh, like a good friend should.  But yep, then we went back and played some Smash with the guys.  Hopefully they were engaged by his skill level, since he was definitely a good match for y'all, instead of a scrub like me that wins by accident sometimes, haha.

LAST THING.  Elizabeth Gregory was AWESOME today before lunch.  So hilarious while giving good advice on more opportunities in industry and where to be involved in school.  Anyway, yeah, she was a total gem.  Time for more OpenGL and… stuff.  Mak, out.

## Gotta Get Down On Friday

Posted on June 12, 2015 by mpeter

Gotta get down with JURASSIC WORLD ON FRIDAY, HOLLAAA.  Or Insidious 3, whatever you're feelin dawg.  Oh boy, can't wait for more fun times with the crew tonight.

Yesterday, the team finished up the earbud support design in the morning; it's all ready to go in MakerBot so hopefully the design is approved by Alex for printing.  If not, that's cool, we did a pretty good job of exploring the different tools in SolidWorks anyway.  Then, there was Craft of Research with Anna and I found that having to read all of our mini Lit Reviews was extremely helpful.  I enjoyed seeing how students of my 'level of expertise' were writing and seeing what we were doing right and what could be



My thoughts on how this is taking me way longer than it should.



Yeah, yeah. All the rinsing action.



Birds = All The Functions I Don't Comprehend

24/34

improved.  After writing the draft I submitted to Anna, I was like "Oh ok yep, this is pretty alright… I think"; after reading the other better reviews, I was like "Oh lordy lord, I dun goofed, so bad, Mak what were you thinking, you missed so much".  Hearing what people did and didn't like about the reviews gave me a good idea of what I would improve upon in the future.

Oh yeah!  Meeting with the grad students at Stomping Grounds was a great experience.  Honestly, I was feeling a little meh after walking in the rain, because rain is meh.  But then after drying off and getting my Italian soda and caprese panini (yeah yeah, call me a hipster) I was feelin it and getting into the questions answered by the grad students.  I so so so appreciated the life advice they offer since they're so much closer to our age and can answer with better reference to what we're experiencing.  The best things I've heard during the program so far:

"Don't have bad feelings in your heart."

"Own your own happiness."

Hmmm, then last night… Yeah I totally caved and started watching season 3 of OITNB >:]  I shan't speak of the show on this blog because oh my, the inappropriateness.  Glad that the roommates and other folks here have their own Netflix shows to watch and it sounds like we may each take our own downtime to binge watch them (so I am not the only one, haha).

Back to a productive topic: Resumes and CVs!  I've definitely heard a bunch of the same tips given today, but it's good to hear them again to ensure they're good tips to follow.  I liked the skill-based phrasing frame of describing the task, telling how it was done, and why it was done.  That can definitely improve some of the information in my work experience.  "The Art of BSing" (jk but srsly)  So yep, about that time for the intro to HCI and what not.  Mak, out.

## The Water Dog

Posted on June 11, 2015 by mpeter

Awww, now I want to go scuba diving and pet all the water dogs.  I don't think I would mind how attention seeking the sea lions are, but… ok fine, it could get old if I was trying to take specific pictures.  But oh well, I love me some dogs.

Dr. Dark!  What a cool lady.  You can easily see her passion for what she studies and I hope I feel anywhere near the same as she does if/when I enter research.  Psychology is such an amazing subject to me, but I am no good at remembering different names and phrases.  Math was my stronger suit over social studies, so I went with studying engineering (which can still be fun).



"Guys… just… please stop yelling."



"Well, did you put your best EFFORT forward?"



Sass Level: Over 9000

How she explained her /perception/ of HCI made me even more motivated to apply here and seek out other graduate programs that are like this one.

Well, there's more reading to do for research.  Finally got lab time set up with the mentors, woo!  I hope we kinda get to watch what happens first and then maybe repeat the steps taken in lab… or simple analysis would also be satisfactory.  Yikes, I just want to:



(By the way, I have the comic series/book that this meme came from, Hyperbole and a Half, and it is easily the funniest thing I have ever had the pleasure of reading)  But like yeah, time management is a thing.  A thing that could be worked on.  I wanna exercise, do the Netflix, play the games, do the homework, hang with the squad, learn the new things, get to know people…  It all takes time. ☺  Whelp, it's about time for Craft of Research.  Time for more reading.  Mak, out.

