

# Mariama Wilson

 [projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2014/](http://projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2014/)

## UDCC

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

Man, if there's one thing I miss about being home is actually eating healthy. UDCC will be the death of me. I pretty much gave up week 7 lol. I can't wait to go home to me cooking food everyday and working out.

Things are wrapping up quickly here. Just finished a version of the paper hoping that Chenglong and Ming Chen look over it.

Can't wait for school to start and can't wait to start practicing basketball with the team.



## YASSSSS SALLY! YASSSS ANDREA!!

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

Yasssssss. Today's last luncheon lecture was catered by none other than CHIPOTLEE!!! After all the fighting and whining and suffering for so long, we finally got it!

\*tears of joy\* Shoutout to Sally for putting the order in and special shoutout to Andrea for picking it up!

LOLOLOLOL I wasted 2 hours of my life watching this movie called The Room with everyone last night in Sam's room. Man, I say I wasted my time, but I know deep in my heart it was time gained. Time gained watching a dumb movie with 9 amazing people that I'm going to miss so much. But now the next time I watch it, I'm going to actually throw spoons whenever a spoon shows in the movie and pretend to drink water every time I hear the words "I don't love him anymore." It was such a bad movie it was good. [Best part ever.](#)

3 days left, sigh. It's bittersweet. Very bittersweet.

Looking forward to eating at Caglar's house today!! I hope there's some bakalava \*licks lips\*

## This weekend...

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

minor details.

## Fryday

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

So much fried food today at UDCC. Ahh, I'm starting to get tired of their food. The only thing I'm not tired of yet is their ice cream.

Everything is coming along nicely, I can't complain. Slowly but surely I'm starting to pack my clothes. It was just yesterday I remember moving in. Sigh, too many emotions. Now back to finishing this paper and poster.

## BROOMBALLLLLLLLLL GOALLLLLLLLLL!!!

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

Mariama made her first goal yesterday at the Broomball Championship game. \*pounds on chest\*. Let me know if you want to hear how dramatic it was. I pretty much reenacted the Gotze goal in the World Cup, but mine was better. Other than that, nothing else is important about today.

But, yesterday lolololol. Yesterday was funny. Shamaria, Janae and I decided to go to Lied Gym. Let's just say, never trust Shamaria with directions, never trust Shamaria at all! Nonetheless, Lied is nice, to me it seems bigger than State gym. However, there aren't a lot of people; which can be good or bad. Good because that means most of the equipment isn't used, bad because there's nobody there to play basketball with.

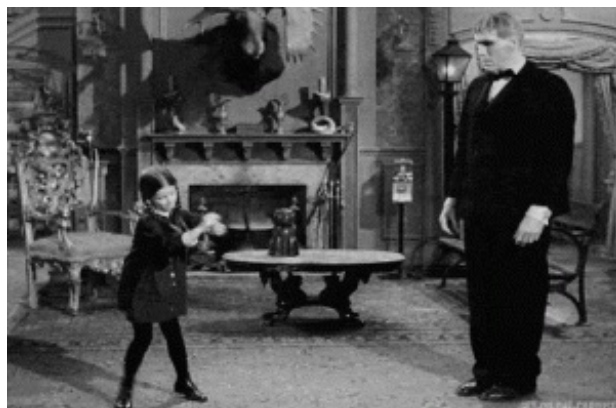
Paper is going good. On a scale on 1-10, in the wise words of Getch, I give it a 7.2.

## WHAT'S TODAY?

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

### Get it Wednesday!!

Today is a good day. The paper is coming along. Getch being the super amazing person by doing the paper in Latex. Waiting for August 2nd so I can hopefully go to the Target First Saturday at the Brooklyn Museum; it'll be Caribbean music followed by some art classes and fashion show. NY, I miss you. Plus, I just got another call from the basketball coach at my new school; they can't wait to meet me and have some practice games with the team. Goal for the first semester is to be on their team along with holding office in Student Government. Not sure what position, but being in the student government at my old school gave me a real advantage over some other students, especially with how things are ran. Can't believe I'm saying this but.....I want to go back to school.



## Life Goals=

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

To be a mixture of Debra Satterfield and Eliot Winer together in the future. Something about Eliot that I absolutely love. Maybe it's the way he can put fear into little children's hearts without meaning to. Laser Tag later today. Can't wait! \*cracks knuckles\*, get ready Getch.

I'm actually starting to miss home a lot. Well I'm just starting to miss the museums. I've missed many exhibits at the museums I typically go to. Before coming here May 28th, there were two exhibits I was planning my life on. Two different art galleries were displaying works by Keith Haring and Jean Michel Basquiat; one of many artists I base some of my drawings off of. The weekend before I planned to leave, both galleries were closed for Memorial Day weekend, you don't understand how much I cried. But I'm happy to go back home in early August; new exhibits are coming up. My goal is to hit the museums on Monday August the 4th and just go museum hopping like I normally do at least 2x a week during the summer. I just miss the city and the variety of things I could do. I miss the things I normally do; like going to the park to read, waking up early to photograph, going to sleep late to finish a painting,

walking around the city with my camera just snapping pictures. Boy, I need to go back home. I'm starting to lose myself and I feel the regular Mariama slipping off. I've been a bit edgy lately, and it has to be that.

