

Oguerekhian Addeh

 projects.vrac.iastate.edu/REU2015/

OMG. LAST DAY, OMG. (and pictures, of course)

Posted on [August 3, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

That's a slightly more exaggerated recounting of how I felt on Friday. How did two and a half months go by? Did someone push me into a time machine while I wasn't looking? I think I understand how Squidward feels now.

But, speaking of the future, I feel like this program has set me in a good place as I continue into mine. No matter how much I think I know about grad school, I learned even more here. I now have a better idea about what qualities to seek while looking for HCI programs. I love how interdisciplinary and applicable HCI can be. This summer has even helped me clear up what I want to study, at least for this upcoming year (honors thesis, yeah!). I'm actually excited to start a literature review and think of creative testing methodologies.

In other words, I side with Alex in that this has been one of the best summers ever. I loved how everyone had a different personality, but that we got along so well. (Props to Sarah for dealing with all of our spongebob quotes this summer although she secretly hates anthropomorphic sea-sponges. She took more than one for the team; she took 20.) I love how we all supported each other. I would say that I'll try to stay in touch, but I won't.

These last few days exercising have taught me some differences between *try* and *do*. Now I say that I *will* keep in touch.

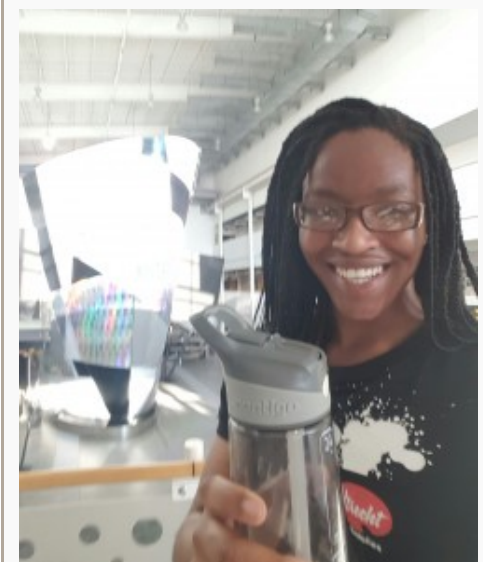
I want to thank the program for all of the opportunities that they afforded us during our stay. Thanks to Dr. Gilbert for offering his 15 minutes insight and for the gifts as well. Both were unexpected, but well received. Also, a special thank you to Anna and Desmond for taking the time to talk to us and plan both extra networking and fun events for us. You went above and beyond. I'm so glad that you liked our gifts.

Gilbert Gifts:

Des-Anna gifts:

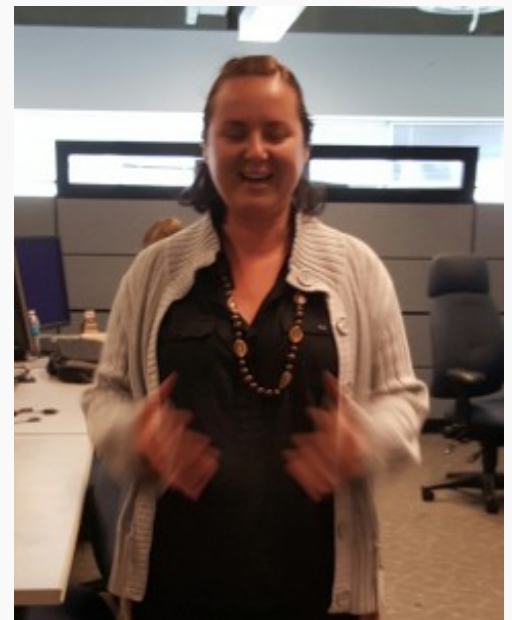
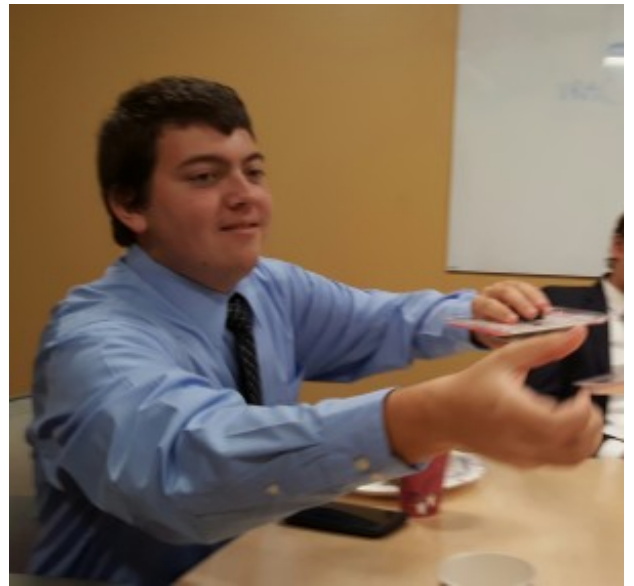


One last spongebob reference for the road



Last morning run before my flight #NoCheatDays



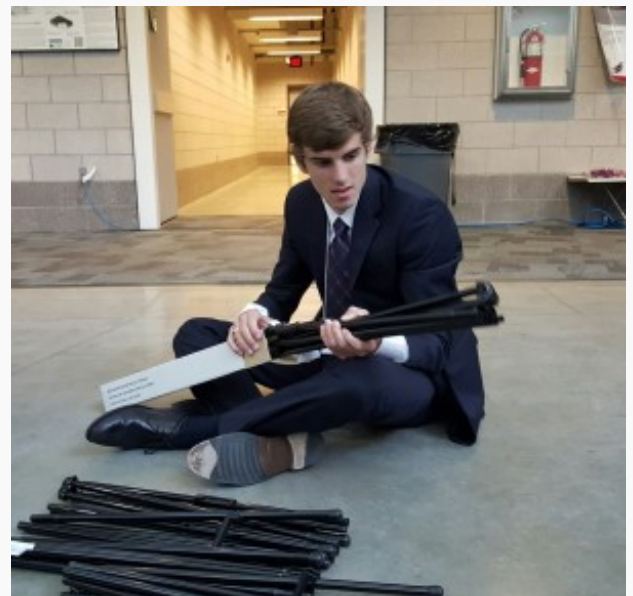


"BANANA!" minion style

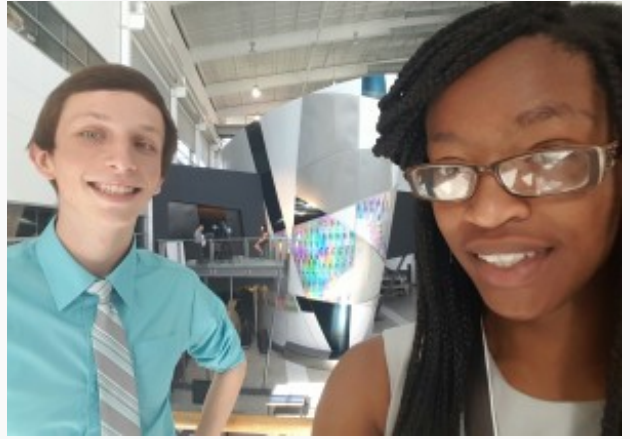


I think that I said goodbye to almost everyone except for Paul (Hi Paul, if you are reading this!!). Here goes: Paul was ultra-chill and accepting of our tomfoolery...except for when he was mood-ring-crabby. Good luck with everything. Sometimes, dreams take small steps.

Now for our presentation and last day pictures!



Yes. This is what we do in our nice clothes. Very suave ;]

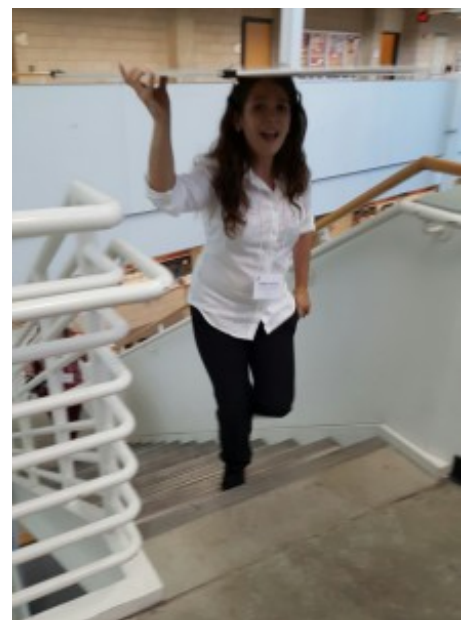
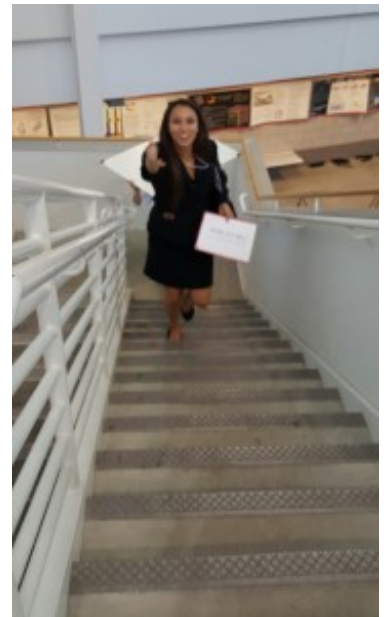


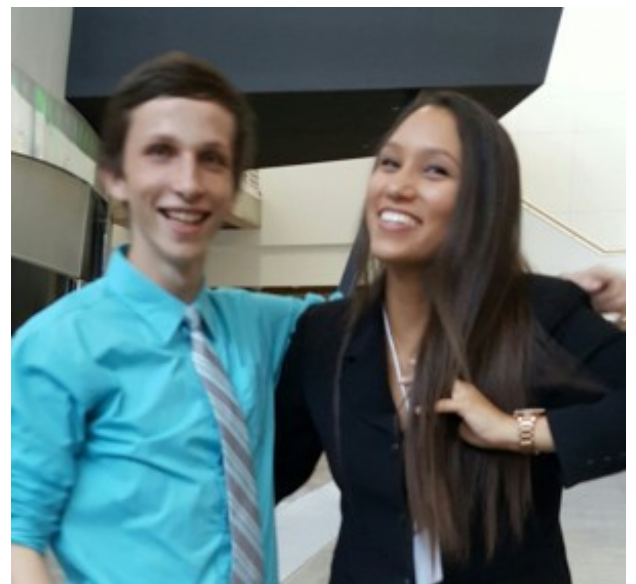
Nancy's interview in the background!