## Shoot For The Moon…

Posted on June 10, 2015 by mpeter

(Or Venus, or Jupiter, or Saturn) If ya miss, you'll land among… maybe some corn?  Yeah, sounds right for being here in Iowa.

Dudes, the planetarium though.  So so so in love with any and all of that.  That was easily the most informing and entertaining event we may have here at ISU (other than Anna and Desmond on the daily, of course) cause boy, the guy doing the planetarium show should also get his masters in comedy/story telling.  And then looking through the

telescopes was so awesome; I suppose I didn't think about how Venus could be in a half phase and the doughnut Saturn shape was the coolest thing to see.  Also, what was so dang funny was Anna's "this is a joke, but seriously" comment: SCIENTIFIC DEBATE, GO!  All the questions for the grad students were totally awesome.  I sort of wanted to ask them about how many dimensions they thought existed, but perhaps their specialty was more about black holes and what not.  If anybody wants to mess up their mind in a few hours, go ahead and watch this "Imagining Ten Dimensions in Two Minutes" along with the rest of the 10thdim channel's videos on the 10 dimensions.  Last semester, I only made it to the 7th video before losing my marbles, but now I want to try again on a day that isn't so mentally exhausting… which is like never, ahaha.  Oh well.

Instead of that, I'm supposed to be looking up more keywords and key phrases for research, bleck.  I don't think I have time to read a few articles in 1.5 hours, so maybe I'll opt for simple google searches on the subjects.  Yesterday our team didn't exactly meet up with our grad mentors, so we tried to make the best use of our time.  Lucky for us, Gabe's a real go-getter and just does stuff without thinking about it too hard (where I find that I can delay myself for sooo long before even attempting something), and we have a nice draft of our Problem Paragraph for tomorrow.

Oh right, that thesis defense from yesterday!  Holy moley, I think I needed a bit of caffeine to be alert and comprehend all the information.  No disrespect to Enruo, I believe I made a mistake by eating an extra piece of pizza (FOOD COMA CITY).  Although, I did 'check back in' when the resistor example was brought up as an element of her program.  I think I got the gist of what she was presenting, but now that makes me nervous about explaining a brand new concept to some professors thoroughly, but still in a timely manner.  I know I love using concrete examples to relate ideas to what we already understand, but that approach can easily be 'broken' by finding some example that does not work well with what you're trying to accomplish.  I'm sure I'll see more of these defenses and come up with some pointers for myself in what I think I'm capable of and what I need to improve on.  Anyway, wiki time.  Research at its finest.  Mak, out

## SaladWarks 2k14

Posted on June 9, 2015 by mpeter

Woooo!  My initial dream of becoming a CAD designer like my father is finally being useful for these little projects in SolidWorks.  I took some CAD courses in high school; the more advance classes were about using Revit and Google SketchUp, but I do appreciate how we started in Inventor first.  I did alright in those classes, but I realized that it wasn't really my passion to be designing and modeling objects in programs.  But I mean, I do love doing something correctly, like when things go well, I'm having a good time… Otherwise, not so much.

Hmm, so yesterday was the computer programming project presentation (quite a mouthful there, are these days starting to blend together for others even though it's only the third week?).  Definitely enjoyed how diverse all of our games were, from simple card games with smack talk to SpongeBob shooting Squidward's clarinets to a gorgeous GUI for Kinect Four.  Oh and then there was our Pokemon.  I would so love to have the code for each of these games to see how they actually run, and then I'd especially like to try the Pokemon again in a higher level language or include GUI to display health or have little sprites for the Pokemon.  Oh well, maybe I can model a Pokeball in SolidWorks or design a Jigglypuff later in the design course.

Oh yeah, since it was pretty nice out yesterday and there wasn't anything scheduled after 5pm for us, me and the Pool Squad tried out the Furman Aquatic Center, and it was a pretty sweet time!  I hope we get the whole gang to go there on a hot summer day.  The diving board is sweet, the lazy river is sweet, the tube slides to the lazy river are sweet, and the tall slide to the deep end is totally rad.  Can't wait to get 'mildly tan' this summer, as my extreme whiteness doesn't change much no matter how much I'm in the sun.

