

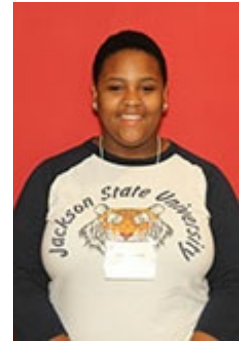
Maya Hughes

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2015/

My Last Post

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

Yesterday, the crew went to High Trestle Bridge for one last time. Although we didn't catch the sunset, we still had fun listening to music, enjoying the scenery, and sharing conversations with each other. Afterwards, we went to Perkins, and I finally had my ham and cheese omelet with hash-browns that I've been craving.



Today, I woke up so very nervous about the symposium. I actually called my mom three times so that I could calm down. She always seems to laugh at me because I'm always nervous to talk before a group of people. Talking with my group really made me calm down, and it made the symposium go by really smoothly. Seeing the other research posters were pretty amazing as well. It was interesting what the other REUs were researching, and hearing about their limitations and challenges. I don't find it awkward that nearly everyone I met came across some type of failure during their projects.

Later, we are having our last dinner together. I'm really going to miss hanging with everyone. I'm happy that we have the group chat that we formed on Facebook. It's such a bitter sweet moment right now. I truly enjoyed this REU and obtained a lot of information.

Well.. Bye.

It's Not About Winning, It's About Fun!

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

SpongeBob: It's not about winning, it's about fun!

Plankton: What's that?

SpongeBob: Fun is when you... fun is... it's like... it's kind of... Sort of like a... What is fun? I... Let me spell it for you.

F — is for friends who do stuff together

U — is for you and me

N — anywhere and anytime at all down here in the **VRAC!**

Well, today we surprised Desmond with his gift and told Anna who her gift came from. I know they like the gifts, and I'm happy that we could give them a gift to show our appreciation for being the BEST mentors ever. I know you may be wondering why the title is there well because we told Desmond that we wanted to give him a Bro Tank not only to show our appreciation but because he gave us all a bro tank and he did not get one. He responded with "It wasn't about winning the bro tank; it's about having fun doing research."

Yesterday, we finished a lot of things and later realized that we weren't going to be able to get everything done which lifted a lot of weight off of our shoulders. So when it was time to leave, Justin and I decided to get on a different bus than Allie due to the crowd-ness of the bus and missed our stop. I know, I know it's week 10 and we missed our stop. It was because we weren't paying attention. Later that night, we bought cleaning supplies and had game night that I hardly participated in. Hopefully, we get a chance to go to High Trestle Bridge.

Feels quite awkward knowing that we don't have much to do except setup for the symposium tomorrow. Gosh! It's like I was homesick 5 weeks ago, now I don't want to leave my new friends/family.

Smooth Hump Day

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

Yesterday, we had a very great luncheon lecture! I loved everything about it because I could relate to the entire lecture. Most of the things he spoke of, I experienced or witnessed before. After the lecture we had our last team meeting, and it went quite well. It was more so of a constructive feedback meeting. Then it was back to work, and later we had game night. I was so drained that I left the game night early, took a shower, and went to sleep at 10:30. That was the earliest I've been to sleep the entire program.

Well, today is going good. The weather feels great, and it's soo pretty outside. As far as our work goes, we are putting our finish touches on the different sections of our paper, and Justin is working on the demonstration application. I'm very excited for our symposium. I'm excited for everyday this week actually.

Today the group is planing on playing cards tonight and visiting the High Trestle Bridge again. I know, I said I won't ever go again, but it's for one last time. Who knows when I'll be back. ☹ Well, back to working.. Toodles

It's the Final Countdown!

Posted on [July 27, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Today is very rainy, and it's kind of messing with my emotions. It's like a bitter sweet moment because I miss my family, but I'm going to miss my friends. We are already talking about the 2015 REU Reunion which is good to know that we all would like to meet up. It's also pretty cool to know that we are all travelers, and we don't mind to leave and travel. I love my REU group, all 11 of them. Lunch went by pretty okay until we decided to leave late, and it was pouring down raining. Aaaaahhh! Another memory with my group of friends/ REU group. ☹☹

Running through the Six with my Woes..

Posted on [July 24, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

"Woes" = family/ Friends

...And "ohana" means family.

Well, I know you may think I'm rambling and that my title is very awkward; however the name of the Drake used this verse in his song called "Know Yourself". Now this leads to my core values:

education

religion (faith)

family

Education — you have to know yourself meaning your interest of study, and potentially use that to help gain a substantial amount of finances

Religion — you'll never give up and stay devoted to. Also, you'll learn to love everyone for who they are.

Family — that's all you have, and your main support system

So those are the things I value the most.

It's Almost Thursday

Posted on [July 23, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

... and tomorrow the rough draft of our research paper and final poster are due. We are almost done, yet we still have a big piece to do. Also, we need to run our final tests and calculations for our results. Feeling Pressure?? oh no! What is that?

I was just looking at David's very short blog yesterday, and I don't think that ours are just alike. Well, not too much happened except for volleyball in front of Freddy. Well, until tomorrow. Toodles!

Lets get ready to rumble!

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

..and attack this work.

Okay, by now, you should know that it is crunch time. Well, it's been that time, but it's like time is getting shorter and shorter. We have literally been working on our paper and poster all day! We still have more experimenting to do. Yay ☺ Along with that, I have yet read for journal club, and I've been having to be in conference calls with the organizations that I participate in on campus. That makes things more difficult because it adds on to my to-do list such as writing the minutes and having them sent off in a decent amount of time and fulfilling other orders that are appointed to me.