## On a Scale of 1-10 this Weekend Was...11

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

### Friday

Boy was this weekend memorable. Where to begin? Well Friday was Friday as usual. After about 3 or so, Getch, Alexis and I went to Caribou and just had a team bonding moment where we just spoke; nothing specifically, you know, just minor details. That night wasn't anything extravagant; I really wasn't in the mood to do much. Jesse, Shamaria, Jesse and I ate at Chipotle; we still didn't get free food = life goals. I'm not complaining though, it's \$6.95 for a CHICKEN BURRITO BOWL! I'm not sure if I've said it before, but \$6.95 is extremely cheap for Chipotle than what I'm used to. Typically, a chicken burrito bowl is about \$8.50 in New York and about \$45.99 for a burrito bowl with guacamole.

### True American

First time playing paintball! And out of that, I have about 5 bruises, in which, I'm very proud of. They're all beautiful in their own way and it feels so good when I apply pressure to them. I was a monster! We all were; especially Phil. This dude was shooting one opponent, but while shooting him, he was chasing him while shooting him! Mind you, it's mandatory to stay about 20 feet between you and the person you are shooting. Phil avoided all instructions. At one point I thought I was Al Pacino from Scarface the last game we had. There was no mercy on anyone, I did not care who I hit and how many times I hit them; it was going DOWN! Later that night a well deserved nap was needed for a true american warrior. It was a short nap and sweet nap, but after waking up, I felt worse than when I went to sleep! The rest of that night was....minor details.

### Baiotto's \*Italian Voice\*

LAKEHOUSEEEE!! That entire day was just spent eating hamburgers and corn (which is the best corn I've ever tasted in my life. When in Iowa, do like the lowans), doing some house work like putting mulch around the shrubs and bushes, getting into the lake to kayak and read, making pizza on the grill and eating homemade ice cream, going tubing (which is by far the best experience of my life), moving a hot tub, making pies over the fire, and eating s'mores. We were all together yesterday and it was amazing but sad at the same time. This marks the 8th week of the program and the closer we get to the 10th week, the more I'm excited to go home, but then again it's sad to know I won't be seeing everyone as much as I'd like to. But, **thank you Momma and Poppa Baiotto!!!!!!!!!!!! You guys are incredible!**

Okay, now I'm getting emotional. The end.

Hope everyone has a good day today, [roll tide](#).

## It's Fridayyyyyy \*sings in a high pitch\*

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

Today at UDCC it was pretty much a singing session. We all sang in our horrible voices some songs by Enrique Iglesias and Alicia Keys...it was well worth every second of it. This weekend will be so good. My shoulder is feeling a lot better from my constant popping/dislocating between Tuesday and Wednesday so I can't wait to finally play some basketball again. We're going to get some action shots to show you guys how hardcore Shamaria, Jesse and I

are.

Paintball and also the Baiotto Lakehouse!!! Ahhh, good weekend ahead. But in the meantime, let me work on this paper.

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

Horrible day. Very horrible. Now that we have a direction in which we need to follow, I'm starting to realize there's not enough time to finish it all. And now is where it all counts. But I don't see myself contributing much to the group anymore; because now is where most of the programming comes from. I haven't given Getch enough credit. He's really carrying a lot of this team and I appreciate all the works he's been doing. Thank you Getch, you're amazing.

## Trying to get over this hump,

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



Soooooo tired. It feels like a Friday. Happy we get to leave early today to play some volleyball, even though I think I messed up part of my shoulder.

## It's Only Tuesday

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

AHHHHHHHHH \*Getch scream\*

Well yeah, it's only Tuesday. I'm extremely pumped for tomorrow's sand volleyball tournament. In high school I was called a monster, I'm sure I've gotten a bit rusty. We'll see.

I purposely make sure to save enough time before going back to work so I can take a nap right outside of Howe. We

do this almost every day, it's so refreshing.

## WHERE'S THE GARBAGE CAN?

Posted on July 14, 2014 by Mariama

"It's in the shower." End of story, if it's explain it will lose it's funniness.

### Friday

For some reason went by really fast, maybe it was because I was too busy thinking about the weekend and not doing work. Nonetheless, the work is starting to pile up and it's slowly getting me a bit nervous. The day ended and Shamaria, Jesse, Janae and I all went to the gym and decided to not do our normal workout, instead, we played basketball. Man oh man, it was so good to have Shamaria back playing basketball with us. Her and I were dominating. Something about when boys see girls play, they never play any defense on us.....until we start shooting 3's then all of a sudden you hear "WHO'S GUARDING HER?" Shoutout to all of Jesse's assists. Every time we're on the same team...we always win.



That night we I watch American History X with Kelsey because she's been wanting to see it for some time now. It's a really good movie especially the second time around. Take a look at it! Later that night I went out with Getch, Sam, Holly and Mitch to the downtown part of campus. Too bad 3 of us weren't 21. \*Getch famous scream\*

### Saturday

Reiman Gardens! Was better than expected. I think that was the day that everyone came to the consensus that I am a Queen.....along with Andrea. I told her we can share the throne. Take a look at the pictures, they're so good. All in all, the garden was beautiful. I'm so excited they had some white hydrangeas (they're my mother's favorite flower... now it's my favorite). I was challenged by Sam; she didn't think I'd dunk my head in the fountain= Mariama never turns down challenges. That was challenge #1. The second challenge was riding Elliott's motorcycle. I think I was gripping him so tight I almost hurt the poor boy. Oh so scary, so scary.