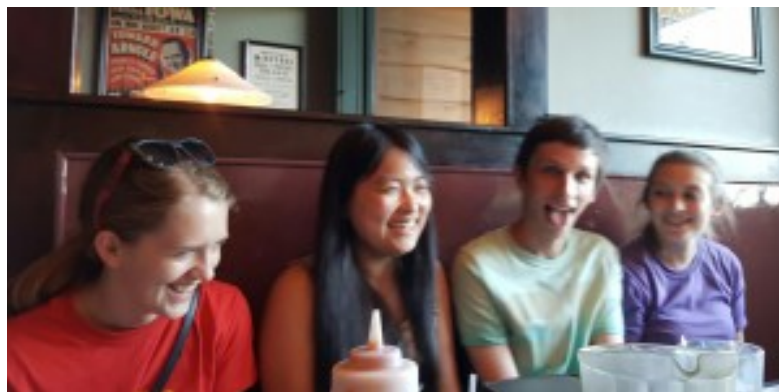


flip phone fun







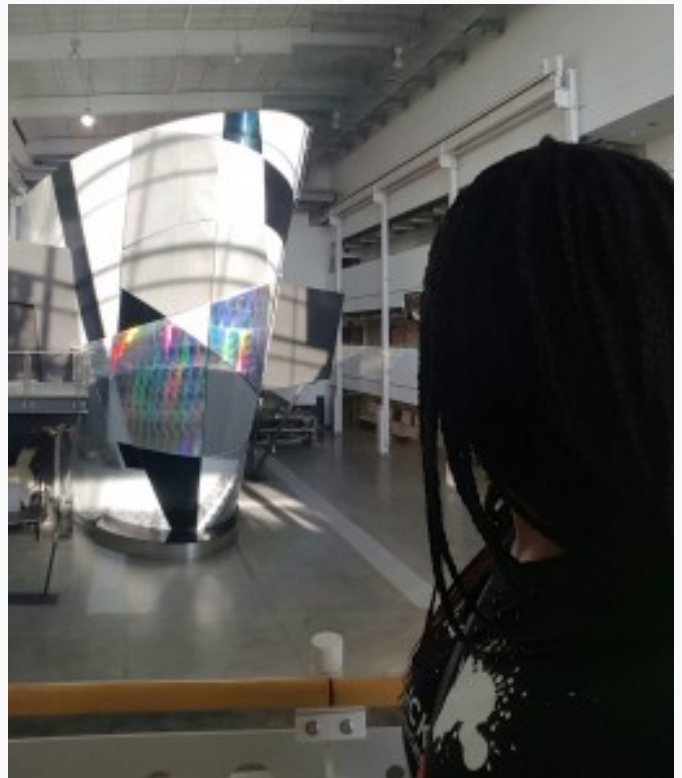


Anywho, Iowa has treated me well. I'm off to the east coast to promote Iowa as more than just corn 🌽

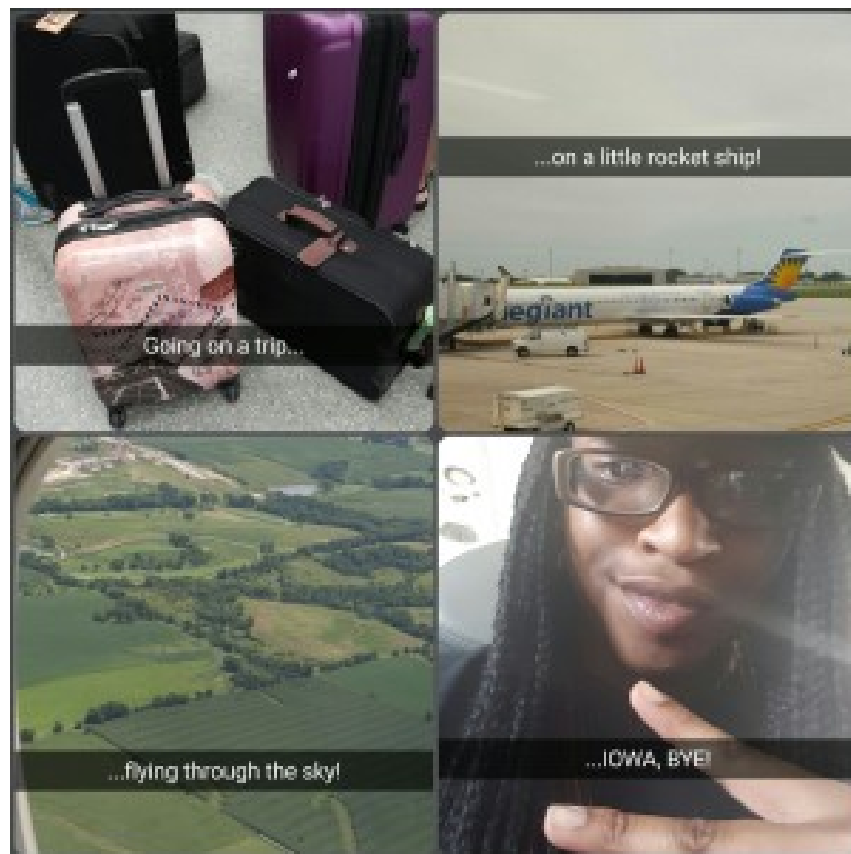




Fun-ception!



Bye VRAC



(PS sorry for the late blog :P)

I'm title-ed out

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

Another day, another dollar, another Illustrator drawing. This morning, I had an idea about how I could create a good Carbon Nano-Tube (CNT) for Dr. Claussen. Gabe and I tried a couple different ways yesterday, but Solidworks didn't want to cooperate with outside textures/pictures. This morning, the idea seemed so obvious that I wonder why I didn't think of it before: wrap the image around an *Illustrator* shape. I'd done it before, after all. Finally, success. Now, we wait to see what Dr. Claussen thinks.

You know, I like this steadfast/go-getter/never-give-up/you'll-eventually-get-there thing. It's gratifying. I hope that I can maintain that mindset as I continue on in programming. I sometimes struggle with that, especially in hackathon like activities.

Today, Maggie volunteered to look at my illustrator work. I'm grateful for her help. I want to improve, but I also want to continue with a very relaxed attitude. I want it to be fun and spontaneous. Most importantly, I want it to be continuous.

Yesterday, we had game night. Of course the SPORTS brothers had to win, smh.

I almost won...along with everyone else in the game with 9 points. Ha, no hard feelings though. I liked making the game interesting by helping and sabotaging people with abandon. However, some people didn't seem to like my strategy. *cough*David*cough*

Last night, my team continued working on our paper. I love when we get together and get stuff done. I'm proud that we finally pulled together a solid draft to send Dr. Claussen. Now, we wait. And work on our poster presentation.

P.S. Hi Allie's Mom 📺

Under my Umbrella-ella-ella-eh

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

I started off in a good mood today for a silly reason. My London cousins friended me on Facebook. I haven't seen them since 6th grade; they're so big now (and they wearing really skinny jeans. European style, maybe?). They're coming to visit for the first time in August. I'm so excited 😊

However, I didn't get to exercise this morning because (1) I didn't want to get struck by lightening, or (2) catch pneumonia. I really don't want to break my streak, so I hope it stops raining by the time work is over. If not, Mak suggested that I...go to the gym. It makes me cringe—after all, who wants to be normal? (Just kidding.) But, I might have to resort to that.

Our last lunch lecture went swimmingly. Dr. Spike obviously knows a lot about his field and really believes in what he is doing. All of us could relate considering that we've been through the school system. I'm glad that he's able to enact public change as well as academic progress. I'm sure that having an advisor that did the same helped model this career choice for him. Perhaps, I should look for similar advisors. In my case, they may not be 'out in the field,' but an advisor could pursue industry collaborations like Detecting Treat with the police and the C6 with John Deere. They are all doing real hands-on things that could have immediate impact.

Now back to work. Our paper awaits and time is catching up with us...

Balloons

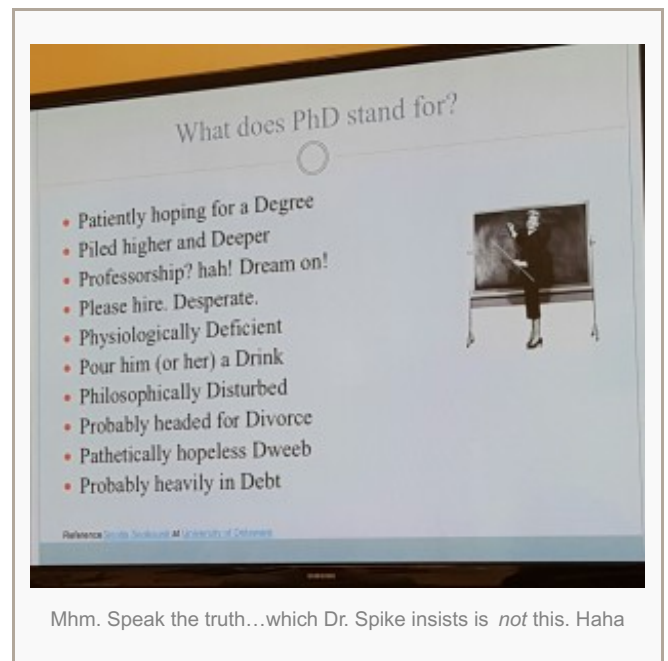
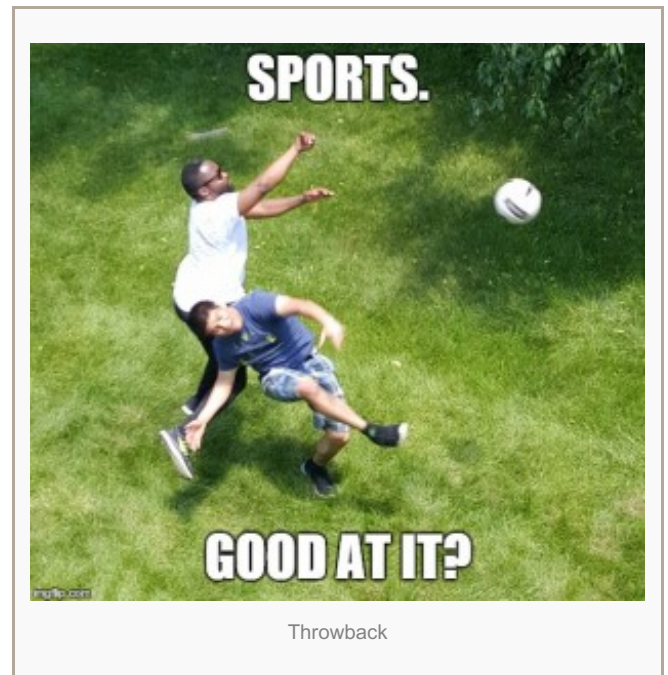
Posted on [July 28, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

I feel like this will be one of my last picture heavy posts, so hold onto your briches...

I'm glad that we finished the poster. I think it looks beautiful. It is on the wordy side, but I'm sure that will boil it down into simple talking points for our audience.

We are still running tests, but we aren't sure how much we such plan to include in the final paper. I think the current answer is 'as much as we have time for' which isn't the most helpful. It leaves questions like: When should we set our deadline for new data? Will we have a full story even if we don't finish everything?