Well on the brighter side we only have minor testing to do and the results section of our paper. During our team meeting yesterday, Dr. Winer and Eliot helped us figure out a way to list our result and discuss our conclusions. Also we have to use physics for our results. Yay ☺ I've never taken physics before; however, I did not enjoy the physics that I've tried to attempt in the Affect Aware's research study. Hopefully, I will understand it more in the upcoming fall semester because I have it as a class.

Well.. Later

Perfect Practice makes a Perfect T-Student

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

Okay, so recap of yesterday, we spent the day testing, working on the methods section of our paper, and tried to calculate the frames from our testing.. Actually testing took less time than I thought it would. Also, we built the computer and that was very engaging. Glad that we actually got to that opportunity to build a computer because that was my first time building a computer, and my mom wouldn't ever allow me to open our computer that we never used.

Today we worked more on our abstract and introduction section before the luncheon lecture. That went by pretty okay. Honestly, I understand what they meant by "You're going to revise your paper 20 times before submitting it." and they were right! We actually started over on a lot of things and rearranged even more!

The luncheon lecture was very interesting today. We learned that if you having funding at that one school, you might as well stay there to get all of your degrees. Also, Dr. Rover began talking about all the coding and how they used cards to keep the codes saved in shoe boxes. Geesh, that would be very annoying if I had to deal with that, since being I have butter fingers and I'm clumsy. Also, the it reminded me how when we were at the SCI, the CEO stated that they are teaching the kids how to code (but not using all of the technicalities). Lastly, Dr. Gentile was awesome as well. I enjoyed every piece of his lecture/ advice. When he said "Perfect practice makes perfection", it took me all the way back to band practice in ninth grade of how our band director said that same thing over and over and, honestly, I thought he made it up. However, hearing Dr. Gentile say it actually made me add it to my book of sayings. I learned a lot today. ☺

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

Today was a pretty good day. We went to the Science Center, and I enjoyed every piece of it. This was actually my first time going to a science center where we not only learned the logistics of how the museum is ran but we also learned got to play around and explore it. We also had lunch at an Italian place. The food was pretty good. I love pasta so I had penne pasta with a Italian sausage and red velvet cake! Sounds good eh?!.. I know! It's my favorite!

Well, as far as our project goes, we still have testing and calculations to do for our results, right along with our discussion and conclusion paragraph. Just as I've said before, I'm not going to stress out about it because I would have grey hair. I know our team is going to pull through with some success.

Performance Time!

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

Today was was very much spent practicing for presentations. We went through our presentations over and over until it we were just like "Forget it, lets just go do it." When it was time to present, my nervousness went away and I was confident to speak. I'm really happy that we had this opportunity to rehearse in front of our mentors and present our research to someone else. I know for sure that this will come in handy, and when I asked Anna for feedback she stated that she feel as though I am ready for graduate school. Which made me feel very happy and wanted to keep pushing forward. Honestly, I was feeling unsure about research since being that this is my first research and that I started to get the hang of things around the sixth week, which, to me, is kind of late.

Although we have a lot of things to do, I'm actually remaining quite calm than how I usually react to a load of work. I know things are going to workout; therefore, I'll remain humble and work diligently.

It's Been a Long Time..

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

Saturday was so very fun! Going to the Nickelodeon's Universe was my childhood's dream. Although, I did not get on the rides, I did take a picture with Spongebob and Mr. Krabs. Shopping was great because I love shopping and activating my super coupon-ing skills. Yes, I saved a tremendous amount of money at the mall! Also, the drive to and form the mall was pretty relaxing; we had a 'Drake session'.

Yesterday (Monday) we had a VERY busy day. Gosh, Dr. Winer was so very correct about failing more than succeeding. We have literally had a great number of failed testing, and wasted time spent on testing. Lastly, the Windows 2000 computer does not make it any better with saving videos for our data; it really takes approximately forty-five minutes to run testing and save the data. On the brighter side, we are getting somewhere and I'm starting to understand more and more things everyday. The testing are finally starting to make sense, and I've honestly gained confidence in the concept of research.

Today, our group has gotten a lot of work done today. It's really crunch time, but I'm on for the pressure. I'm also slightly nervous for the presentation on tomorrow, but I've done a lot of rehearsing, going over my parts, and reading over articles. Hopefully, things would go by fine, and I'll make my group proud.

MOA:Group02-Function

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

Reliability plays a major factor on the Nickelodeon's rides because without reliability would result in faulty and

dangerous rides that no one would like to ride. As for the Kinects, no reliability could cause a lack of quality in measurements and a lack of accuracy. However this ride seemed a little safe and scary compared to Alex's facial expression.

Okay! So my wing man and I were having too much fun that we forgot to take the three extra photos! However, I KNOW I had the best wing man ever! We visited every store that we know we wanted to visit, and even more! Also, we got through the mirror maze just fine without hurting ourselves.

Here's another fun photo that David wanted me to take a picture of..



Click photo to zoom in

Two Hours LATER...

Posted on [July 8, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Yesterday we went to meet up with Thelma to receive tips on applying for graduate. To be honest, after that the mini informational I felt as though I need to get my life together starting last year. Well, the good thing is that I know that I want to attend graduate school, however I do not know what I would like to study. We also drafted our poster, made another schedule for the next 3 weeks, and went over our presentation for journal club. I promise I'm starting to feel like there are not enough hours in a day.