Later that night we went out to Alexis' house where we spent the night playing charades with some of his fraternity brothers and some of the sisters from Kappa Delta. Very nice people I must say. It was the twas the night before Sunday and we were out until about 4am. Very very long night that included eating MORE Super Dog, tasting fajitas from the Fajita Man, going to Insomnia cookies, having a bonfire, dance off, and just overall good vibes.



### Sunday

World Cup happened. The end.

Hope you can understand my disappointment in the lack of emotions.

This new rapper in New York kind of came out named Bobby Shmurda. Long story short he has this one video in

which he does this weird little dance (a dance that has been around for ages); the dance is so good that it goes with every song on this planet. Take a [look](#) at it, I can't even breathe.

## Pop, Lock and Drop It

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

Yesterday was our Mid Summer presentation and I think we all did extremely well. I'm so happy that Iowa State went first in the conference because it relieved so much stress and nervousness. Overall, we improved so much since week 1, I'm happy to say we've come a long way. Congrats Interns of the Corn! We're almost there; we can almost see the light at the end of the corn field.

Alexis suggested we eat Super Dog and we were totally for it. However, my stomach wasn't really for it; what's Iowa if you don't have a super dog. Now let me tell you, it's nothing what you imagine. I envisioned a really long, thick and grotesque hot dog; that's not what I got. I wouldn't want to spoil what's on the hot dog for those who haven't tried it; but let's say .....IT'S DELICIOUS. So much is going on in your mouth you don't know what to taste first, ahhh.

I'm about to give Guy Ferrari a call and tell him to give Super Dog a visit.

Today at lunch we were all reminiscing on the obnoxious dances we used to do as kids. Having Janae and Shamaria from the South showing me dances I've never seen was funny because I thought I've seen it all; apparently I haven't. Like what is flex and beefing in up? But they never heard of Aunt Jackie or Getting Lite, so I guess it's even.

[Lean wit it, rock wit it.....](#)flashback to like 2005. Can't believe people dressed like that.

## Feeling the House Music in my Heart

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

After work yesterday I went to the gym after a whole week of slacking off and it felt so good! Then after that I took a nice long walk around campus for about 30 minutes. The whole time I was just blasting house music in my ears and dancing in the street. The walk reminded me of the times I'd go to Coney Island in Brooklyn, walk on the boardwalk to listen to house music dancing in my dashiki either with my dad or friends. I prolonged the walk so long I ended up walking for about an hour and a half not knowing where I was going because I was daydreaming of those undercover house parties; the shelter. Ahh, now I'm home sick.

If you want some beautiful house music in your ears, listen to [this](#) by the guru himself, Joe Claussell. Best listened to loud. The louder the better I promise. Don't be afraid to move and feel it.

## Chicago Recap

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

Minor details for everything, so I'll just give you the surface of all the things happened:

1- Des Moines Greyhound station is the sketchiest place I've ever been to in my life. I consider myself very hardcore, but I've never been so scared in my life. It was like being in a real life episode of Cops.

2- My view of hostels have changed. Urban Holiday was very nice and cute. I met some amazing people from around the world; Germany, Holland, England, Japan and China.

3- 4th of July was good; I had very high expectations of the fireworks, the city let me down a bit. The grande finale wasn't as grande as I wanted it to be. Getting out of the Navy Pier was such a hassle, but we encountered some

..interesting people.

4- Got the chance to see a lot of street art and took a fair amount of train pictures. However, I'm not fully satisfied in the amount of pictures I took.

5- After this mini vacation I'm going to make it a vow to myself before graduating to spend a whole month exploring all the major cities in the US: LA, Chicago (again), Houston, San Jose, Indianapolis, Columbus Ohio & Oberlin College, Charlotte, Detroit, Boston, Seattle, Baltimore, Portland, OKC, Milwaukee, Albuquerque, Virginia Beach, ATL, Colorado Springs, Omaha, and Cleveland. I'm sure I'm missing a couple but that's the goal! And I want to do this all by bus..because it'll be a lot cheaper than driving.

In all, the weekend was well worth it even though I didn't get my massage and facial. I'll leave the massage to Sam since she owes me for eating all my nutella cookies. I missed everyone over these past 4 days that I'm happy to be back at work and seeing everyone's beautiful happy face!

I actually want to go camping before the summer ends. I'll probably be scared 100% of the time there, bare with me though.

Grilled octopus \*licks the bowl, licks Zeus\* ..Greektown reminded me back home in Astoria, Queens.

Picture of the Blue Line after Janae and I realized we were going the wrong direction. I obviously took it on my phone, but I have a lot better pictures on my camera (which reminds me that I need to buy a new camera, I'm looking into the Canon 7D, t5i or maybe mark ii). I have a serious fetish for empty trains/train stations aqeitgskdhsbg! Janae had it by the fifth time I stopped her to take pictures of an empty tunnel walkway.



## Chi-town

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

Janae doesn't know, but I've been looking back at her every 5 or so minutes and giving her the "It's going down in Chicago" look. It's hard to explain. I hope none of you catch me doing it.