Absolutely loved Zayira Jordan Conde at the luncheon today, she's the bomb dot com.  Her background is really diverse, and the best part to hear about was her hatred of coding, ahaahaha.  I enjoyed her explanation that coding

is simply another language, and I wished I learned that sort of language earlier than later.  There's still definitely more time for me to get comfortable with coding, but not all of HCI absolutely requires it (particularly this wearables project).  I wonder how she feels about AI if we are already too attached to machines; I know AI almost scares me, but I'm curious if it is scary to her too.  Ohh the questions I think of during blogging, maybe I can ask her next time.  Anyhoo, time for writing up some drafts for our research and continuing on with SolidWorks.  Mak, out.

## I wish i could selfie with breakfast

Posted on June 8, 2015 by mpeter

So, when I went home this weekend, I saw Avengers: Age of Ultron (again, and it was still just as good as the first time) with the fam.  Man, that concept of AI that 'thinks' is totally rad and the scariest idea ever.  But anyway, at breakfast the next morning was when I had the time to explain how AWESOME VRAC is and all the sweet gadgets here, including C6.  I used my hands quite a bit to show the motion of literally being in the tractor and particularly when the F18 Hornet flew in our faces.  I mean, I was raising my voice too like "GUYS, IT FLEW IN MY FACE, IN MY FAAAACE!", but this was my brother's analysis of my action.

Oh Snapchat, what have you done to my sense of humor.  Improved it, that's what.  Oh yeah, I brought home my Omaha shirt from Raygun and I wouldn't stop emphasizing how it's "The Greatest Store in the Universe" (I mean, because it is).  I wouldn't mind going back there for some more souvenirs and gifts for people.  I thought I'd be home for a little longer, but I absolutely have no regrets about going to SkyZone and Zombie Burger with the crew.  Squad.  Family.  All of the above.  Talk about being out of breath in the first 15 minutes of jumping around, and also I never thought my shoulders would be sore from bouncing, but uh, they are!  Oh yeah, the picnic was pretty sweet too.  Shouldn't have skipped lunch that day, but throwing around the football with some Math REU boys was a good ole time.  Maybe we'll see more of those kids around; I know I recognized Ray Anderson at lunch today.  Anyway, better prep for the game presentation and get some journal articles down for reading later tonight (although, all I want to do now is look up Melee glitches.  Life goals: Be Master Hand).  Mak, out.


Brother Cole, you are an artist.
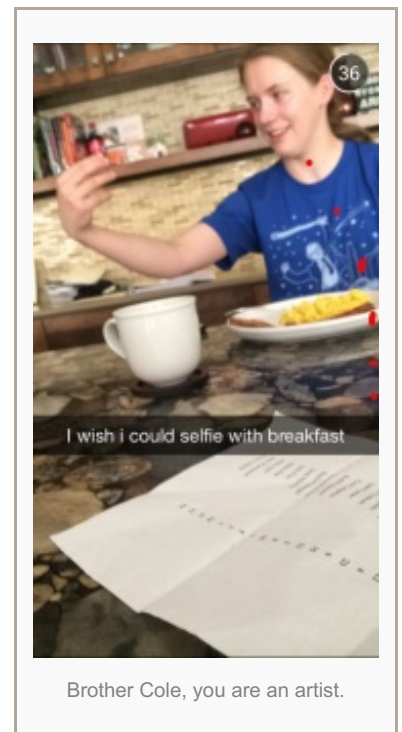
## Peach Yogurt and the Rag Flag Bags

Posted on June 5, 2015 by mpeter

Oh my, what great times we have at lunch.  Honestly, I'd like my title to be my band name.  Anybody play any instruments?  I'm not quite talented enough to sing /and/ play the guitar, but you betcha that I can play some good rhythm progression on my mini classical guitar.  Maybe just… The Rag Flag Bags… I will tour back and forth between the Northern states and the Midwest for my own entertainment in how they say my band name.  Peach Yogurt can be the EP title, and it will be better than what was served today at lunch (if somehow food and music could be ranked on the same scale, I think my music is pretty delicious).