Today, we finished up some Intro to HCI work and did the usability testing, which was fun. We also took pictures together, that was engaging. Lastly, we took approximately two hours setting up the equipment for the experiment, but Tim showed up for the rescue! Some of the reason why the process took such a long time because we are working with Microsoft 2000. After running one test, it was time to go to lunch. Hopefully, when we go back to the METLaB we will get more things accomplished.



Young, Wild, and Free with Le' Squad!

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

On Thursday night, we decided to see the sun set at the High Trestle Bridge. We started off walking a mile to the wrong way thanks to my keen sense of hearing. Honestly, it sounded as if we were getting closer to a freeway full of cars rather than a bridge full of bikes and walking. That's when we asked someone if we are going the correct way and they said we were going the EXACT opposite way and the destination was 2.5 miles from where we currently were standing. Well, we began walking anyways because we are young, wild, and free! I noticed about a mile and a half that it was probably best that I should've worn tennis shoes, waited to take a shower after the bridge, and sprayed myself with bug spray. By time we got to the bridge, I was BEAT! TIRED! EXHAUSTED! lastly.. MY FEET WERE ON FIRE! However, it was a beautiful sight, I'm happy that I



went, because that was really a ONCE in a lifetime thing. Also, on the way to the bridge, it was so dark and scary (well at least to me), but the the squad made me feel better about walking in the dark and also walking on the bridge that was over a massive body of water. I'm pretty sure they know by now that I'm really not a daredevil as they are. By time we reached back home we were all very sore and could hardly walk. When I went to my room, I discovered all of my blisters. This is very funny now that I think back on it, but I wasn't happy when it happened. Oh.. we didn't get to see the Sunset.

On Friday, it was fun on the bench with music and good grilled food. We found out then who could and could not grill. The hamburger that I ate was great! We also went to see the fireworks, and ATTEMPTED to plan our 4th of July. (which failed) But it was all fun going to the antique shop. By the way, every antique shop reminded me of my grandma's or great aunt's house... very crowded. Oh and I tried my very first roasted marshmallow. I didn't enjoy it as much.

(skipping July 4th because I made a post about that)

Sunday was a rest day. I literally did nothing but read, take the bus to Walmart, and wash a few clothes.

Fourth of July

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

On July 4, 2015 the crew decided to go to Des Moines to visit some shops that we eventually discovered was closed. We also ate at Jethros which was very tasty. On July 3rd we went to the Gardens to watch the fireworks show. I don't what it is, but I just love watching a good fireworks show.

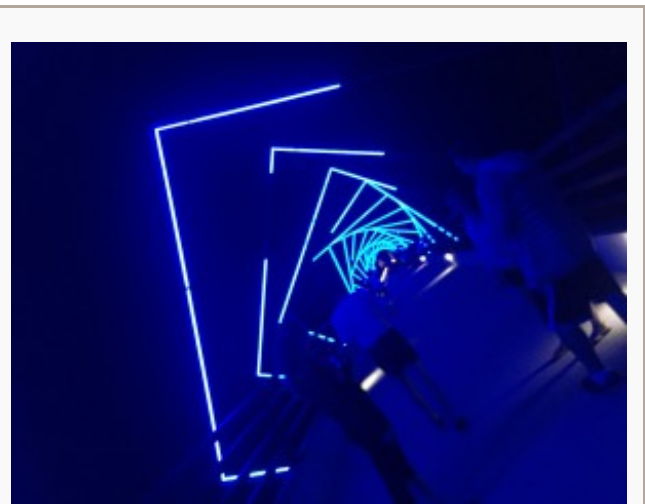
The the things I enjoy about the United States is that everything is convenient. People are able to buy land, travel from state to state, work, pray, move from house to house, and go to school whenever they feel. There is no penalty for your own POSITIVE decisions. Also, abiding by our law is not as harsh as other countries.

Behind me is a painting on the wall of an antique shop with the American flag and small paintings that resemble the United States such as: the statue of liberty, a soldier in the Civil War, etc.

Also, here are some more pictures from the 3rd and 4th.



Before the bridge



On the bridge

A Blog for Yesterday and Today

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

Yesterday, I forgot to blog; therefore, this might be a long one.

On Monday night, I didn't get to enjoy the family with a tournament of smashbros due to my headache, but I heard the winner was Gabe/Alex and David.

On Tuesday, we had a very engaging lecture of how to present a presentation. I felt like that was a well needed informational because I'm always nervous to speak formally in front of a group. As many times that I've spoken in front of groups, you think I would have this down pack. Right? WRONG! However, if I practice voice projection and practice the breathing exercise I should be able to present with very little nervousness. After the presentation/poster informational we had a luncheon lecture with Dr. Berghefer, and I must say it captivated my interest! I enjoyed how she described her research to us in a simple way.

Also, our team has been on a roll this week with getting tasks done especially tasks that are due a week from now. Although we persevered through the hectic-ness of last week, we really do not want to feel overwhelmed like that anymore. Also, things are really coming along with our research but the days are going by too fast. Hopefully, we will have the advantage of completing everything on time.

Today has been very calm. We had the entire morning to ourselves to get things done, and we did! It felt kind of awkward for a minute, but that feeling went away once we began to get busy. Now I'm ready and very excited to hear Anna's defense! Good luck Anna!