Plans:

- find street art
- find graffiti
- do some street art
- avoid getting caught
- take the subway
- go inside the tracks
- look up CTA regulations
- avoid getting caught



- take tons of pictures
- go thrift shop hunting while popping tags and having only \$20 in my pocket.
- do tourist things
- meet strangers
- meet strangers that will go on adventures with me
- go to african festival ...do some azonto while I'm there
- try not to die in the hostel (referencing all the Hostel horror movies)
- relive the hangover...Chicago style
- make it back in one piece with Janae

**Fin**

## Dagga Dagga

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

Today's luncheon lecture was needed. I always have these questions in how I want to shape my future and hearing Jim Oliver's talk today gave me some light. I do want to be a professor, but I don't want to do research. Actually I do want to do research, I just need to get my thoughts together and hope that it hasn't been done. I want to just teach students...the correct way. Almost like Jean Brodie, my idol from the book, The Prime of Miss. Jean Brodie.

Every time we have a faculty speak to us, they always give us some books to read. And if you know me, I'm the type of person who starts books but never finishes them. I'm like that character in Jimmy Neutron who can never finish anything. Why? Because I get so attached to books, that when I do finish them I feel like my life is over. So I pretty much only read 90% of books. It's a really serious condition, I've had it for about 5 years after I read the book Kindred by Octavia Butler. It was such an amazing and well written book that I never wanted it to end. Once I finished it.....I didn't know what to do with myself. Where was I going with this? Yes, I want a list of all the books mentioned these past 10 weeks. Please?

### Side Note:

Wine fi mi please, bend yuh back and lock yuh two knees. Make a pretty pretty pose and freeze. I really can't listen to my Dancehall station on Pandora. All I think about is dancing; it keeps me sane. \*dances in chair\*

## It's Monday

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

What else is there to say? All that's on my mind is this Chicago trip! I need to get away from it all! I don't want to have my phone on for 3 days so I can just reflect on myself.

And it's raining. Days are horrible when it rains.

Plus I'm trying to find the best tablet for school. Any suggestions? And tell me why. No Apple products, Mariama hates Apple. But hey, maybe I might get one, who knows?



Mall of America was alright, wouldn't do it again though; too many people. And I bought two pairs of leather wingtipped shoes from Aldo for 70\$ each. I was soooo excited! I've been trying to find some Cole Haan shoes, but couldn't. Meh, these will do for the time being.

## If You're Not First You're Last

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

Shamaria-ism #1. Now I'm really applying this to every aspect in my life. It's had me thinking, especially yesterday when Holly, Kelsey and I left game night a bit early. Too much has been on my mind that it's really starting to affect me.

Whale, what can I say? Today is Friday, and I couldn't be happier. I slept with Holly's stuffed animal Bubba...she's a beluga whale. She kept me nice and sane last night.....that whale is mine now!

This is literally my game face 24/7..or maybe it's just because I had pizza in my mouth. Not sure, but this picture scares me. But I came in 1st place, \*flips hair\* take that Phil!

I saw this [video](#), and started to cry hysterically. See for yourself. It might not affect you as it does to me, but watch it anyways.



## Ghana Lost

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

It's a bad day. I need to be cuddled and loved; I need some tlc.

the end.

## Sooooo tired,

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

Tired.

Going somewhere in grasshopper.

Finally scheduled all my classes for the fall semester! So happy: Intro to visual design, 2D design, biology, writing for engineers, linear algebra and CAD. I'm ready!

## IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

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

This is such an amazing day! Everything is just perfect and good and aljhrtkahjgkseg!

## The Gym

Everyone here in this program has motivated me so much that sometimes I really want to cry, but I hold it back;

because real women don't cry! When I have an idea like doing the workouts that Shamaria does such as sprinting on the track, I tell myself I want to do it, but out loud I say, "I'll try doing it." And she rebuts by telling me, "You are going to do." It's things like that, that make me really want to keep pushing. Yesterday at work I asked Jesse if he could help me do some bench presses **the real bench presses**. I'm so used to doing bench presses on the Smith Machine. So he agreed to it. He helped me and throughout the whole time he kept saying, "You got this Mari, give me ten more, you can do it." And man, motivation does wonderful things. I bench pressed 85 pounds. I'm more than happy with 85 as a starter; I'll probably do more today just because it was so fun. I don't know, I just wanted to thank all you guys for being amazing and telling me that I'm getting stronger, you have no idea how much it's helping me. Yes, the tears are coming.

## **Phil's Birthday**

I came back from the gym and there Phil was with the 53687 games he bought at the game store. Then I had to ask him the question, "Why do you enjoy playing video games so much?" Everyone has a different answer. I asked because about a third of the interns here are gamers, but they're different gamers that I've seen. The usual gamers that I've seen at my school are students who declared a specific part of the lounge, reek of sweat, stay in the same spot for 15 hours a day; those are the gamers I'm used to seeing. And they are a real nuisance to everyone in school. However, the people here who play games.....are so open to teaching you **how** to play the game. I wasn't raised or never got into playing video games, partly because, I don't know, I just would rather go out to museums and read up on new artists, teach myself new photography techniques, play sports, etc, not games. Everyone here, especially Phil, who makes me feel amazing when I tell him I learned a new video game word like 'console,' is so opened to teaching me different games like Pikman part of Nintendoland (one of the games which he bought). Everyone knew that game...and there I was with the controller, just pressing buttons. Man, that was fun. Now the next step is learning or figuring out Dungeons and Dragons...that's a big step for Mariama. Then we all went to that Mongolian Buffet to celebrate his last hours of birth. Must go to place, but don't go there when they're about to close, they will kick you out in a nice way.