We need to fix up our paper as our experiment develops...but I am already fading. Where did all my energy go? But,



I guess that the mark of a grad student—heck, even college students—is to go on in spite of a mental muck.

Friday Balloon Show: Worth it.

David and Alex's hooligan antics just made it better. Alex, Nancy (and I) had fun being David's paparazzi for the day. He claimed to hate the attention, but he practically posed for the pictures 📷 Afterwards, Sarah kindly took us on a tour of her campus and allowed us to stop for an awesome playground. There are so many cool playgrounds here in Iowa. I don't know why, seeing how intense your winters are. You can't use them for part of the year. Alas. They are fun while they last.

Bro tanks on non-bros

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

On that song-repeat grind. It's soo good. Never mind that it's about loneliness and broken dreams. We just won't think about that.

Also on that poster grind. I'm glad that Dr. Claussen stopped by to answer our questions yesterday. It's amazing how much a quick meeting can clear up. We are now on a straight shot to finishing our poster. It's shaping up really well. We finalized the background and methods, but we still need to develop our results section. We only have partial experimental data so far, so we need to figure out what to do with that. Mak and I have tried to continue the study, but we are getting nowhere. The measurements aren't coming out as they should. I hope that our grad mentor will get better results than we did.

We also had Bro tank Thursday (aka picture day). Sadly, we didn't bro-down enough during the photoshoot. It was cut short for fear of awkwardness.

Then, Mak joined me on the jungle Gym before eating delicious Bdubs! Fun times all around.

ARG

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

On this day, we have come full circle. We are supposed to reflect on the values that we had at the beginning of the program. I still believe in the values I wrote down.

We're all friends here. I'll share those values with you:

- Improve yourself and improve others
- Be merciful

Those are my abbreviated versions. I do not know whether I adhered well to these values during my time here. But that's very human, isn't it? You believe something, but you don't always act like it.



The Eclipse: Props to David's photo ideas



it's a lollipop.

Anywho, I tried to improve myself in some ways, such as by completing assignments earlier and 'stepping down' so that other people can talk. I have particularly been improving myself in the last few days. However, improving others hadn't been on my mind.

As for mercy, I don't think that there was much need for it. Nothing bad happened.

In conclusion, maybe I could have focused more on helping others' self-progress. However, I don't know how I would have gone about it. It's usually requires a situational opportunity.
shrug

Did it.

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

Just do it. I embraced that advice today. I have been eyeing the workout playground by VRAC for a few days now. I decided to go for it this morning. (I'm finally exercising, Yea!) I left the apartment early, ran to Vrac, and did my thing. Then, I tried to find more articles for our introduction. Being proactive felt good, even though I felt more tired later on. I almost fell asleep while testing a new Pd sample. I should've known that sitting down was a bad idea.

We only finished one run in the short time that we were at the lab. Unfortunately, we still need to repeat it because it did not come out well. Hopefully, we will finish everything on time. Also, our mentor liked our illustrations from yesterday, but we need to figure out how to add in more labels while preventing clutter.

Anywho, we have paper sections to work on and articles to find. I don't have anything else to say today.

Illustrations? No problem.

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

My team accepted a new mission yesterday. We discussed with Dr. Claussen how we could create a visual representation of our method for the poster/paper. Thus, pursued our bouts with SolidWorks, Maya, and Illustrator. I worked with the later, but it seemed that Gabe was having a wrestling match with Maya before switching back over to our first love, SolidWorks. Creating the illustrations included some work and a lot of trial and error, but I found it fun! I definitely want to do more in the future.

Funny thing...when we first received this assignment, I doubted our abilities to make good graphics. After all, official graphics always look amazing. I'm proud that we were able to push on despite any doubts. I leaned on my best friend, YouTube. My team ended up with results as cool as the graphics that I previously thought were above our level. We are more capable than I give us credit for. Ah, the power of a "can-do" attitude (or even an "i'll try"



mindset).

And, yes, Desmond. I *do* have pictures.

Weekends 3,2,1, poof

Posted on [July 20, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

Our days left here are numbered (as Anna oh-so-kindly reminded us this morning). We're trying to make good use of them not only by getting our work done, but also through bonding weekends.

But, first: Friday Journal club. Desmond decided to kick it up a notch. By that I mean that he completely shocked everyone. Alex and Nancy's faces froze when Desmond first removed Sarah. Then the surprises just kept on coming. Fortunately, they still did well, albeit the emotional rollercoaster.

Now, the weekend. I continued some reading that I needed to do. On Saturday, I also went to the aquatic park at Maya's insistence. I'm glad we went; it was really fun. We conducted some research while we were there. Research Question: Under what conditions can you best hear laughter under water? Results: inconclusive. Ehh, we tried.

Later that day I saw Antman with David and two of his buddies (one of whom wanted to keep his brother status a secret :P). I really needed that dose of movie epicness in my life. There's nothing like surround sound and lots of loud dramatic music. Later, we all had game night. Who knew that an unknown game could be so fun. Here's a recap: I-am-always-trustworthy, Sarah's-the-spy, and It's-always-the-quiet-ones. We played until late, but I hope Maya was able to sleep with all the exCYment coming from the living room.

Then, Sunday was lake day fun day. Huzzah for Hydrobikes. Enjoy the pictures and I'll be off. Ta-ta

"Insert Title Here"

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

(Imagine seeing that title on a conference poster. Haha, I would probably bowl over with embarrassment had it been mine.)

I opted out of the campfire last night. I hope everyone had fun. I taught myself a magic trick at home. I took a nap at 8 pm and immediately transported myself to 6:30 am. I knew that I needed sleep—just not that much. This is starting to remind me too much of school and my erratic sleep schedules ☹ The love-hate relationship between sleep and I is too real.

I woke up to a great field trip, so I guess it's okay. I'm glad that the program was able to arrange a tour with the CEO. Backstage VIP tours are always the best type of tours. I loved how big, colorful, and interactive the center was. They



were really creative in the types of activities they provided. It seemed like they had so many big ideas about how to use their center. They're big dreamers. I especially loved all of their planetarium events. Who would have taught to do anything in there other than look at stars? I mean, weddings, operas, and Galileo, oh my!

Also, our guide was correct in her assertion that the center appeals to people of all ages. We definitely had fun playing among the kids today.

Snap like a trap. Oh Mak, Paddywack

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

Another engaging luncheon lecture today. We acted a bit off our rocker (I think that I still am. I strangely felt like rhyming with my blog title. It has nothing to do with anything, but I love it.) I think that Hannah adapted to our silliness well. I learned a lot from her talk. I hope that I remember to "be a doctor, not a waiter" when I need to be. We receive all this advice, but it won't be helpful if we don't remember. I just hope that I do.

Last night, my team continued working until late. I had felt anxious trying to finish some writing, so I'm glad that Mak helped me. Afterwards, I felt like I "deserved" a break (which essentially equaled an hour of wasted of time when sleep would have been a kinder gift to my body :/). I got up on time, but I will definitely need a nap later tonight.

Anywho, this free time in the morning has been a lifesaver. Unfortunately, we will need to do without that tomorrow. With all the activities we have tonight and tomorrow, completing the discussion paragraph will be a challenge. However, I still believe in my team. The most difficult thing will be determining what to say. After all, we haven't done any statistical tests yet. Nor have we been able to discuss with our mentor about what to include and exclude from our paper. Hopefully, we can agree on something among ourselves or talk to our mentor soon. Nevertheless, I feel lucky that we still have time before our final poster is due, unlike our highschool teammate. Later next week, we should have enough data and calculations to form an understandable 'storyline.'

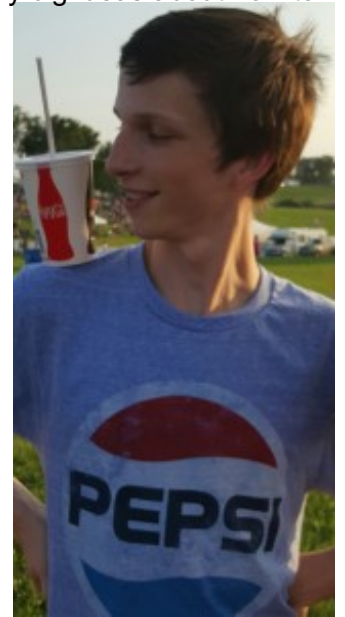
By the way, Sarah and Maggie, we can make our next Freshest Album based on my title! (This message has been Mak approved)

workkkkkk

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

Picture day! Sure, we already had one, but never mind that. This one was infinitely better and no one needed medical assistance. It was a double win! But, boy oh boy, what in the world am I going to do with all of the good pictures we've taken this summer? I don't post to FB, so I'll have to go old school and make a photo book. Look what you guys did to me :[Ah, well. Gotta keep those memories somehow.

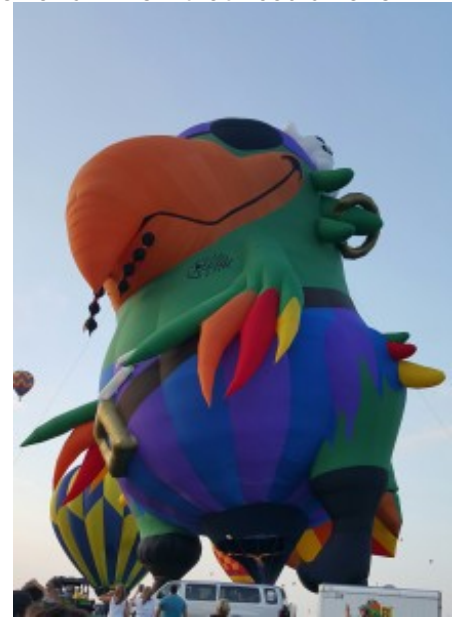
One thing we don't take pictures of is of us doing work. My group ended up meeting late last night to work on the presentation. Thanks to Alex and David for staying up to give us advice and much needed comic relief. I felt much



more prepared for the presentation in the morning. I had practiced a little by myself and I knew that I could have presented without slides if need be. In our actual presentation, we still went a little over time, but I think that we did well overall. In fact, I think we all killed it! You guys were like little professionals in there. The practice session was very helpful. We all took the suggestions to heart.

The USC group had really interesting research. I liked how they had a lot of virtual reality research. It was like how I had originally expected this program to be like. I will definitely be looking into their program now. Maybe that will be the next REU I apply for. Who knows?

Today, my group still has a lot of work to do. It's absurd that 5pm has already arrived. Wish us luck. Just do it, shall be our anthem.



MOA:Group02_Ogue&Justin_Function

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

Note: All partner pictures were sent to the groupme.

Q: How could our projects help the Mall of America ?

Wearables

The Mall of America does not currently utilize biochemical sensing for its function. However, nonsweat biotrackers may be useful for tourists. While enjoying the tourist experience for hours at a time, patrons may become tired or hungry but not fully realize their health status because of adrenaline. For example, a fitbit or glucose sensor could be helpful if it told users in real time when they should take a break, hydrate, or eat a snack as a way to optimize their health.