I understand You, Sandy Cheeks

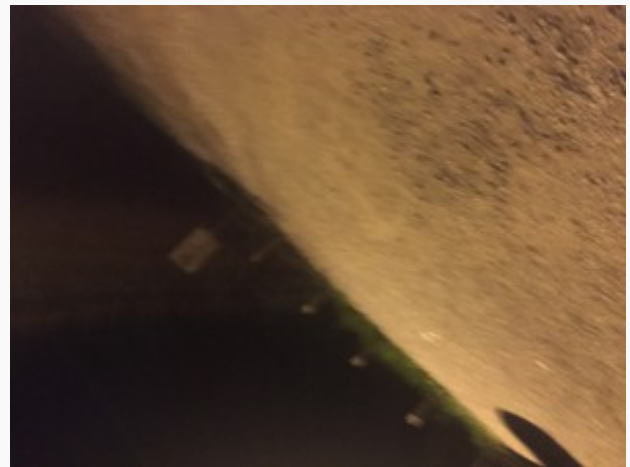
Posted on [June 29, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

This weekend started off very relaxing with Jordan and I making a trip to the the nail spa for a pedicure. We really did some bonding, met someone new and watch a show together. I can't remember the name but it was pretty good.

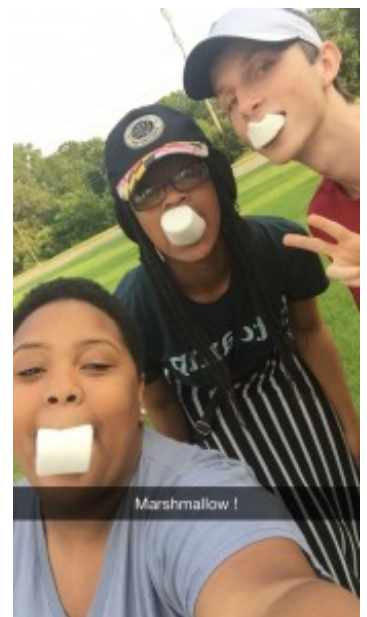
The next day we took a visit to Des Moines to attend the Farmer's Market and the Art Festival where there were huge dogs. So yes, I was hiding behind Justin, Gabe, and everyone else that was around because I am scared of huge dogs. The Art Festival was very fun with food, live music, and cooling off with our feet in the water. For lunch we went to Norene's house where I had an incident with the volleyball and my hot dog. I played my first game of volleyball and tailgate toss. We also discovered some hidden talents that Gabe and



Dark view



This is we could've knocked out 1.5 miles of the walk by driving a little further and parking here. Also this was Sarah's potty break.



Marshmallow !

Mak showcased us on the piano and acoustic guitar. Saturday was a fun-filled day and by time we reached home, we were all exhausted.

Sunday was a very chilled day that I tried to spend being productive. So, I cleaned the apartment, washed clothes, read a book, and worked with Justin on the methods section of our article.

This morning I spent my time adding on to the methods section, and began to realize I'm starting to get homesick, although Ogue doesn't know what that feels like. I guess I'm feeling like Sandy Cheeks off of Spongebob, huh? No worries though, I'll be getting over that by the end of the week.

It's Friday!

Posted on [June 26, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Everything seems to be falling together more and more everyday. Yesterday Anna introduced us to a different type of peer review that really helped and came in handy. Also, we learned about different types of graphs for the results section of the article and how we should use a certain graph for a certain pieces of information. On the flip side, we will begin our feasibility experiment today. I'm very excited about that. It is like the more and more the days and weeks pass by, the more we get accomplished, no matter how much work our classes include.

Oh! We also presented our 3D modeling projects and viewed the 3D printers. I was very surprised to see the Minion made from the 3D printer. I honestly like 3D modeling, and I can't wait to start my CAD class on the fall for more learning.

Well I don't have much to say. Later!

Work Overload

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

So last night was a serious productive night. My group and I got a great amount of the introduction done and now we are beginning the methods paragraph(s). Everything is coming together slowly but surely. and I officially understand what I've been reading these past few weeks. We still have a lot more to do as well as prepare for our classes and do homework.

Today started off pretty okay. It was kind of awkward that we had an entire two hours to ourselves rather than having a class. Those couple of hours came in handy by the way. I'm really starting to get excited about our research. Hopefully, we will begin experimenting tomorrow! ☺

“User HCI: Team LazyBot”

Posted on [June 24, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Product Description: Mobile robot that comes to you when you call and responds by saying “Yes madam or sir.” It



Thanks Sarah!



takes in breakfast and lunch food orders. It can also does simple home tasks such as picking up items that fell on the floor or handling the television remote.

Target Audience: Lazy individuals who'd rather sit on the couch to watch television and individuals who would like to live a fake luxurious lifestyle of having a maid.

Considerations:

Great Customer Service:

Answers the user with a "Yes madam or sir"

Always have a built-in smile

Voice automated rather than using remotes because it would be easier for the user to not keep up with several remotes.

Dependable, accessible, and effortless.



To Be or Not To Be

Posted on [June 24, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Moral?? Today was a very, extremely interesting day. It all started with us missing the 8:47 bus because of the very sensitive fire alarm that took forever to disable. Then the free hour that we had went by rather fast. I was just getting in the groove of doing some work. At 10:00 we had to meet in the conference room to talk about ethics in the work place. Before you ask, NO! It was not a regular, standard ethics course that's usually boring and about information that you already know. The conversations were rather uncomfortable and a tad bit difficult to talk about. However, my solution was to keep quiet and listen to the responses of my peers just to understand their point of views. Some of the perceptions were mutual as mine, while others weren't quite so mutual but rather interesting.