## **Waking Up**

Even going to sleep at around 1ish, I woke up with a burst of energy! I don't know man, today is a good day. I wanted to open the blinds, swing open the windows, and invite all the birds to my room!

## **Going to the Lab**

GUESS WHO FIGURED SOMETHING OUT IN GRASSHOPPER?! This girl right here! I was finally able to edit a VB code in Grasshopper so it can read a text file. This text file holds a couple of points in x,y,z coordinates forming an airfoil. And now I'm trying to use all the proper outlets to loft airfoils in different scaling together to create a wind blade. Progress is now at 10%. I mean, I was supposed to have this done maybe a week ago, but Grasshopper is a bit difficult to mess with since my programming skills are below 0%. But I did something in the code, it works, and Mariama did it all by her self!!!! Wow, the day is coming where I see the light at the end of the tunnel. It's a good feeling figuring things out, just when yesterday I had an emotional breakdown of failure in the bathroom.

## **Luncheon Lecture**

In simple terms, Dr. Larysa is everything I want to be in 5 years; after grad school and PhD. She is who I want to be,

what I want to do, who I aspire, everything. She focuses a lot on education and how to implement technology on students. She's worked with all types of students. However, I want to work with women in STEM, preferably minority women in STEM. What do I want to do with that? I'm not sure, but I want to combine, technology, women, STEM, art, and education all together. Why art? Because I feel STEM, specifically engineering is all about art, and how you can see things versus the math and science part of it. Blah, I can go on and on about this. But now, I need to read more articles and think of a study I can do that hasn't been done yet.

*Now I'm writing like Getch, he's rubbing off on me.*

## **MATTHEW....MARIAMA...ALEXIS, AND TOGETHER WE FORM TEAM ISO!**

peep the amazing awesome friendship rings!!!! Be jealous, it's okay.



## **Weekend Recap**

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

1- Janae and I have Chicago already booked! We were lucky to get a roundtrip ticket from Greyhound for \$20.00! Can you believe that? Just 20 bucks. And we booked our hostel as well; we're staying at Urban Holiday. I've always been scared of hostels.....only because of that horror movie Hostel (which nobody has seen-weird). But nonetheless, the hostel for 3 nights is really cheap- \$85 total. So for transportation, hostel and CTA bus pass, we're spending about \$130ish. Talk about amazing price. Can't wait to go.....ROAD TRIP!

2- Friday night was ...Friday night. Minor details.

3- Skyzone was fun. I felt like a kid again...too much like a kid. It took me a while to get used to the trampolines; I admit I fell a couple of times. No shame. The whole time we played dodge ball and throughout those 30 minutes, I just replayed the movie Dodgeball in my head. "If you can dodge a wrench you can dodge a ball." The five rules of dodgeball: Dodge, dip, dive, duck, dodge.

4- I was so exhausted from Skyzone that once we came back I went to sleep! I woke up around 11:30pm – I love sleep. At that time, we didn't know what to do, so we decided to go star gazing. My first time going star gazing and it was incredibly soothing. There are no stars in NYC unfortunately..so this was beautiful, and I saw the little dipper! A group of us didn't get home until 2:30ish, and I stood up all night until 7am watching Orange is the New Black. Mannnnn, I love that show; why didn't I watch it sooner.

5- Sunday was Sunday; gym, laundry, food. I made this amazing lunch that made me think about being home again. Chicken breast sauteed with onions and a bit of general tso sauce, mashed sweet potatoes with garlic, and avocado! So yummy. I want to cook for the group. Iron Chef Wilson \*dusts shoulder\* And the rest of the night was dedicated to finishing that opengl project. Shoutout to Getch for being an amazing programmer!

## **5 words**

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

Chicago is booked!

I'm ready!

## Short Story,

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

Broomball.

The end

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

I want a new research project. I can't do this! I can't wrap my head around it. I feel so stuck, I'm actually disappointed in myself that I can't understand it or how to do it; how to work Grasshopper and how to code. It's frustrating and I just want the next 6 weeks to go by as fast as possible. I want to be done.

## Mentally and emotionally drained (too much extra fluff)

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

Not physically tired, more like emotionally and mentally exhausted. It's already week 4 and I feel so behind. I'd be a lot more productive if we didn't have all these extra little projects and assignments to be working on weekly. It's taking time away from my research. I've been going to sleep around 2-3am every night trying to get work done, just because I can't get it done at the lab. I don't agree with it. I'm just waiting for all these other mini classes to stop. I don't want the last 3 weeks here to just be focused on my project all stressed out. I need to be focused on it all 10 weeks. Because I'm sure grad school is not like this, **especially** not when you have 10 weeks. That should be more of a reason to be dedicated more to the actual project. Too much is scheduled throughout the day that I don't have time to think! Don't get me wrong, there are a handful of events that are beneficial. Well that's just my view of things.

And the opengl course is not taught well. Believe it or not, I think I learned more in C++. But this is just me being a Negative Nancy.

## Spongebob Reference

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

Today during OpenGL, Getch was helping me correctly put in some libraries in the code/program. But the whole time he was helping me get it together, I was clicking everywhere else other than the places he was telling me to click! It's not that I wasn't listening to him, it's just I didn't know what he was talking about. Then he said, "the lid." And I lost it. I'm still laughing while writing this post, this will be something that makes me laugh for the rest of my life.