Kinect

The Kinect project could be used as cameras for traffic flow in hallways. Although the Kinect can only track up to three skeletons, the color and depth frames could be used for a cheap photo stream. Then, computer vision techniques can be applied to see how many people pass the camera(s) over a given time interval. If both the depth and color streams could be used together, it may produce more accurate counting compared to just using a regular camera. Plus Kinects are pretty cheap. Of course, latency and accuracy are a big deal when using a Kinect for anything. If a bunch of people walk together and the Kinect's accuracy suffers, it may not count them.

Another idea would be using a network of Kinects for any sort of manufacturing at the MOA. I'm not sure if there is any manufacturing done there, but I did see a lot of construction around. The skeletal tracking could be used to track worker productivity or something like that.

Another idea would be a virtual clothes shopping system. The Kinect could capture a person's silhouette and then the user may be able to overlay clothing items from popular MOA clothes over the silhouette. Maybe it could be a program so you could identify which clothes you want to buy from home, without having to make the trip all the way



Minnesota.

Get yer head in the game

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

I'm glad that Anna sends homework emails. Sure, it added extra pressure to this week, but at least I know where we stand. Apparently there were a few things that just—whoop—slipped our minds. [Update: Apparently we didn't know about the abstract and other deadlines. I thought I must have messed up :/] However, she did try to give us heartattacks by first asserting that the final poster was due this week. Allow me to summarize our response to that: "wait..."

I think that we're all still in this phase to a degree.

We also practiced our presentations yesterday. My group has a good amount of work to get done. We have a lot of content, but we really need to cut down our time. I want to cut something that another person may not, so we need to work that out before tomorrow. We are going to practice together again tonight. We also need to finish the poster tonight. Time is short. To do lists are long. Just do it.

Also, bowling. Another impromptu trip last night. I can't handle you guys...you're just too fun (And a movie tonight too??...But, I digress). Anywho, this was the coolest bowling arena that I had ever seen. Their arcade was unique to say the least. Hopefully we can take up the Thursday laser tagging special before we leave.

The Luncheon today was good too. ISU surely has a lot of helpful classes and websites to help with student writing.

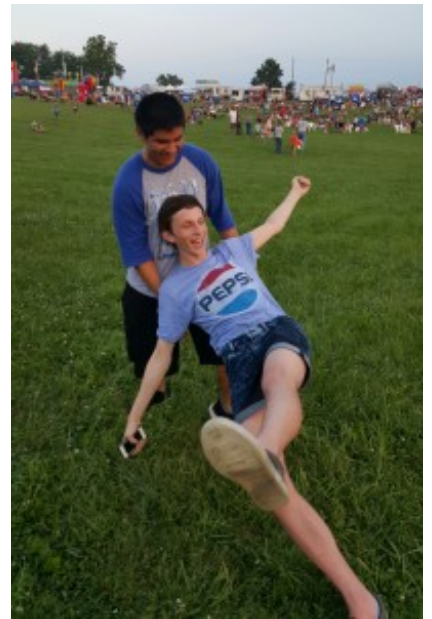
We survived marathon shopping

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

Double fun weekend. On Friday, we took an impromptu snowcone trip.

Then, I really enjoyed my experience at the mall. Who know that you could spend 7 hours at a mall and never get bored? That's America at it's finest. We were all glad that we didn't go to the baseball game. Even at the end, we wanted to continue shopping and go back to the amusement park as well. After all, the one roller coaster we rode left a really good impression :D. Alex almost burst and David remained as serene as a flower frolicker.

We also got to meet our unofficial REU mascot: Spongebob Squarepants! I don't mean to brag, but...he loved me. Well, my shirt. Same thing. Props to Maya for reading the schedule and making our dreams come true.



On Sunday, I met up with a guy from a different REU for some water balloon fun. He was the only one soaked by the end, let me tell ya. Later, Gabe, Mak, and I met in order to finish our presentation. We finished and Gabe left, but then one thing after another happened and before you knew it, I had been in Mak's room for an extra 3 hours. We had a hoot and a holler rehashing past drama and boy stories though. For a while, I thought the popcorn stories would never end.

Then came this morning. We got straight back to work. Our mentor had emailed us to say that they were ready for the next stage of development: palladium! We plan to mix the palladium with the (antimicrobial)silver later on to determine whether it gives better conductivity. We shall see. However, I don't know whether we can finish everything before our posters are due. Fahmo surprised us today by announcing that her final poster is due this Thursday. That means that we won't be able to update our poster with new results after this week. ...Or maybe we can if both programs pay for a poster... I need to look into that.

Color me dyed

Posted on [July 10, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

I think that what we learn in craft of research will definitely come in handy. I wonder whether grad students at every school receive an in depth explanation on how to write articles. Just in case, I plan to keep the powerpoints to help me at least with my senior thesis. It could come in handy.

Anna mentioned during class that she wants everyone to write a publishable paper. I truly hope that my group will be able to write at that level. From what we've seen in articles, our field includes very technical writing. It's hard to emulate text to that level of sophistication. Oh-that reminds me that we should continue working on our intro. We've been working on the presentation and poster instead.

I have found the creating the presentation to be a somewhat confusing process. I have never presented an unfinished study before. We are limited by the data that we have collected. I suppose that it doesn't matter that some of the data probably wouldn't be deemed important enough for the final paper.

Now to the fun stuff. I was pumped for tie dying yesterday. I wanted cool results, so I Googled for tutorials beforehand. I found some pretty awesome examples. Wow, the power of tiedye. I found one youtube guy who was especially experienced in his craft. He made awesome psychedelic shirts that I definitely now see in my future. I tried to emulate some of his techniques, but I know that my shirt won't come out the same. I'm itching to see the results though!

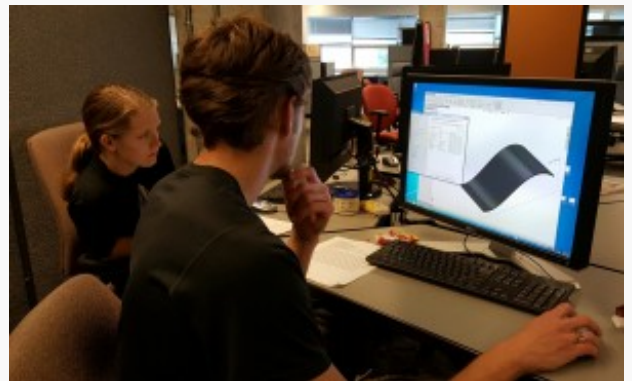
Btw, thanks for letting me keep the dye! You never know when you may need it ;]







Go Mak!



Beginning stages



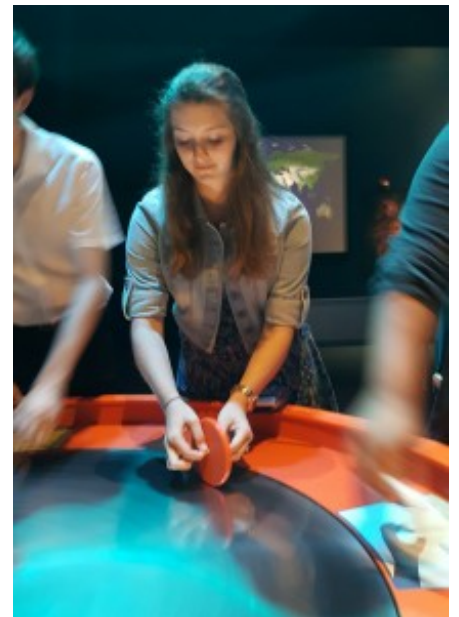
See those facial expressions? They stayed like that for 30 secs.
Frozen.

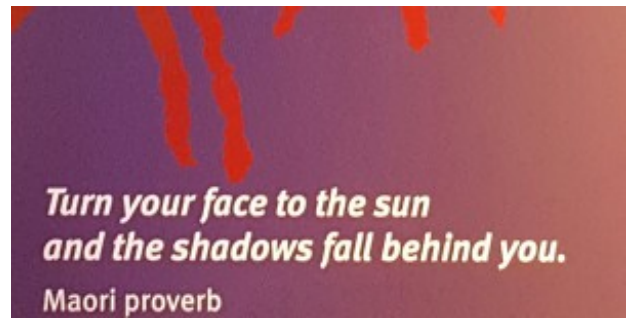


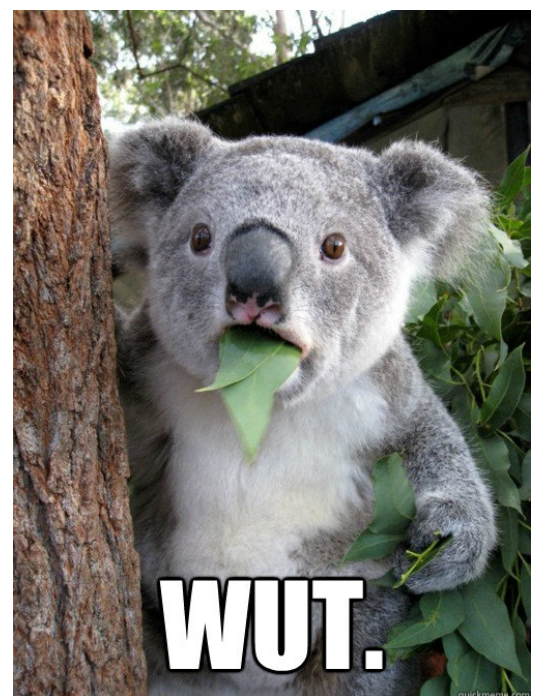
Um. The water feels...fine?











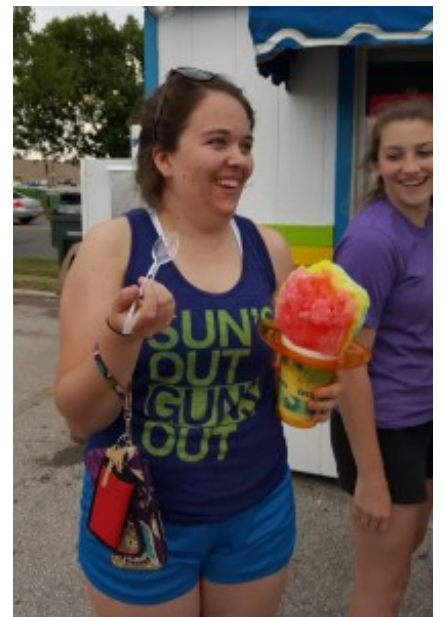


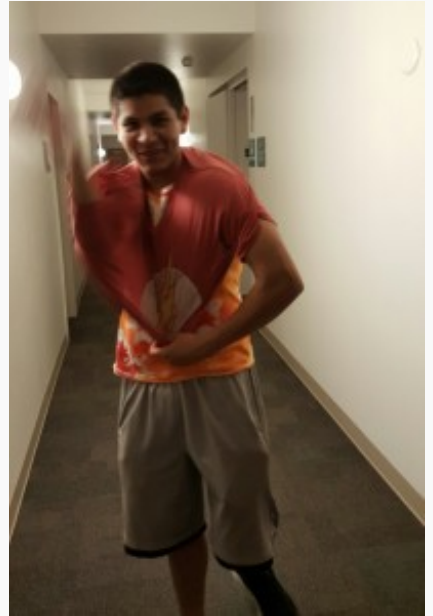
That rare strike!