Oh yeah!  So light painting, suuuuper coooool!  I enjoyed our creative ideas and how they snowballed into even cooler things.  I absolutely appreciate the effort (<—EFFORT) y'all put into my Kamehameha picture, loved it guys.  I totally want to see what it takes to make those light painting photos with my family's camera.

Journal Club was good today; I know I needed to read the article more thoroughly, but luckily I recalled some ideas in the article that really stuck in my head.  If those things stuck in my head, it was probably for a good reason and reasonable to bring up in discussion.  I'm glad to get this sort of article analysis practice in now and with topics we're familiar with so that the 'real stuff' later isn't so painful to look through.

Definitely on the struggle bus right now with regards to time management.  I mean, my idea of time management is being way way way ahead schedule, but it seems like I'm only finding the time and motivation to be 'right on time'.  It's still working for me for the time being, but I hope I can use some serious free time to get ahead once more, because I so don't want to miss out on the fun activities we do out of the blue; life's all about being ready for whatever, man.

So, here we go again, getting on that pokemon code.  At least it's enjoyable to do!  Mak, out.

## The Lights in the Tunnel (…that hopefully lead to grad school)

Posted on June 4, 2015 by mpeter

Guys, what have I done?? I more or less "accidentally" looked up that book "The Lights in the Tunnel" since Dr. Oliver mentioned it; I definitely love those books that describe economy, like why it is where it is and where it might be going.  But I clicked on the amazon link, so I will probably get 50 emails between now and the next week about books that are just like this one.  The only reason that's annoying is because I don't have the time to read into all of them, but boy if I could… I should probably do all of my assignments before doing that, oh priorities.  I really would like to read these books that I'm writing in my notebook either after this REU or during school this Fall.

So how about this Dr. James Oliver!  His presentation was far more closer to my pace of socializing, pretty calm and laid back, but still sincere in his words.  Everyone has excellent questions for him that answer my own questions directly or whenever he claimed to be "rambling" again, which always lead to great topics.  I'm definitely asking more about doing grad classes as a senior when we talk to the grad admissions people with the other REU groups.

Yeah, at first I thought he was messing around, and then I realized that was his work, which is totally awesome.  I'm comforted by the fact that nobody is particularly an expert in what they're studying, as I heard Desmond had to just "figure this stuff out" for this project. Well, I guess people wouldn't be researching subjects that they were already total experts in the said subject. I also think I heard that persistence gets you the furthest in grad school.  I'm a student where test taking comes easy to me, so I'm trying to figure out if I work hard enough to do well, or it's just my "test taking luck".  I feel like this program will test my abilities to stick to the research and keep learning about wearables and biosensors instead of regurgitating information a professor hands me.  So, anyway, time for craft of research… and more coffee.  Mak, out.



The most intense grad work I've seen

I really like your headphones, Desmond.

## All Your Memes Are Belong To Us

Posted on June 3, 2015 by mpeter

Pretty impressed how knowledgeable our group is of memes in general, but not to some disgusting point where that's all they do is reference memes…?  Yeah, I dunno, I'm pretty used to people that are weirder and less entertaining than I am; everyone here is exceeding my expectations, that's for sure.
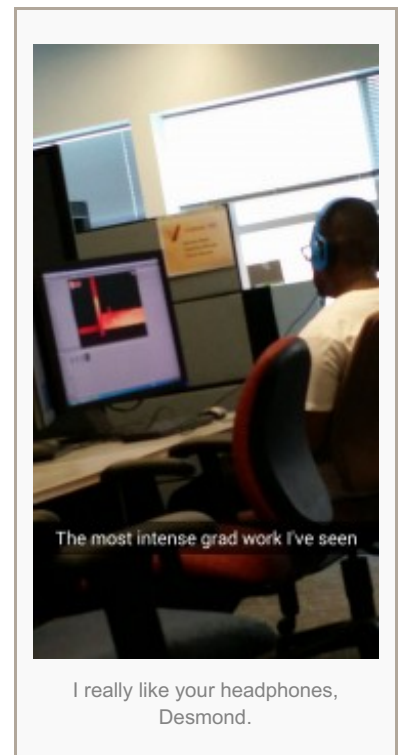
Now below, you'll see a face that I've been making while getting through this programming class in the mornings.