## Patrick, the lid

That was pretty much me 100% while he was helping me. It was like a "you had to be there moment." But I'm still

hysterically laughing at this; I love Spongebob references, that's my life in a nutshell.

ahhh, good times.

## This is the June 13-15 Wrap Up

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

In case you didn't get my title reference. [Check this out](#). (He does these for every year, they're pretty cool).

This weekend was much needed after a long, annoying, yet frustrating week. Friday was so relaxing. We all hung out in our (Kelsey and Holly) apartment; we ate takeout/BWW and played Mario Kart. It's starting to become a 3-5x a week ritual. Kelsey and I have been so hooked on it that her and I played yesterday afternoon. (Sorry, not sorry Phil). I mean....the console is in our apartment! That's the fee we're charging him; \*bats eyelashes\*

Hiking was ...not what I was expecting, which was good! Last time I went hiking in Alabama, it ended tragically with me performing surgery in weird places to take ticks out, only to know they were birthmarks; minor details, long story, don't ask. Hiking wasn't really "hilly" because a group of us decided to walk in the little stream that was there; which I wasn't planning on doing. My feet got wet so early in the walk...at that point it was "go big or go home" type of thing. My feet were wet, there were "things" in the water, and snipes. Don't forget the snipes.

That night we had a bonfire with Alexis at his frat house. It was much needed \*crosses something from bucket list\*. There was also a party going on next door \*crosses out something else from bucket list\*. And yeah, the rest is....minor details, long story, don't ask.

Sunday was a relaxing day..somewhat. Went to the gym, came home, went to walmart with Kelsey, came home again, did laundry, HAD A MARY KAY PARTY (shoutout to the amazing salesperson Holly aka Mary Holly; I gave her her first sale!). And the rest of the day was dedicated to finishing the 3D modeling project, which is done by the way.

In all, this weekend was relaxing, now back to work.

P.s. Mariama is growing in her programming. She did her OpenGL assignment with no help. O lets do it!

## Going to "class"

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

Very tired. But today is Friday the 13th. I'm expecting something horrific to happen. I've watched enough horror stories to properly execute anything that does happen. Challenge accepted.

P.S I whipped Eliot's butt in pool yesterday. \*dusts shoulders off\* but he beat me in bowling. So all is fair, we all know who the true winner is.

## Today was a longer day than yesterday

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

Recap:

- Went to sleep at around 3 am to figure out the general details of this isogeometric analysis project. A lot was done.
- 3D modelling was cool. We're making friendship rings, don't judge us, they're going to come out amazing.
- Getch, Sam and I ate outside during the luncheon lecture and slept on the grass for about 20 minutes.
- This snack pile is making me go crazy. One by one we're all cracking (Shamaria, Janae and Jesse).

## Today is going to be a long day,

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

You know the day ahead is going to be a long day when you wake up super exhausted and cranky. Today is day 3 of 3D modeling and we're FINALLY using the 3D printer. I've had experience using a 3D printer last summer when I interned for NASA. I was able to create a couple of rapid prototype molds to create composite hat stiffeners. Pretty cool, so I can't wait to see what my group creates.

We had a group meeting yesterday, and after each group meeting we have I lose more and more motivation to continue the project. Maybe it's because we're moving so slow, or maybe it's because I'm making things a lot more difficult than they need to be. I have a good idea of what this project is about, I just don't see the point of some of the steps we need to incorporate in the project. I'm hoping it all starts falling into pieces soon; the last thing I want is to enter week 4 and not know what I'm doing. I think the reason why I'm losing motivation is because this isn't a hands on project and that seems to be the way I learn things the most. Instead this a computer based research project where 70% is programming and we all know how that isn't my best asset.

Today's lunch etiquette was much needed! I have always wanted to take an etiquette course; I think I eat pretty well lol. And the food was healthy, although the snacks that Andrea and Caglar bought aren't healthy, \*sigh\* whatever!

Looking forward to going to the gym today actually. Yesterday's gym outing was so..how can I say it, motivational, but not in a good way. We literally pushed each other to our limits! Shoutout to Shamaria for her ab/buttocks workout. Couldn't get out of bed today. And basketball was intense. I don't think Sam can decipher the difference between soccer and basketball. **Every single** time I had the ball, there was Sam defending me like she would if she was playing soccer. Damn Sam. Time to get aggressive on her.

#Chewing32TimesWasAFail

#Bullshit

#ShoutoutToReyJuncoForThatBullshitCard

#TeachingStudentsTheRightWay

## The Itis is Here, the Itis is Here!

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

Wow, today's luncheon lecture was much needed. Rey Junco is such a wonderful speaker. I felt like he wasn't speaking **to** us, he was just having conversation; which is what every lecture should be like. He was himself, very funny yet very professional. For some reason, everyday I come to the lab I think about getting my PhD more and more. That wasn't my intention a couple of weeks ago. But being surround by so many students who just finished getting their master's degree and wanting to go to a PhD program like Caglar and Stacey, it's very moving and I'm starting to think about it a lot more than I did before. I never saw myself as a professor, who knows? Because I don't.



Let's just say, after a day of eating healthy, we failed today at the luncheon lecture. Shoutout to Sally for ordering pizza :( Now I have to spend 49761 hours at the gym today!

Day 2 of Solidworks = I love 3D modeling. Man, it's just amazing designing stuff. Check out my hammer made out of epoxy fiber ....very cost effective. Be jealous.