The perfect picture. Thank you smartphone ;]







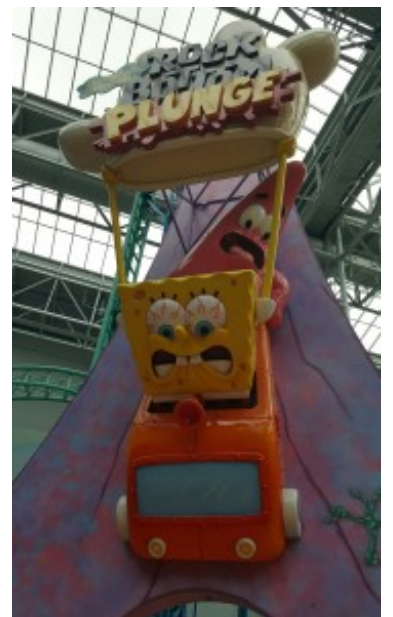
A tie dye glimpse!

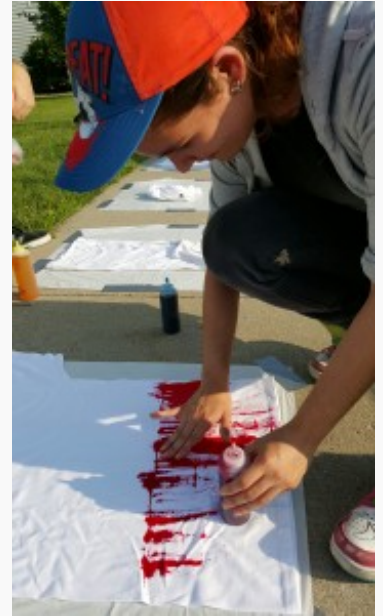




Work it, Allie! You da real cat lover.



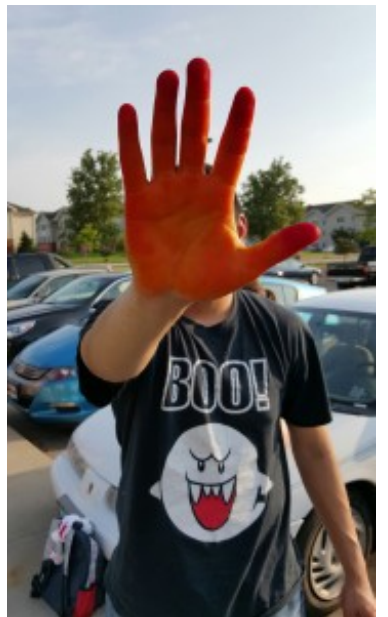
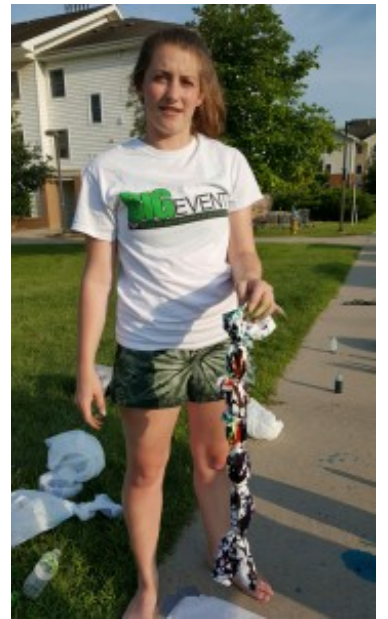




Bloody Tee



Baby Tee





Thursday, grad day

Posted on [July 10, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

My group worked over another blog time today. We had to scurry off to the lab for an hour because we are in the middle of testing. We are trying to split up duties between us and Fahmo, a highschool student we're working with. We have a couple trials to run, but each one takes 45 minutes. We fit them in where we can. It seems that we are all getting into the knitty gritty of our research now. My team even has a couple graphs! However, we have yet to do any calculations, so we don't know how well each sample is sensing the hydrogen peroxide. Hopefully, we can develop some insights before the oral presentation next week.

For lunch, we met a few graduate students and learned about their experiences. At first, I didn't think that anything would relate to me because all of them were in completely different fields. That thought quickly faded away as I realized that their experiences could relate even though their research did not. I learned some things that I hadn't known before. It's amazing that there are always new things to learn. I



mean, no holidays?? I definitely need to look into that. I had hoped that some summers would be open for industry internships. Other people had told me that internships would be possible...but now I know not to take that for granted. I must remember to ask, ask, ask potential schools and mentors.

Grad Plan

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

(I'm taking a break from photos for this blog post. I've overloaded you guys with enough already.)

Today we learned about the grad application process. It couldn't have come at a better time for me. Ms. Harding was definitely impressive. I had been to multiple 'grad talks' before, but every one is useful, if only as a reminder. Today was interesting because no one had ever discussed a budget with me before. In fact, my eyes would have been bugging out today had I not paid for the GRE last week. I had not known that the GRE had a fee and I never expected one in the triple digits. However, now it seems obvious that one would need to save money for their senior year expenses. I can't go crazy at the Mall of America (not that I was planning to).

I was also caught off balance by her preparation calendar. I didn't realize that I actually had another year until I needed to apply to grad school. This definitely made me more relaxed, but now I am more confused. After all, there is a decision to be made. I need to decide whether I should start grad school immediately in the spring or leave myself a free semester. I see pros and cons with each choice. On one hand, I could gain industry experience or job during the spring semester and summer. However, it's more difficult to obtain recommendations after a break... Maybe I can prepare everything this year and truly apply next year? Haha, non-procrastination for the win.

Whelp, I have a lot to think about.

Going 4th into the week (holiday pictures)

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

This weekend was full of activities and pictures (until my lazy sunday, that is). First, the crew surprised me on Friday by being awesome enough to have a cookout. I'm glad that we had some people in the group had experience with grilling. This was probably the first time I saw a coal grill in action.



This picture wins.



After the cookout, we rolled up to the Ames fireworks. We sat in the beautiful Reinman Gardens. I liked the fireworks here, even though some people thought the show was too short. They used a nice variety of firework designs. I especially liked the one that acted like a growing flower.

On Saturday, we carpooled to Des Moines after some lengthy indecisiveness. We visited a few of the open antique stores. Those stores seemed to go on for ages. Every time you thought you reached the end, another cluttered hallway or room appeared. We were bound to find some pretty interesting items.

Then we relaxed at the Capitol(?) house and surveyed the Holocaust Memorial. I definitely enjoyed the view, but now it's back to work.

'Murica

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

Hello, my fellow Americans.

Sometimes America is the hope and joy seen from a kid's eyes (and even the privilege to act like one. Hopscotch away, Allie.)

Yes Desmond, we took pictures...

Posted on [July 3, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

With everyone running out to enjoy their early day off yesterday, I completely forgot about the blog post. Here's my



Marshmallow time: BEFORE



AFTER. Maya does not approve.

Thursday edition.

I was proud of Anna's performance during her defense. Her presentation was great and very well done. It seems that teaching yields even more benefits than I previously thought. I really liked the big visuals she used. You hardly needed to read the bullet points (although I admit that I didn't fully understand the graphs). I hope to remember these design details like that when creating my own talks.

What truly amazed me about her defense was that she seemed to take all issues in stride! She was the definition of 'peace' when her presentation decided to die (as shown below). A+ job, Anna.

We have such a great opportunity here to see defenses. This is a real glimpse into graduate school. I'm sure we wouldn't get this opportunity in most places.

I almost forgot to talk about the **midsummer dinner**. It was lovely. Many laughs, so food, wow. Amy also educated us on the history of tiny violins. Who knew that jokes existed before Spongebob. You learn something new every day. We especially learned to keep our Ethics and Etiquette on hand at all times.

As for our own **research project**, we did a lot of usable work in the lab on Thursday. We worked by ourselves mostly and we naturally developed a role for each person. (I was the electrode placer/cleaner and bottle holder. Very glamorous, I know.) I'm glad that the platinum textile seems to be producing good results now. We may need to change our write-up back to the original version.

I visited the **insect zoo** while everyone else went home. I couldn't pass up the chance to creep myself out. I surely achieved my goal.

Later that night, we decided to get lost in the Iowan woods. We wanted to visit the lighted **bridge by Ledges**, but we weren't fully informed about the location... We finally reached it after a leisurely 3 mile walk in the dark. Was the bridge worth it? Well, can you really put a price on exercise, beautiful photo-resistant sights, and a good story?

Now we're getting somewhere!

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

We worked in our lab yesterday as well as this morning. We tested the sensing ability today. My team was entrusted with completing almost the entire process. Yup, we're growing up. We donned lab coats and gloves and got to work. Of course, we still had to ask a few questions and a few things might have been spilled. I think that we will improve as we continue. We need to make sure that we clearly hear our mentors' instructions, take neat notes, and ask questions whenever we are even marginally unsure. Verbally repeating instructions seemed to help us today.



At least someone likes them.



We finally completed an entire amperometry run, however, the results didn't come out as expected. It may be because the fabric was too deep inside the solution. Sigh, it had seemed like we were doing so well. Oh well. We'll keep going until we get reasonable results. We will go back tomorrow to repeat the process.

My group also realized today that the project presentation is due sooner than we thought. That's good to know. Now we know that we should focus our time on that before everyone goes on vacation. I don't think it will be too difficult since we already wrote about the same information for the write up. Mostly, we need to just need verbal practice and make sure that our slides use visuals.

Late pictures from the video game competition:

Luncheon Lecture :)

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

I liked the Ethics class yesterday, but I don't think we received any closure. It didn't feel like the last class. The questions felt a little less awkward, but still hard to answer. However, I really realize the importance of the course now since Elliot explained that jobs expect us to be ethical without training. I'm glad that the program is taking the time to give us a little.