So accurate.  I mean, I make that face mostly while compiling, cause I can type something out and it'll make sense to me, but have incorrect syntax or be the most inefficient piece of code y'all have ever seen.  So, I thank my team for helping me out with the little errors I make and making my time here less frustrating.  My first reaction to having a project be due in a week was: OH NO.  And it's still really this OH NO response because of the time crunch and other assignments to complete, but actually the overall feeling I have for this is: OH YEAH.  Just call me the Kool-Aid

Man (I'm even wearing an oversized red sweatshirt today).  I'm seeing how your passion for something can take away a lot of the stress of a situation, because when you love what your end goal is, all the bumps along the way don't seem so bad.  Well, whatever, the bumps still suck but the difference is that I stay in a good mood.  So yep, gonna keep chipping away at the project with the team today.  Might be doing some journal article readings later.  Gosh, reading those when you have the slightest bit of drowsiness is TERRIBLE.  Puts me to sleep better than melatonin! But first, off to work.  Mak, out.

## Sunshine, Sunshine is Fine

Posted on June 2, 2015 by mpeter

I feel it in my skin, warmin' up my mind.

Sometimes you gotta give in to win,

I love the days when it shines, whoa let it shine.

– Sunshine by Atmosphere



Snaps for Maggie and her amazing drawing abilities.

Great song, exactly how I felt when I woke up at 5:00 this morning.  Felt well rested, watched the sunrise, it was truly a beautiful morning.  Finished reading the abstract, intro, and conclusion of all journal articles posted by Dr. Claussen for my team to read.  Maybe I'll get to reading the full articles when it comes time for us to write the introduction of our own paper and I need to know the details of each experiment.

Coding was fine this morning, I had enough energy for that one.  However, I ran out of juice for Dr. Rick Stone.  My, is that man something else!  Oh I do mean it in a good way, or at least I try to.  I think he has enough ambition in life for all twelve of us.  He's definitely achieved so many things that I'm not sure I would even dream of doing.  On the other hand, some of his jokes rubbed me the wrong way; I wasn't quite understanding his sense of humor.  Also I was a little let down by his lack of interest in the younger generation, like hello, we are the people you have to work with, bro!  I hope you respect us, at least.  Sorry that so many idiots with smart phones have disrespected you in your classroom.  It would take me some time to get used to his personality, but wow, collaborating with him would be an achievement.  Excuse me while I grab some coffee or some form of caffeine so I can wake up and get some work done.  Mak, out.

## You teach me and I'll teach you!

Posted on June 1, 2015 by mpeter

# Poookémooon!
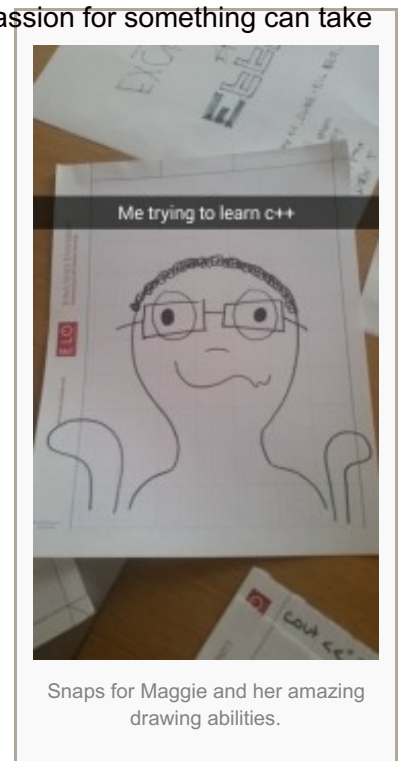
Yeah, that's right.  I said/sang/typed it.  (If you didn't sing it in your head, I am disappoint.)  Ok guys, I'm going to embarrassingly admit that Pokemon is the one "subject" that I have a near encyclopedic knowledge of.  So many summers of playing Emerald Version over and over.  By the way, if I had a Pokemon as a pet, it might be this here Absol pictures above.  I mean, look at that thing.  It could open a cans of vegetables for me with its head!