## New Week, New Me!!

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

You know how the saying goes (or maybe it's not a saying, but it's definitely a common thing to say after New Years), "New year, new me." Well it's a new week and so therefore it's a new me. The purpose of this blog originally was to post about your experiences throughout the program, but now, it's going to be my personal health blog! Lol! Today marks the first day of eating healthy, that means, no more cookies or pizza at UDCC, instead, fruit and plenty of salads with meat and fish. Nothing that I consider out of the ordinary though, because back home I ate healthy. Just seeing so much food at one time and having the option makes me go crazy....so then I over eat. But I'm happy to have Jesse, Shamaria and Janae on my side. You should have seen it; they had baby back ribs today at UDCC and I looked around to see if anyone was watching me; I see Jesse just giving me the "look." The look that pretty much translates to, "I dare you. Don't do it." So, yeah, I didn't eat ribs today.



Words do not explain how happy I am now that we're done with that Programming class and moving on to 3D modeling. Now I feel relaxed and at home. Using SolidWorks is new to me, but regardless, almost all CAD programs are the same. Last week I went from asking the programmers to help me, and now they're asking me to help them. It's a good feeling knowing that there are so many diverse learning backgrounds in this group.

Let's see what the week has for us. I'm actually waiting to go to the gym and burn some calories!

## What to Eat or What Not to Eat, That is the Question

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

To be honest, I think I like programming. When I say I think, it's because I don't think I've had a good introductory course to show me the fundamentals from the beginning. I'm sure if I just dedicate a couple of weekends to tutorials, I will like it. This past week has been rough, especially with learning the syntax and when to put something somewhere and when not to. I need to thank Getch and Phil for helping me throughout the whole week. They have been extremely helpful with all the questions I had and confusion that has been building up. They think I've learned a lot, but I don't see that. I see myself retaining about 10% of what has been learned this week.

Yesterday's light painting was very fun! It took a couple of tries to actually get a good shot, but nonetheless, I enjoyed myself. The pictures came out amazing! Ending at 8:00pm, the group didn't know what to eat. Unfortunately UDCC was closed and so we were left to search for food for ourselves. What to eat and what not to eat, that is the question. We all decided we wanted to go to Chipotle (pronounce Chep-oh-tle) to eat, but then decided we should go on Friday instead! So what to eat?! 30 minutes later and 5 people hungrier, Holly, Jesse, Anton, Kelsey and I decided to go to Noodles and Company. Let's just say it was an interesting evening.

Happy I got to do this photo. The eyes of Wadjet, Horus, Ra, whichever floats your boat. I'm still trying to educate myself as to how the story comes about.

## Gym Motivation

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

After a week of eating the amazing food at UDCC, a couple of us decided it was a good idea to start cutting back on the pizza, cookies, fries, ice cream, etc so we can be healthy and productive this summer! Shamaria, Janae, Sam, Jesse and I all decided to motivate each other to make the right eating choices and to go to the gym. The goal was to start eating healthy on Sunday.....but after we weighed ourselves, we came to the conclusion that we have to get down to business a bit quicker.



This will be a challenge!

## I Want to Chase a Tornado!

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

My parents warned me about coming out to Iowa and asked me over and over again if I was sure of going to the mid-west. They were scared about me encountering a tornado.

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO CHASE TORNADO'S SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE! Ms. Danger is out on the loose. In the past week since we've been here, I think we've had about 3 tornado warnings, and each of them, the tornado hasn't come close to Ames. Not that I would want a tornado here, but, I want to see one....(in a distance). It's one of the things I've put on my "Mid-West Bucket List," along with chewing and spitting tobacco, getting a mid-western accent, running in a corn field, petting a cow, riding a horse, eating a Super Dog and learning to play golf. You



know..... typical mid-western things.

As a group we decided to go out to eat at Hickory Park, a barbecue place that is a “must-do.” And I must say, Iowa knows how to barbecue. What blew me away was their large selection of ice cream.

We’re going to go everyday until we get sick of it. Get the ribs!

## C++ Crash Course #2

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

The program from hell. I almost had a couple of mental breakdowns. I just need to isolate myself in an all white room and learn C++ by myself. Programming is not my life, it’s the hardest thing ever. I just want to gently punch the computer screen.

## 11 Most Amazing People

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

Haven’t taken the time to acknowledge the amazing people I get to hang out with. This might be the post (I will probably write more posts like this down the road).

1- Getch. One of the most sweetest guys I’ve met. He’s very concerned about making sure people understand, I’m happy to have him on my team. Did I mention he’s incredibly funny and dramatic in his words? He’s been teaching me many new card games like Egyptian Ratscrew...a game that has turned me into a monster.

2- Alexis. The new addition to the Isogeometric Gang \*throws up math signs\*. He needs to hang out with the girls more so we can loosen him up a bit.

3. Phil. In plain words, he’s a character. A character!

4. Janae. Small body, big heart. She’s so funny, we usually think of the same things at the same time...pretty creepy.

5. Mitchell. He’s full of surprises. He definitely surprised me playing basketball. Did I mention he has cat-like eyes?

6. Jesse. Brother from another mother. That’s my gym partner, basketball buddy, everything. He’s a cool person. He’s my motivation to go to the gym and not eat all those fatty foods in UDCC

7. Shamaria. What can I say about her? She understands. We have similar taste in music and life styles.

8. Holly. One of the best roommates I’ve ever had. Something about her that I absolutely love! Maybe it’s her weird animals noises she makes randomly or it’s her need to always encourage Kelsey to have a dance party before going to sleep. Since day 1 we’ve become close that we’ve all shared tears one way or another. Our apartment is like one big family.