Afterwards, we had an etiquette dinner where I learned how to cut using a knife! Everything tasted fine and it seemed as though everyone enjoyed their food. I learned a lot of things that I did not know, but my first etiquette dinner was a success!

Oh! By the way, yesterday's team meeting was a success. I now feel comfortable to keep moving on and doing the necessary things to get our project completed. I have faith and trust in my group to continue to work together and get the job done. Yesterday was just a very productive day in all, including the HyChi and baked cookies.



She was looking very cool!

And There is NO Wrong Career!

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

Except for with MAYA. Today was a little more frustrating today because I my computer kept doing strange that prevented me from staying on the same page as everyone else. So, I decided to start on another task that I thought was easier and that lowered my frustrations tremendously. I actually want to finish the project now.

Also, I really enjoyed our luncheon lecture today. I'm starting to really feel as though its normal to not know what I want to study in graduate school. She gave us the confirmation that whatever we do, we are going to feel very busy. I really feel that way this week with having a long list of what needs to be accomplished by Friday. Lately, its been feeling like there is not enough days in the week or hours in a day to gt everything done.

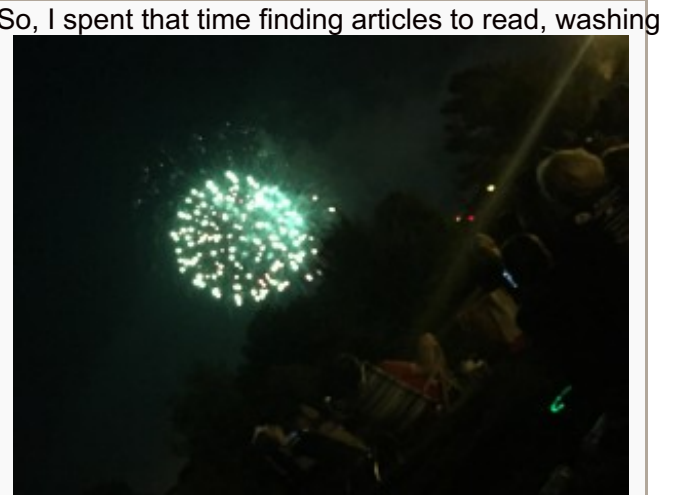
On the brighter hand, I came across a very nice article last night and I'm very excited to discuss it in our team meeting today.

Easy Breezy Beautiful.. MAYA???

Posted on [June 22, 2015](#) by [mhughes](#)

Recapping from this weekend, it was quite cool and calm. Justin, Maggie, and I did not participate in the river tubing event. I'm honestly afraid to be in water that is over 4 1/2 feet. So, I spent that time finding articles to read, washing clothes, and enjoying the relaxing day. Later that day we went to Buffalo Wild Wings; that was pretty fun. On Sunday, my research group and I went to the lab to finish the OpenGL project and during that time we had to change our "Jack-in-the-Box" turned into the "Jet-in-the-Box". Later that day, Mak, Allie, and I prepared the family dinner of Hamburger Helper, rolls, and mixed veggies. After the dinner, we had cheesecake and games of UNO and Canton.

Today, we learned about MAYA. It is a really cool program, but only if you know what you're doing. Right now I am at the state of being lost. Hopefully, I will get a better understanding by using the tutorial online.



I enjoyed every moment of this!

Family Tree!

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

Yesterday we had an evening activity of learning how biofeedback works. There were demonstrations on David and Gabe. They are the most chilled people ever! When we decided to test out the material ourselves, it really started to frustrate me because I couldn't bend the spoon during the Spoon Bending challenge, and I couldn't make the racing car move during the racing challenge.

After the activity, on our way to the apartments we decided to make a family tree. That was really fun and amusing but it lighten a lot of frustration after that biofeedback event. Also we decided that we are going to cook family dinner on Sunday along with having game night of Uno and other games.



Our journal club homework was very fun and engaging. It was filled with laughs, jokes, and different point of views on certain areas. We had plenty fun coming up with Spongebob's songs to put in our PowerPoint. It was very embarrassing to sing them in front of the group, but it was worth a try and turned out quite entertaining while trying to

keep the other team's attention.

Today was a really pretty chilled day. We formed an outline for our introduction paragraph and methods paragraph. The craft of research came in handy yesterday on how to organize and make sure certain questions are answered within the paragraphs.

I'm kind of nervous about tomorrow during the water tubing. I'd prefer being in a body of water where I know my feet can touch the ground. Hopefully, I overcome another fear.

The Pressure is ON!

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

Today we had a luncheon lecture with Dr. Young. She shared her research with us and some life advice as well. The thing she said that directed my attention was that she use to work, work, work all of the time and didn't manage to enjoy life as much because she was always working. That's honestly how I feel at times. I feel as though I think about my future constantly that it pushes me to work more and more just so I can make sure I end up living comfortably. That is a problem because my dad says, "You have all your life to work.", and I need to just try to managing my time more effectively so that I can enjoy my young years, as my dad would say.

On the other hand, our group is under a a lot of frustration and pressure due to our research project. So far, we have had three problem area paragraphs that we are still unsure about. We are feeling overwhelmed because we have our OpenGL project due, research question, a presentation for the Intro to HCI course, and further reading (that'll never stop) for our research project. Sounds like the life of a graduate student huh? However, I do feel like we are coming along and that my group is going to pull through. I'm very glad that we are working together as a team.