Now for more fun things. It's time to add yet another person(s) to our grateful-for-your-hospitality list. Yes, Chase and Desmond hosted a lovely Smash competition and pizza party. As an added benefit, they didn't seem (too) disturbed by our odd noise-making. I especially enjoyed the few intense moments when the game got close and a cacophony rose from the crowd. Also, who could not enjoy Alex's screeches in response to the drawing submissions? Ah, good times. Of course, I lost every round, but I learned some new Charizard moves! That's progress, right? Never mind that I mainly killed myself with the move. We don't need to talk about that. :/

Today, Dr. Berghefer gave us a luncheon lecture. She was a great speaker (especially according to Dr. Gilbert's advice earlier). I liked how her stories both simplified her information and entertained us. I was really really intrigued by her research and her general interest in media psychology. I was somewhat at a lost of words. I asked a few questions, but I don't think I could have held a conversation with her. I didn't know how to delve deeper into her research or what type of insight to ask her for. I felt like the general idea of her research was very similar to what I would want to do. I know that I would also want to see how some tech or technological effect affects users on a psychological level, although I don't know the specifics yet.

I am definitely going to look into the 'Avatar effect' that she mentioned. I don't think that anyone would have thought about that as a possible negative result of engaging with technology.



More weekend pics! Sick of them yet?

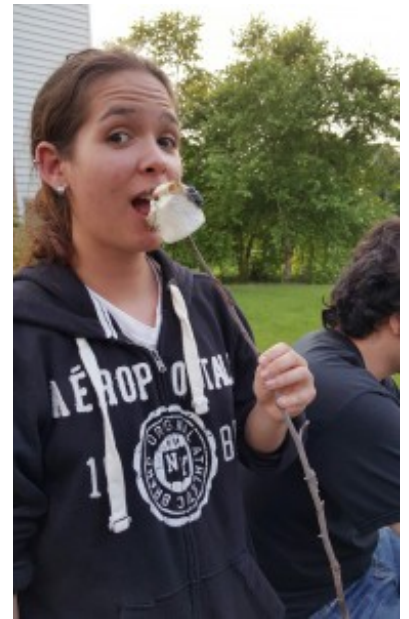
Posted on [June 29, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)

I was greeted with this awesomeness in the mornin courtesy of my ninja skills, Desmond, and Sarah-the-salty-target. Thanks to all the little people!

I really enjoyed the weekend trip. I liked being out in the sun, especially once Allie gave me her hat. I had never seen such a diverse mix of dogs! Some were just gargantuan. Others tried to rival the Taco Bell dog's small size. I walked around with Sarah and Maggie while mooching off of free samples. We tasted not-hot-enough-salsa and other wonderous delicacies. I didn't just mooch, however. I actually bought a pair of earrings and a delicious pupusa (which made David and I late. Oops).

I felt amazed by some of the pieces I witnessed in the art festival. These people put so much time and skill and pure EFFORT into their creations. So much dedication. I find it really impressive especially since I used to be very crafty. One of the metal artists started making the creations in his free time because he was an industrial welder by profession. That's a beautiful way to use multiple sides of your personality; adapt your job into something you love.

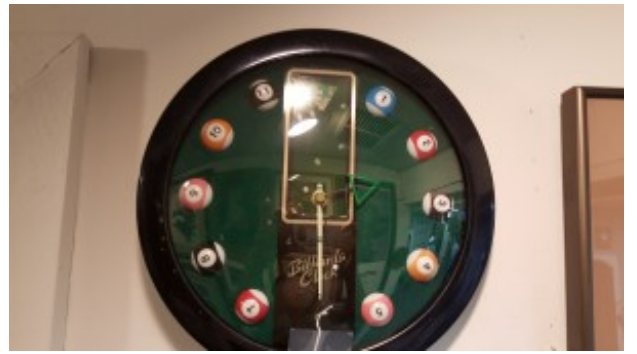
Guys, I thoroughly enjoyed our lunch at Anna's friend's husband's house. I'm amazed at how hospitable people have been to us here. He was the perfect host. We should get him a thank you card. The SPORTS were so fun and funny. I think that the volleyball had a personal vendetta against Maya's hot dog. Desmond had the awesome idea for a full REU volleyball game. It was so much fun that I didn't want to leave. Thank goodness, Gabe and Mak started to showcase their secret musical skills in order to prolong leaving (good job team!). I waited until Sunday to become productive again. I registered for the GRE and finally started studying for it—YES!









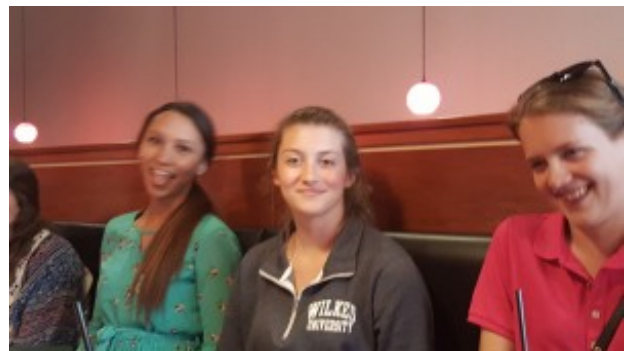
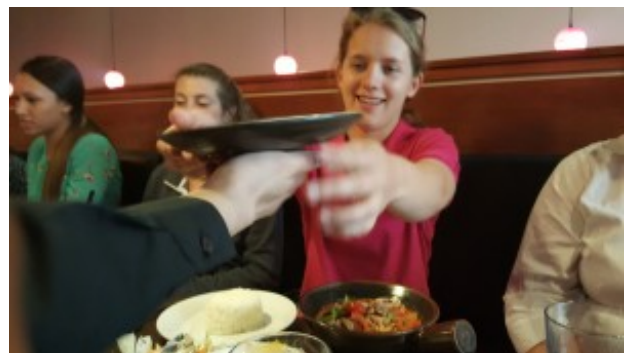


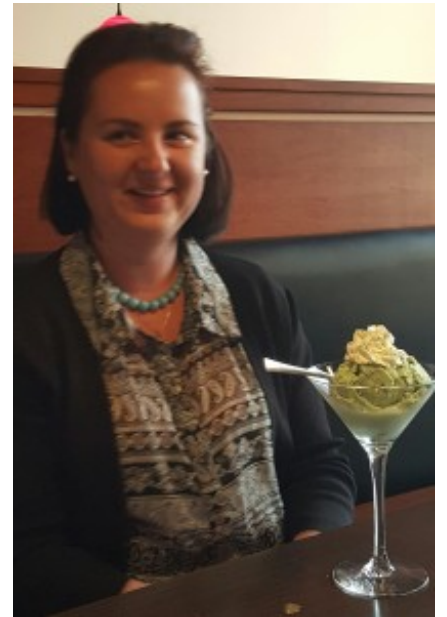


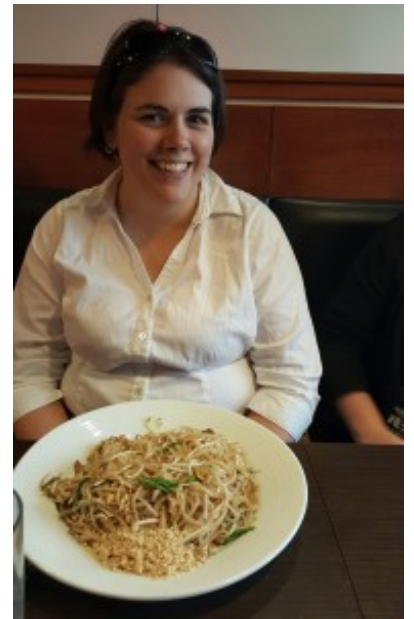




Using your hands, Maggie? Where's your ethics?!







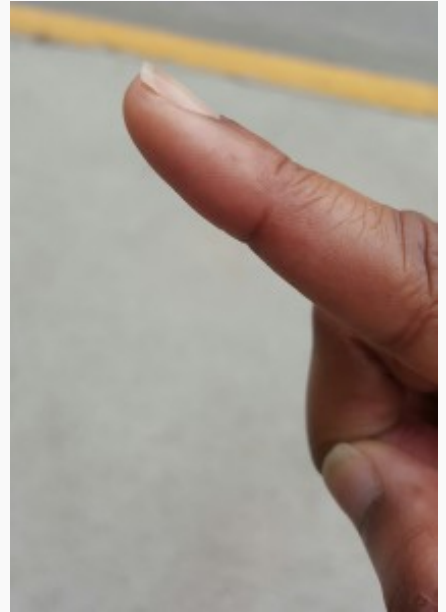


3-electrode cell. Black rectangle is the textile



This one is ripe for a meme. Any takers?

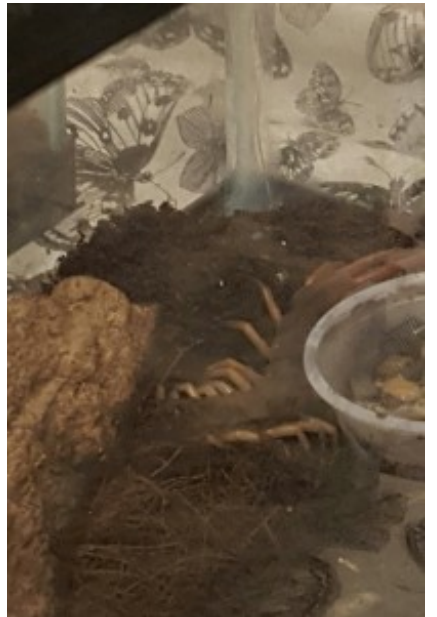




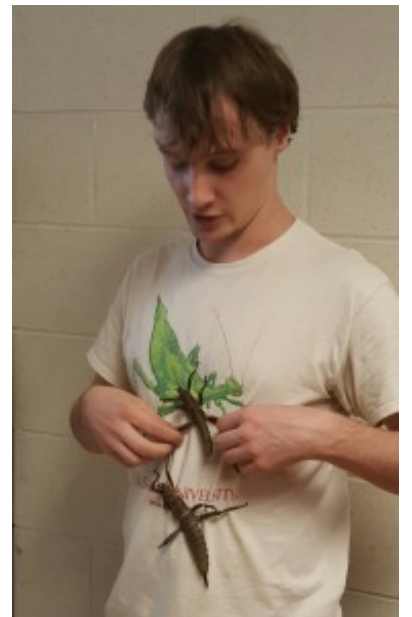
The finger that touched a tarantula...and survived (and scared Nancy)