Super happy and surprised that our group agreed to make a small Pokemon game for our first week console programming project.  This should be interesting, and hopefully since I like Pokemon so much, it'll help me dislike coding a little less.  I feel like I know all the details about Pokemon move sets, damage, and status conditions that this could get complex if we wanted it to be.  But, I would like to keep this nice and fun, yet effective for my learning.

Oh yeah, about that C++ coding class this morning…  I'm glad I did the C++ intro videos on the link provided before coming here because any familiarity makes learning that much easier.  I'm comfortable with some basic logic functions, but I am nowhere near 'savvy' with how to code things in different ways, or even in the most efficient ways.  Perhaps my teammates with Comp Sci minors could help me a bit with the multiple strategies for coding.  We'll cross that bridge when we get there.

Guys guys… MIRAGE, though.  SO COOL.  I think I'm more attracted to the idea of augmented reality over the full virtual reality since you're still interacting with the real world.  Don't get me wrong, the C6 is one of the coolest things I'll experience ever, but think of the possibilities of augmented reality!  I hope though that such technology would not replace our learning with simply looking at a computer screen and completing the shown action.  As wonderful as technology is, I fear that WALL-E is becoming more true with every helpful piece of tech that comes out.

Anyway, it's nice to see that the group mostly coordinated our Saturday events.  Actually… I'll be in Chicago during that July 11th weekend for my cousin's wedding, but don't bother changing the plans.  I've been to the Mall of America before and it was very fun indeed!  I would just hate missing out on tubing, paint ball, and any hiking activities with you guys.  So yep, here we go, time to sit and read some articles, watch some videos, learn some stuff.  Mak, out.

## Roy's Our Boy

Posted on June 1, 2015 by mpeter

Or maybe he's just my boy.  I'm too addicted to the AlpharadTV "How To Play Roy 101" video.  And Smash in general.  So wonderful.  Thank goodness the boys brought their game consoles to the dorms, although some intense Wii U gaming could make or break these teams.  Just playin, no bitterness, only fun times.

Behold, the Crack Baby.

A tad creepy, but I will definitely take on this route next time we climb. "Oh yeah, try the brown route, you might get a little sideways."

A little? Gee thanks, bruh! Wish I could have actually stayed true to the brown holders, maybe that could happen next time too.

Definitely did not get as much work done as I had hoped for today, but that's alright. Maybe I'll become motivated tomorrow… today? What time is it? BED TIME. Mak, out.

## Watch Out For Those Oxens

Posted on May 30, 2015 by mpeter

Ok folks, watch out for that Justin guy, he will destroy you at Scrabble because he will have letters that are worth more points than any of your words will get! Just playin, Justin is a gentleman and I am terrible at the Scrabble. "Oxen", though. How about I place an 's' on the end of that. "Oxens". *Facepalm*

Woo! I don't know if anybody else here is even a morning person, but I was very excited for the Farmer's Market. As a child, my family would go to the Farmer's Market in Lincoln every Saturday, so it felt like being home again for a while. And that is also why I didn't eat a taco, muffins are a tradition! Well actually danishes are, but that's alright.

After Gabe got that Facebook messenger group started, I almost thought all hell could break loose, but nobody has really abused it yet. A+ team. I'm glad that it was started! Now we can readily ask the group if they want to do something, like go to the gym. Definitely needed that exercise since the first few days have been about settling in and what not. Hopefully, I'm not too exhausted after the full days in VRAC because I'd like to utilize that gym more… Ask my little athletic brother about what sets to do, unless anybody else has a fitness routine they enjoy, haha. I will gladly join you.

So yep, it's a Saturday. Finally, I've had the time to sit in front of my laptop and check those emails. LinkedIn won't stop sending me messages about connecting with people I've added recently. Anybody else on LinkedIn? And if so, how would you guys describe this job? I think Nancy already has this job title information on her Facebook; I could take a peek at that again. I have tech writing stuff I want to keep up on, but I think I'll reserve Sunday's for working. Maybe I'll get on CyBox and start those journal readings. For now, it's time to get in the PJ's and chill. Mak, out.

## The Entertaining Logician?

Posted on May 29, 2015 by mpeter

Guys guys guys, I could have ate so much more today at lunch, but I DIDN'T. A+ for effort here in "eating correctly". Now I can have the rest of that Ben & Jerry's tonight, right? Isn't justification a hilarious thing.