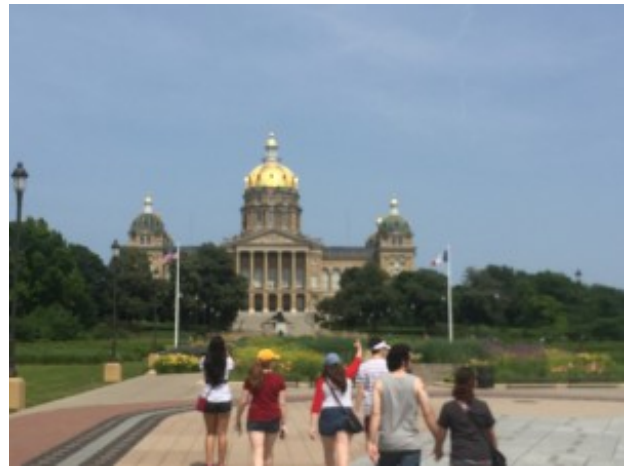
Yesterday, Allie, Sarah, Jordan, and I went to the Jordan Creek Mall in Des Moines. I enjoyed every bit of my retail therapy. Also, we had bonding time in the car headed back to Ames. It was a great way to distract my mind from all of the work for a matter of hours and catch up on some sales! Thanks Sarah!

Interface HCI

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

Interface 1: Walmart's Pushing Cart

Task: Hold Walmart's Items while shopping



Works or not: Works; however, it steered to the right the entire time and was hard to keep straight.

What Could Make it Better: Needs a front wheel alignment (?)

Interaction Principles

Design Values- The cart is useful. It was designed to fit a large amount of items.

Conceptual Principles- Holds items during shopping to make shopping easier.

Behavioral Principles- The cart has wheels which makes it easier to transport over the store.



"Wish I was back in Texas. I miss those wide open skies, barbecue and pecan pie!"

Interface 1: The Tower at the Ropes Course

Task: Climb the Tower

Works or not: works

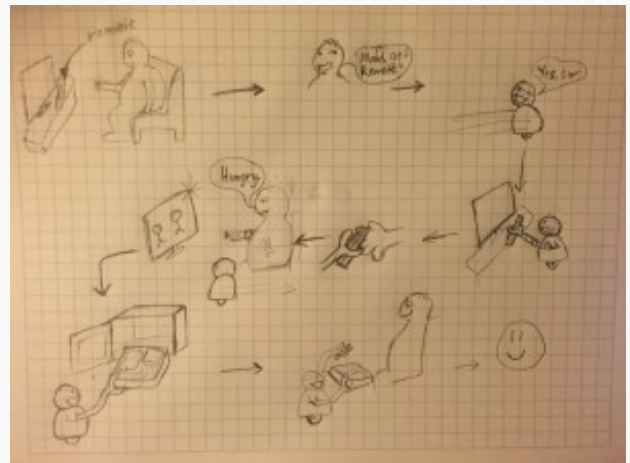
What Could Make it Better: nothing

Interaction Principles

Design Values- designed to be rigorous to climb, but able to be climbed

Conceptual Principles- A fun challenge for people to climb

Behavioral Principles- Provided Physical support and physical workout.



Sketched by: Ogue

There is No Time to be Wasting

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

Today we had a luncheon lecture with DR. Eliot Winer, and it was so great. I honestly had intentions on writing notes to put in blog; however, he said so much information and so many different things. I was too busy listening that i forgot to write down quotes, and I did not want to miss anything that he said. I really love to hear Dr. Winer speak because he has a galore of wisdom. He assures me that it's okay to feel that I should always be doing something and that there is always room for improvement. This is why my title is "There is No Time to be WASTING" because I feel like I should go directly to graduate school rather than wait a year out of my life to "find myself". I honestly feel like year is too long to waste "waiting a year out." But hey, that might just be me.



Also, I enjoyed OpenGL today! Im actually happy that I understand what I'm doing! Hopefully, tomorrow goes the same.

I Believe I can Fly?

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

Okay, I forgot to post on Friday so therefore this will be a quite long post.

On Thursday, we went to Stomping Ground to chit chat with graduate students about graduate school. Everything went well there. I've honestly been learning a lot of new things about graduate school that I never knew before. The graduate students told us a lot of information and they kept everything informal with us. I'm actually happy that they did because they told us their favorite part about graduate school, why they're here, and how they got here. They kept everything real with us. Also, they are very funny people.

On Friday, our group had to finalize the problem paragraph so that we could send it off to our advisers for revision and comments. It was kind of difficult in the beginning, but we got it done. Actually, I'm so very proud of my team because we actually went through a lot this week with trying to understand our project. I'm glad we pulled together and helped each other understand. After that stressful time of putting together our problem paragraph, the REU group decided to head to Buffalo Wild Wings where Nancy decided to order the hottest sauce for her wings. I couldn't believe she one of them. Kudos to you BRAVE ONE!

Now Saturday! The highlight of the weekend! We went to the ropes course in Marshalltown. That was actually the most fun I've had in years. We started off with an icebreaker that helped us learn more things about our group and introduced us to our facilitators. Then we had a list of activities that helped build teamwork, trust, motivation upon our peers, and strategizing. Now, half of these activities I could not believe I did at all. I could not believe I could fly (not literally), but I did not think I would do the free-swing, climbing a fourth of the tower, and the pinball. A lot of my motivation came from my peers. Well, ALL of my motivation came from my friends because I usually don't have trust certain things if I feel like I could be endangered. In the end, I'm glad I did everything because that was truly a once in the life time thing. After all of the fun, we had dinner at David's house, and it was really good. (Thanks David!) Lastly, we went home; I took a very long shower and a super long nap.