Roach race





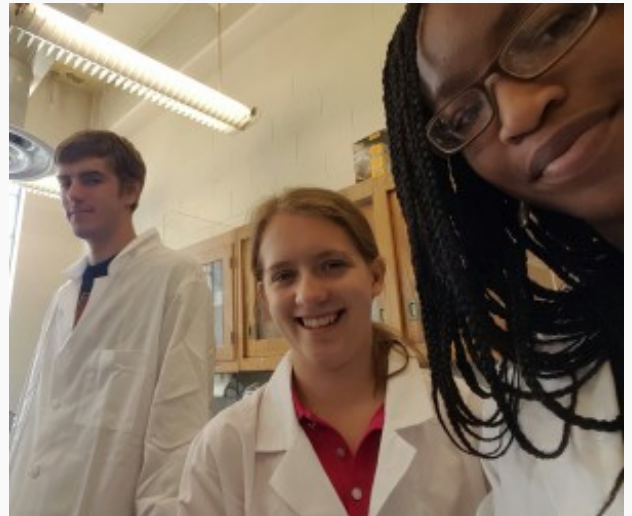


Port-a-potty break

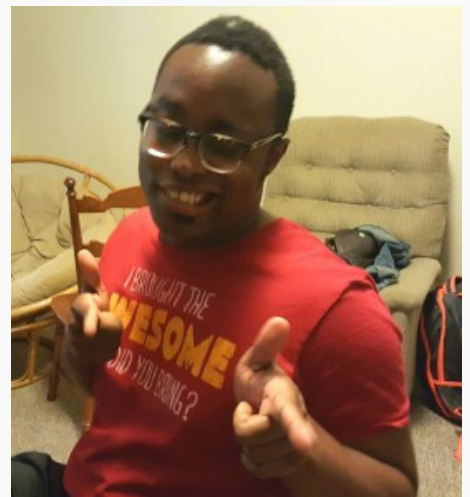


It's wild out there. #IowanJungle





Lab coat official



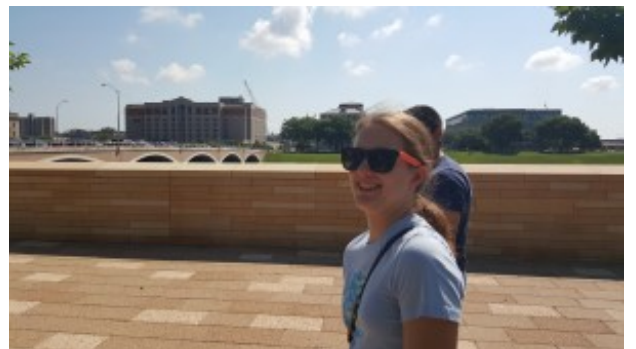
Desmond after losing :(



Mak after winning :)



First sample: baby food! (Don't judge. It was good.)





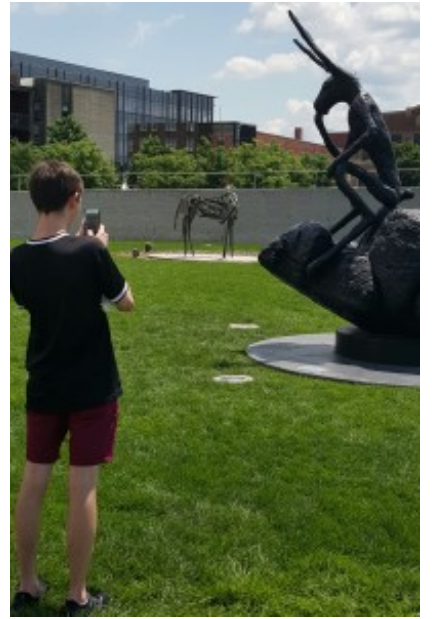
fresh pupusas!



Mak, with our wire skills, we can def make these earrings now!



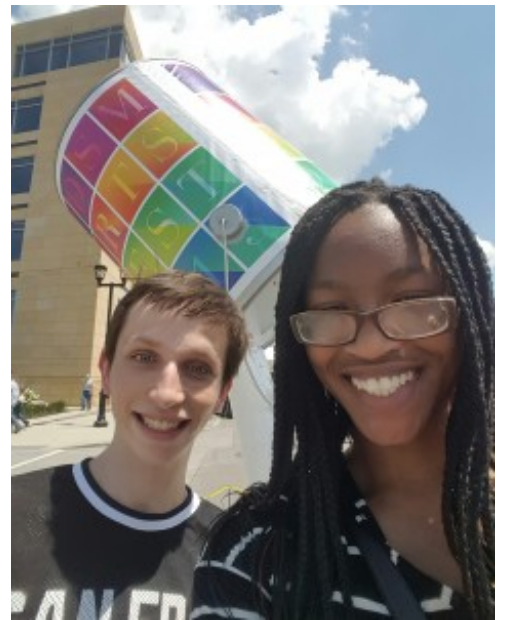




Lady Liberty, I found your hat!



Lady with the blue balloon :)









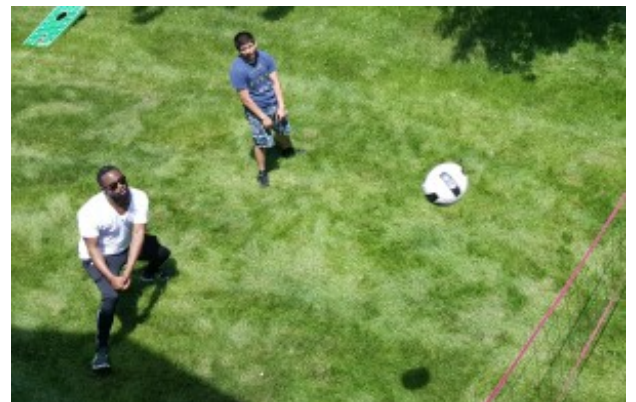
Guys. Tell me the truth. Doesn't Desmond look like he could be some rapper in a music video in the below picture?

We feel you, Kinect

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

My team had a research team meeting on Friday and the blog wouldn't let me log in during the weekend, so you have the pleasure of witnessing my Friday afternoon mentality on a Monday morning. Into the time machine...

We finally finished our 3D modelling course with team demonstrations. It looked like everyone did a good job. I especially liked that Maggie's team tested their product with item mockups (eg. pencil). I think that was a smart idea that I probably would not have thought of. Maybe my team should have modeled our design with a 3D ear 📻 I'm sure that Thingiverse would have one or two. Anyway, I can't wait to see whether our 3D model prints well. I liked that Alex showed us other things he has printed.



At lunch, I had a surprise meetup with one of the soccer/Math REU guys from the picnic (That was so long ago, wasn't it?). They seem to have a penchant for trying sports they know nothing about. That sounds good to me. We might get the band back together so we can make further fools of ourselves. (SPORTS! We're *not* good at it.)

Now onto the serious stuff. My group has experienced a project change. The confusion started during the week before. Our nano-platinum fabrics weren't working the way they were supposed to so we could not continue with the experiment (Science, amirite?). Now, we're going to try a similar study on graphene sensors instead. Of course, that

wouldn't have been a problem had we not been working on the Intro and method sections.

Kinect, all I have to say is...

Thankfully, our lab meeting on Friday cleared up a lot of our questions. We changed some of our methods based on the new information, but we need to conduct a literature search to revamp our introduction. Our mentor said that we only need to trash the platinum paragraph, so we will continue working on that next(this) week.

Congratulations to my team for getting through this tough week—and in style! We worked thorough our research project issues at the same time as creating our Journal club presentation. It really meant a lot to me that you guys appreciated our presentation. I hope that all of yours go well, too.

workworkworkwork

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

Yesterday we attended a statistics lecture. I recognized most of the statistics we went over from my required research design courses. However, I have a suspicion that there is still a lot information that I have yet to learn. I have seen glimpses of very complicated analyses in articles and during conference presentations. However, I don't usually understand how they work. I know that in graduate school, we will delve into more advanced statistics, but I wonder whether we can really learn about it all. It seems that we would only have a lot of practice with whatever analyses our mentor typically used. Then we wouldn't know how to thoroughly understand other studies with advances approaches. After all, you would not know the limitations. Maybe I'll just wait until I cross that bridge...

After work, my team met to continue working on our introduction. We already had an outline, but we veered away from it slightly as we went about writing. I am glad that we finished it, but I think that we will need to flesh out some more points before we submit the final version.

After the intro, I met with Maya to work on our HCI assignment. I was glad for the writing break. Maya wrote the blog post while I drew the pictures. We both discussed the details of our product. Apparently our result was something resembling Rosie from The Jetsons. Now we're facing a hypothetical lawsuit. All we wanted was to help increase the laziness of the sedentary men and women of the world. Is that so wrong?

Today I came into the VRAC early (like 7:30am early). I wanted to continue reading the craft of research articles. I would usually do early work in the comfort of my own room, but my options were slim without the convenience of a working laptop. I finished the articles, but I didn't get to some other things I had planned to tackle. Thankfully, we didn't have anything on the schedule until 11.

Ethical Etiquette

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



Note the swagger.



Like a kid in a toystore

This morning, Eliot talked to us about ethics and morals in the workplace and in life, in general. Honestly, I felt surprised by Eliot's talk. Or maybe I felt a little out of my element. It felt like I had been going through life relatively peacefully and then Eliot came along to ruin it by making me face the adult world. Obviously, there's nothing wrong with that. I am 21, after all, so I am technically already an adult. However, I still don't feel like an adult in terms of the types of decisions and responsibilities I face.

The talk today guided me to a window of tough decisions—most of which I did not want to make. Sure, I could easily handle talking to a boss, but I felt vastly unequipped to weigh life and death. I did not want to kill even a few people because I knew that it would weigh on my conscience. Maybe that's selfish of me. Really, I would rather have someone else decide. Let them make the hard decision because I didn't feel up to the task. I felt a little nauseous. I probably let it affect me too much. The strange thing is that I'm usually gung-ho about abstract ethical discussions. I suppose this felt more real because it was related to work.

On a completely different note, the etiquette lunch was delicious. We all learned a lot (except for David who learned nothing :P)



So many right choices...

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

So, just choose one!

That was basically the gist of Dr. Hayes luncheon lecture. Who knew that one of our guests would side with Shia Lebeouf. I think that we really needed to hear this message. We all have a lot of great opportunities in front of us and we all also like to drive ourselves crazy wondering which way we should choose. At least, I know that is true for me.

I think that many of our guests have pointed us in this same direction. Most of them are evidence that continuously choosing the next interesting opportunity can lead to a good career. You can just go with the flow.

However, you still need to work hard in order to gain the opportunities in the first place. Our talk today made me realize that I am falling behind in my preparations for grad school. I am a rising senior, but I still cannot explain what specific field in HCI I would like to pursue. Nor I have I looked deeply into grad programs or completely the GRE. Procrastination is a very easy way to eliminate your choices. I need to get moving.

On a completely different note, I liked Maya more today than yesterday. I received better results using primitives because we already started to adjust to that concept in SolidWorks. I may even like Maya better...(sorry SolidWorks!). In Maya, you can directly adjust



The new glue gun

shapes after you make them. You don't have to take multiple steps to subtract other shapes from the main shape. My dog is starting to come together. I can't wait to see the final product.

The view from down river

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

Something interesting always happens over the weekend. We had 'punchy' punch at our lovely family dinner to go with our Uno and Catan battles. We participated in more fun singing and general tomfoolery around the card table. Hopefully, our neighbors are hard of hearing ;]

However, that's not what you really came here to read. Nope, you wanted the juicy stuff. You want the adventures of river tubing (I'm looking at you, Anna). Well, here goes...