So, last night we read a journal article "Love it or Hate it!". I mean, I don't think my feelings for it fell on either of those extremes, so nice try there Hart, Sutcliffe, and De Angeli. Actually that was an interesting read. I bet there could be some 'philosophical' discussion that would come up with the same conclusions such as interactive websites are more exciting and there are many user types that will love it or hate it based on their personality. The kicker is

that research can PROVE things!  BAM!  But I mean, it ain't that easy, so I'd definitely love to learn how to go about proving such ideas.

How could I not mention the C6 experience before lunch?!  Holy, moley.  Talk about impressive.  However, actually I'm equally impressed with the idea of augmented reality because those graphics have to work in real time.  Also I'm a little upset with myself for not answering what augmented reality was cause I've totally played with that concept on my 3DS!  Whoops, must have been too excited after being thrown into a tractor, literally  …I will admit to jumping when that F18 Hornet flew in our faces, also literally.  I think I'll be in this hyperventilating state for the next week, trying to explain to my friends and family what I just experienced.  So cool.

Oh yeah, how about those 16 personalities.  I love taking those tests and seeing the results each time.  Pretty much depends on the mood you're in when you take it.   I wonder if there's logically a set number of personalities you can be, cause it seems a little ridiculous if you could embody all of them, then I'd think you weren't being yourself anymore.  The one posted on the REU site was actually a result I enjoyed the most, since it's probably my 'base self'.  "The Logician".  BAM.  But then I took the test again on the site I prefer because of its aesthetics (Ayee, here's the article coming into play, oh my gosh can they recreate that research with several Myers Briggs sites?  How obnoxious of a time sucker would that be.  Hmm, to make a more 'accurate' personality test… add some bio sensors, TEST YOUR SWEAT, ARE YOU LYING? WHO ARE YOU REALLY? Now I'm getting out of hand.  Back to the blog.)   Today was the first day that I ever got an extroverted result as a part of my personality, must have been a good mood for that test: "The Entertaining Logician".  Actually, I'm becoming far more extroverted than I was in high school and what not, but typically during the college school year, I do find myself holed up in my room, trying to get all my work done.  So, I hope I don't seem too introverted to the group; I think you guys will bring out the best in me.

This 500+ word count is also getting crazy.  Hopefully Desmond will kick us off the computers so I stop this madness… And if not… I think I'll stop now.  Mak, The Entertaining Logician, out.

## Just Gettin' Started

Posted on May 28, 2015 by mpeter

"Howdy, mpeter"

Well howdy to you too, WordPress!

I wish mpetersen wasn't too long for an ISU username, I probably just robbed some "Mark Peter" of mpeter… Sorry, dude.

Anyway, today has felt like the first real day of this program after all the orientation yesterday and finally being introduced to our project mentors and professors.  All the projects look exciting, but I'm super pumped for the wearables one because it seems like the cutting edge technology that people with tons of money will pay for when it's all said and done.  Getting all sorts of information about your health by analyzing sweat?  Sounds like something my mom would get for my brother so we make sure he's the top athlete at his high school.

One thing I'm nervous about is being exposed to the biology and chemistry behind this.  I picked Electronics Engineering to avoid that stuff!  But that's alright, I bet the concepts behind this project are far more interesting than anything I learned in high school.  And with being an engineer, you're supposed to pick up things on the fly, so here we go.  We're just gettin' started.

I feel like I should've asked more questions about the program in the last two days, but at the same time, I haven't encountered many problems yet.  The first impression I had of my team was amazing: two seniors that are highly engaged in the REU.  I'm definitely looking up to them and I hope I can play my role and be an effective team player.  Or maybe I should just put forth a ton of EFFORT!  (I hope we reference that frequently for the next ten weeks, oh man, so great.)  I'm impressed with the interactions we've had thus far with the mentors, such as putting everything

out on the table from expectations to explaining our busy schedule.  Tech writing is a class I'm enrolled in online right now;  I bet this program will help me with the tech writing but I hope I manage my time well enough to complete my assignments but still find the time to hangout with the roommates and participate fully in the extracurriculars.  So yep, Mak, out.