Today we learned about OpenGL. I knew nothing of what he was talking about, however I started playing around with a lot of things and finally got the hang of. Also, I learned a little more about Society of Women Engineers. I wish I joined the organization last year, but I will most definitely be doing that this year. I honestly never knew about the many opportunities and possibilities that come to join in and being a part of SWE.

Just Keep Swimming..

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

Yesterday after lunch my group went to meet up with our mentor to experiment with his imitation of the C6. It was interesting because we played around in different scenarios with different settings which we had to determine the difference between the three. I can tell you now, one of the settings made me motion sick by giving me a nauseated feeling and a headache. We were still frustrated and confused until we met up with Eliot cleared up everything for us during our meeting. Now let me mention, when Eliot said that previous interns were afraid to approach him and



<http://wac.450f.edgecastcdn.net/80450F/kfyo.com/files/2011/07/walmart-basket-300x200.jpg>

Speak to him, I thought to myself “Oh! It must not be that bad to talk to you. However, when we decided to speak to Eliot as a group, we were a little shaky to speak to him. But when we talked to him and the conversation was over, I thought to myself and said, “Hey that wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be.”

I enjoyed the adventurous Dr. Dark. I never really spoke to a psychology professor because I never needed to take the class yet. However, she kept me on my toes with her presentation and the random pictures of her scuba diving. I honestly think that is a great tactic to keep our attention and awake. I love her passion for her field that she will be retiring in 2-3 years! She reminds me of Dory because of her enthusiasm. She is optimistic, friendly, fun personality, and seem to be a warm-heart.

The Big Dipper/Bear/Horse/Pregnant Lady??

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

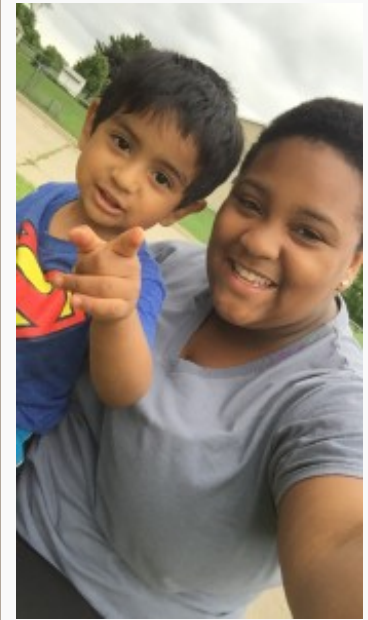
Yesterday was very fun at the planetarium. Why? Because I actually like Greek mythology and actually having that mixed within the stars made it even more entertaining. Plus, I’m happy that I know how to look for the big dipper/bear/horse?? I found it very interesting how the graduate students know so much about the planets and stars. Although I hardly knew what I was looking at in the telescopes, the information they told us made things easier to understand. Also, let me not forget about the “Pluto” fight. It was funny how the graduate students had their different views on why they feel as if Pluto should still be considered a planet or not. However, I feel as though Pluto should be considered a planet.

Today was full of so much information about Additive Manufacturing that after the lecture my head felt heavy once again. The same exact feeling I had when we left out of the group meeting. However, I do thank Alex for the information, and I appreciate his passion for Additive Manufacturing. By the way, I felt slammed with a lot of information after that meeting. I feel as if we’ve been going about the research project the wrong way the entire time. In addition, I feel like I barely know what we are doing and why anymore because I thought I did at first; however I was proven wrong. So my frustration level went from 7.5 to 15, but I know things are going to get better. Even though I know I may sound like I’m complaining, I am actually happy Eliot corrected our thinking and the way we are approaching the project. His feedback was very helpful because I actually like to have feedback before I get too far in a project and would have to start over because I didn’t understand the problem.

We are Family!

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

Friday, our Kinect Four group tested out our game that is due to day, and that outcome was great. I’m actually



He is so adorable.



Just keep swimming!

Today, our Kinect 1 our group tested out our game that is due today, and that outcome was great. I'm actually anxious to present it because of all the graphics and everything! (Thanks to Justin!) This weekend, I observed how closely our REU group is becoming. It feels good to know that we are comfortable around each other. I find it funny that they are noticing my southern accent more and more each day. Anyway, Skyzone, Zombie Burger, the picnic, and my banana pudding was a success! Today was a very chill day; we learned about modeling. Honestly, I think I enjoy computer aided design. It seems to make more sense to me than C++. Also, I'm looking forward to building our mannequin, for our research project, using our card board cutout, the stepper motor, and etc. My stress levels are seeming to calm down more and more each day because I feel as though we have everything under control. ☺

exCYting Friday!

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

Yesterday, we did a light painting and that was the bomb.com! I enjoyed every second of the two hours we spent there. I was so tired and exhausted for some reason that I fell asleep on the Cavaliers vs. the Warriors. (I love the basketball playoff.) However, the reason why I am not as sleepy as yesterday is because I went to sleep an hour early! Yay!! To add to this great day, I actually understood the computer programming class today. (Thanks to Allie!) The journal club was fun and engaging as well! Although during one section, I found out that mostly the group prefers texting someone than talking on the phone, and I am the exact opposite. I'm really excited about today. We have things planned to do after the workday, and we plan to finish our game for the c++ project. Also we plan on working on our research project.