9. Kelsey. My other amazing roommate! Kelsey has been the person I’ve been trying to meet my whole life. Filled with laughter and happiness, and just an amazing and soothing aura, I find that whenever I’m around her I’m just in a happier state of mind. Nothing makes me happier than when I see her doing a random daily task like grabbing a cup from the cabinet, with a big smile on her face. Or when she’s sleeping I can hear her laughing..laughing about nothing! Be around her for 5 minutes, she’s filled of joy and smiles, and random dancing outbursts.

10. Sam! Another only child I can relate to. So cool, down to earth gal. She's incredible!

11. Anton. Boy o' boy, Anton. Just listen to this guy speak for 30 seconds, I feel like I've just listened to a human encyclopedia. Nonetheless, Anton is such a smart guy that he always has thoughts going in and out of that brain. I love hearing him talk, I always learn something new.

In all, this is such diverse group of people that I'm happy sharing these next 9 weeks with. I hope time goes by slow, because each and every one of them is changing the way I think, that I don't ever want to leave Iowa State

## C++ The Challenges Begin

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

How can I put learning C++ for the first time in a nice way? There is no nice way of describing C++! Computers are not my cup of tea, so learning C++ is challenging. I'm not a fan of it, but I'm trying to be as open minded as I can. Having a background in only engineering design is what challenges me the most only because that's the only experience I have. What I need to do tonight is dedicate 10 hours in trying to find tutorials online to help me for the week that is ahead of us.

I hope this week is good to me.

Now for a nap. That food at UDCC gives me the serious food comas.

## Ropes Course = 7 hour afternoon nap

Posted on [June 1, 2014](#) by [Mariama](#)

Late night post only because I just woke up from a wonderful, well needed nap. Typically, at this time I'd be counting sheep.

Yesterday was so much fun watching everyone play basketball; even the people who don't normally play basketball were playing basketball. There was no competition, just fun, smiles and laughter. I have to watch out for Jesse though, he sock-a-elbowed my eye; no hard feelings, that my brother from another mother. Sam was the #1 defender, obviously I need to learn to play soccer to be as good as her. Future WNBA player Shamaria shocked me with her skills after she reassured me saying, "I haven't played basketball in over a year." That was clearly a lie. The true MVP was Mitchell though. He learned pretty quickly. He's one of those people who throws the ball and magically makes it.

In the bigger picture, I cannot thank everyone enough for this opportunity. I want to thank my professors who wrote me my letter of recommendations, the coordinators/mentors at VRAC, and the 11 other interns that I'm sharing the next 10 weeks with. This is going to be a journey of a lifetime!

To throw in this post, the ropes course was full of screaming, yelling, No-ing, laughing, falling, yelping and everything in between. To be quite honest, the spider wall was the best part of the whole day! For future reference: cover yourself from head to toe, because mosquitoes will make a feast out of you.

In such a short amount of time, we've all become so close that it doesn't feel like we've known each other only for 5 days.

## Top of the Yawning

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

I'm still getting used to this time difference. Even though it's just an hour, this measly one hour is messing up on my

beauty sleep! Mornings in Iowa are amazing; I wake up feeling so refreshed and relax, the air smells new and pleasant. I love it! I made a goal to wake up this morning and go running....but my bed hugged me tight and whispered, "Don't leave me." And so, in conclusion, I didn't run. But it will be a goal this weekend.

The most excited event that happened yesterday was going to the GYM!!! State gym is huge! It felt so good finally working out again, let's see how much in shape I can get in 10 weeks. I played basketball for the first time in months with Jesse! It's been a while....we lost, but we're still winners.

I'm still have asleep, hopefully I snap out of it soon. Let's see what the day has for us.

## Facebook Group

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

Created a facebook group. I might not have all of you as friends, but add yourselves.

[Interns of the Corn](#)

....feel free to think of another name! haha

## El Primero Dia

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

Coming to Iowa has been a culture change. Living in NYC where everything is so compact and walking distance, Iowa's scenery has been a blessing. I am excited to know they have a bus system *CyRide* that takes us everywhere! I feel less stressed about not having a car now. Nonetheless, everyone here is very friendly. I made friends quickly, especially the 3 others; Jesse, Janae and Phil; whom we all share this traumatic common memory, flying in an airplane with a constant crying 4 year old.

My roommates Kelsey and Holly are awesome. We've developed such a great bond so early in the program, it's scary! Within 24 hours of meeting each other, we've had the most serious and intense conversations. In plain words, they're just amazing.

In terms of my project, I can't wait! The isogeometric engineering design research is something I'm very passionate about. However, I don't know any programming....and that's where Matthew comes in!! I'm hoping he's my light throughout this project. He will be my programming guru! You have a mechanical engineer and a programmer plus an aerospace engineer (in a few days)...we're so ready.

## Good Morning Ya'll

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

Pretty excited for this REU program. I was thinking about creating a Facebook group for the summer; to have all the posts and pictures on there. Let me know if you guys don't have facebook so we can think of another way to share the fun.

But first....let me take a selfie.