Not to mention, some of the group noticed my country bunchkin' accent (e.g. y'all, paaark, staaart,). It was so funny and interesting especially hearing Gabe say 'fleg' instead of 'flag'.

The Advisor

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

Today, I received some great advice from Dr. Oliver. He spoke about not staying home and to adventure out for greater networking. I always knew networking could get you somewhere locally; however, I never expanded that thought nationally. He also iterated that it's great to take risks, to get out of your comfort zone, adapt to the abnormal, and to communicate. He also reminded me that even though I'm not good in writing, like I am in math and science, that I need to continue on working on that concept because it plays a major role in the industry or academia. All of his success and Dr. Stone's success has motivated me even more to aim for the stars and never back down.

Also, our cardboard cutout of Allie worked for the Kinect as a mannequin! I'm super exCYted, and I'm ready to begin experimenting with it!

Title

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

Today was day three of the programming course, which Justin helped me with. After he showed me what to do and why certain things were done, I'm pretty sure I can attempt the assignment for tonight. Now, with the project, of "Kinect Four", it is coming along pretty smoothly. Well not as smooth because we have a little things to work out. On the brighter side, we have the big picture mapped out and ready. As far as our research project, we are collaborating to determine how we would like to experiment and who to reach out to for certain things that are need for the project.

Never Back Down

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

So yesterday, my group began working on our research project. It was pretty cool because I was doing the snake with my arms and Just Dance to Uptown Funk. we detected several things while running the different tests. Furthermore, today is just going great! I enjoyed learning more about C++, and I'm adapting way better than I thought I would. (Thanks to DAVID.. again)



Now I know you're wondering why my post is named "Never Back Down". Well, simply because Dr. Stone reminds me of the guy and plus the main character was a kick boxer just as Stone.

Also, he resembles motivation and dedication towards everything that he approaches in life such as presenting a speech to about 3,000 people and getting beat on the first day of kick boxing training. (Sounds scary right?!) The man literally does not back down to nothing at all! He gave great advice and inspired me to keep pushing through everything in life, including speeches to any crowd. He also iterated that he did not know what he wanted to pursue during undergrad, which was okay, because he knew one thing and that was he likes to move, wake up, and, travel whenever. From that, he used his resources to fulfill his aspiration. Now, he is living his life the way he wants to.

Let's Start Programming

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

Okay! Today started of a bit rough because every time I tried to get on and off the Cyride, the doors would close on me. It was very annoying, and I pretty much figured that my day was going to go wrong, right? Wrong! So we walked into our work space and began learning about computer programming, C++. NOTE: I do not know too much of C++, and the basic tutorial that I was working on at home was pretty difficult to understand. Anyway, we had to perform a task that looked so very simple, and it looked as if I could just simply type in correctly the first time. NO! WRONG! I could not find the error for the life of me. So, eventually, I asked for help from Allie, Justin, and Jordan. They really came for rescue by explaining everything to me. Thanks you guys! Oh! Also, I'm ready to learn more about programming tomorrow and to start the programming project.

So basically my day is going smoother than earlier and lunch topped it off.

Also, Sunday was great. I did my first rock climbing and I must say, I'm so very proud of myself. I still can't believe I did it. I'm really enjoying this experience of being exposed to something new. ☺

It's the Weekend Baby!

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

After a long week of waking up at 7:30 in the morning, I had to wake up an hour early for Saturday. No, I'm not complaining, but I'm kind of not a morning person. On with the story, as I stepped foot outside it was terribly chilly. During the ride to the farmer's market, I discovered that Anna is not a morning person as well. That was a great relief because I thought I was the only one.

We went to the coffee place and played games while sharing coffee. I found that very fun. I kind of did not want to leave. However, the Farmer's Market was pretty cool as well. I was exposed to a lot of new things such as egg sandwiches. Honestly, I never been to a Farmer's Market before.

After the Farmer's Market, Petco, and Sports Authority, it was finally RELAXATION TIMEEEE! ☺ ☺ Later, we went to Buffalo Wild Wings and Target for card games that were not played. lol

So, finally night time. I was so very excited to finally be able to stay up all night and be able to sleep in that I fell asleep at around 11:00 and found myself awaking at 7:30. -_- At around 9:00 I fell back to sleep and woke up at 11:00. -_-

The ExCYted Protector

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

First I would like to start off by saying that I am not sleepy today! I realized that sleep/rest is essential for this research. Second, I am so very happy that we had the chance to visit the C6 today. I can not explain how cool and well thought of it is. It's amazing how you can use the C6 for different areas such as music, biology, geography, and etc. Everything that happened to day was so very amazing. I guess because I received the proper amount of sleep that I am up and running. Also, I've been thinking about the Myers Briggs test. I find it interesting that the personality type portraits (INFJ) fit me wholeheartedly and that "the protector" on occupies one percent of the population. As Desmond said, I'll protect the scientist. ☺

Recap of Today 5/28

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

Before we had the Research Project Parade, I understood the project to an extent. But as Tom explained the goals that were to be achieved before the ten weeks, it made more sense. Also, it gave me a heads up of what journals and other scholarly resources to research. When we had the team meeting, it released even more stress off my shoulders. Although I am still a little overwhelmed on how to start the research process, I know I have my team to collaborate and brainstorm with. Lastly, the first phase of building the computer was WELL needed. It kind of took my mind off the other things, and was very fun! I must say, today was very productive and enjoyable.