I promise not to dramatize the situation: I didn't think I would die. I reassured myself of that early on. Sure, I felt scared when I started floating farther and farther away from everyone else, but I wasn't hopeless.

How had I gotten myself into that situation? This event reminds me of something I learned in my human factors class: catastrophes are not result of one issue, but of many all perfectly lined up.

These are few of mine:

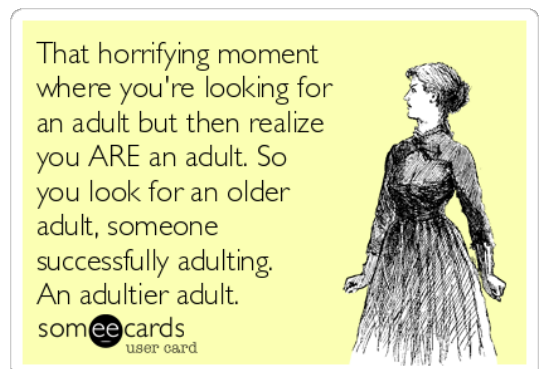
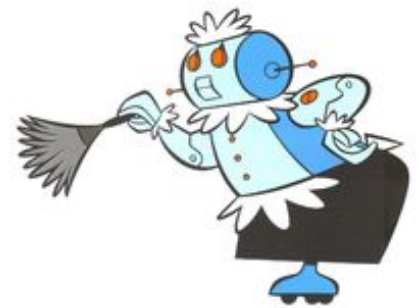
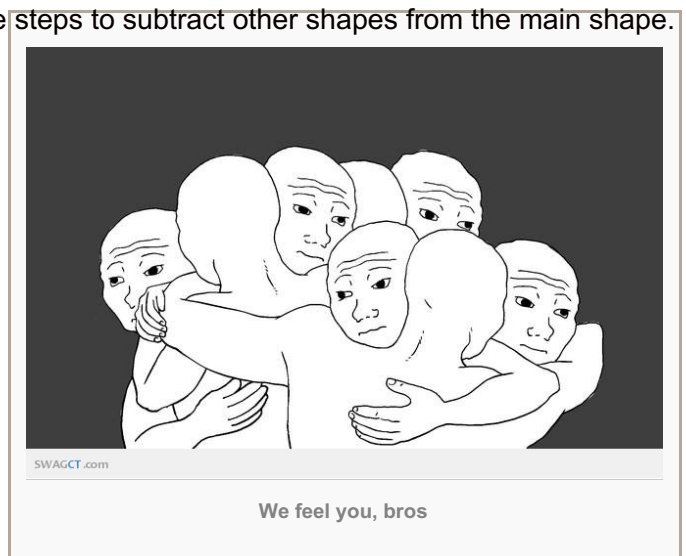
1. I had problems gauging distance throughout our excursion
2. I didn't remember what sign the last bridge would have.
3. I never saw the sign.
4. I thought staying in the water a bit longer would equal less waiting time on the dock
5. I thought I was on Mak's level. I was sadly mistaken. I actually felt like I drifted downstream faster when I tried to swim against the current like she did.

Silly me. I had been too confident. Assumptions got the better of me. I remember reassuring Jordan that "we would make it to the dock—And that the workers would definitely have a backup plan if we missed it a little." I was partially right. Their backup plan was to have no backup plan. After all, 'it happens all the time.' (Yes, I'm salty.)

Anyway, thank God for kind drunk people (and Anna and David).

Perhaps, I could have been my own hero had I been there for a long time by myself, but I really don't know. It's hard to think when you're out of your element. Water is not my forte.

Nevertheless, watertubing had been a lovely experience. I would do it again—just without all the drama.



One hit wonders

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

You just had the pleasure of watching a new band be born. Props to our lead singer/song writer, Jordan. Also thanks to Mom, who forced us to keep singing. (You just wouldn't let it go, Maya. Lol.) I hope you enjoyed it Desmond, because the band won't be getting back together.

I must say I enjoyed working with my team yesterday evening. We participated in much hoopla and tomfoolery. However, it took us a while to finally finish the assignment. It's hard to focus once you've caught the laughing bug. Let's just chalk it up to a hang out session.

It's amazing that our hangout/work session bared some fruit. I learned that we should look deeper into the authors' background, but I think we did well over all. My team even won a few more points. Hey, you know what they say...

But wait! There's even more good news. My team finished Pacman early—mostly thanks to Gabe. Thanks Gabe! I'm glad that I was able to finish my part as well. Dots can't draw themselves, you know.

However, I must say that looking at our code makes me cringe. Much lines. So copy-paste. Wow. I think I need to try a individual project and learn how to push out code of a higher quality in short time periods.

InterfaceHCI–Ogue

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

I have chosen two interfaces:

My first refers to my phone. I am the perfect candidate to talk about initial experiences with smartphones because I can still remember them. Let's start simple. Here is one thing that seems everyone else now takes for granted:

1) The power button. (Yes, I admit; I didn't know how to turn on my phone when I first bought it.)

Generic image:

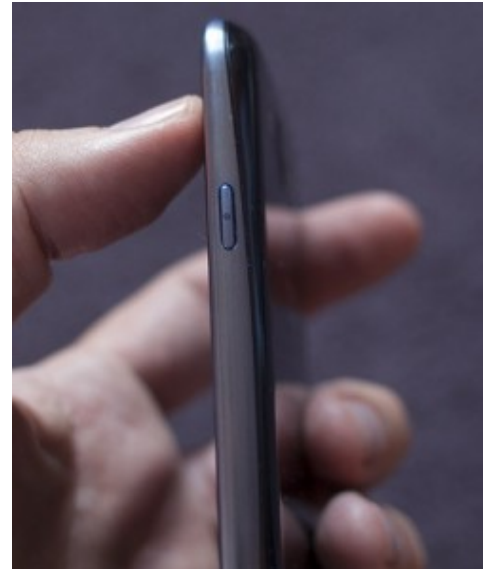


How long did it take to save *her*?



Look at that save! jk jk (We're still last)

- **Task:** Toggle the phone from the 'off' state to the 'on' state
- **Context:** User starts phone for the first time or wants to use one of the apps (time, phone call, etc)
- **what working/not working:**
 - Multiple buttons on the phone, but no labels
 - It's interesting because the smart phone has followed Dr. Don Normans advice in some regards, in that most people now intuitively know the button functions. However, this only occurs for people that are familiar with the interface. Perhaps, the phone designers consider the little fumbling in the beginning unimportant?
- **what could make it better?:** Something could draw attention to the button (i.e. bigger button, little vibration when you touch it))



2) Our cabinets

- **Task:** Open cabinet
- **Context:** Hungry. Want food item within cabinet
- **what working/not working:** Identical sides. It has no affordance that lets the user know which side opens. User must try multiple sides, thus increasing physical work and memory work in the future. It is also hard to have a strong grip
- **what could make it better?:** Place a handle or hand impression on the side of the cabinet that needs to be opened



BioPleather!

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

We just finished our last real computer graphics lesson. Tomorrow we will (thankfully) have more time to work on our final project. It has been somewhat difficult trying to split our attention evenly between the project and the additional assignments we get every day. Don't get me wrong—I like that we are learning new things and I understand that practice helps you learn. I just wish that our workshops lasted more more than a week. Then I could gain more skill in the task and spread out our assignments more reasonably. Mak and I have not worked much on Pacman yet, but we hope to make up for that tomorrow.

We also completed yet another Luncheon Lecture. I found myself really interested in Dr. Lee's work simply because I had never heard of anything like it before. I honestly did not know that consumer focused clothing design existed. Looks like the luncheon lectures are doing a good job at exposing me to different HCI fields.

I especially liked how she incorporated technology into her research such as with the 3D body scanner and nanomaterials (Research connection! I'm glad that this is part of my project. Otherwise I would not have understood what she did.). I also liked that she diversified her research while staying within the same field. Crowdsourcing, 3D printing, firefighter collab, and, of course, creating a brand new fabric. Meet BioPleather!

I personally think that Stage II had the best finish. The texture better emulates the real leather we know and hate (especially knowing they are skinned alive).

See Spot Work

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

Note: I should win the blog competition just for that picture. *Sigh* If only Nancy was the judge.

Anywhosies. Let me give you the low down on our research meeting yesterday. We went into the lab from 5:30 to 7:30. The time period was not bad. I ate a snack and felt good to go. While there, our grad mentors showed us how to perform some preliminary tests on our nano-platinum fabric. We wanted to test that the fabric produced an electrical current when we applied a voltage to it [I am purposely over-simplifying our process. You're welcome.] However, the fabric did not act like it should have. They said that they have been running into this problem, but (guess what!) they don't know what's wrong. We can still proceed with our experiment, but it would not be as accurate as we want it to be. It would include more guesswork. I think that this gives a taste of gradschool—that time when your experiment mysteriously does not work. Time to dive back into the articles for clues. Cue my inner Sherlock Holmes.

On the bright side, we might get to reschedule our lab meetings to the regular time, which would be wonderful. If so, I hope that we get to meet the highschool REU student that our grad mentors are also working with. I remember working in a bio lab during my senior year. Working with other students always makes it more enjoyable.

On to today. We decided to attack Pacman for our graphics assignment. We had a bit too much deliberation this morning about how to implement it. Sometimes, it's hard to get ideas across. Nonetheless, Gabe is hard at work. You can tell he likes to program more than anything else. (Hopefully that holds true through all the hard coding we need to do). This assignment reminds me a lot of the Pokemon game we just finished. For both, we need to figure out a lot of game logic. Pokemon took a while for us to finish, but I don't think we should dedicate that much time for this project. We still have a number of other assignments to complete. At this point, it seems that we're going to continue with Pacman. Hopefully, we will be able to spread our effort around more effectively this time.

Random!: I completed my HP task. However, I probably could have done it in my sleep. I just had to ask at least one question an hour, every hour until 2pm. I only struggled at the end. I wanted to finish up, so I randomly asked Alex about the music he was listening to (sorry for the awkwardness!).

Weekend End

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

Over the weekend, we were treated to more excitement—but now with an additional dose of team bonding. We did different activities at the long awaited for ropes course. I liked the experience. We had a lot of physical fun while also



practicing skills like listening to one another (Who wants to be ignored, am I right?). People had a lot of good ideas when it came to the spider web. However, I'm also glad that we took the time to plan ahead so that we could make the best decisions in the present. I think that really improved our performance. Overall, I felt glad that we all supported one another (and sang a lot).

Also, shout out to David's family for inviting us over for delicious food, puppy love, and kid-cuteness.

Exhibit A:

Exhibit B:

Today we started Open GL. I liked that Vijay started us off with example projects. It showed us what we could reach for. Like C++, it definitely looks like we can do a lot with just the basics. Hopefully, my team can get our creativity flowing enough to think of a fun idea.

As for our research project, we are going into the lab today to start our experiment. We will start staying later than the others. Today, we will work in the lab from 5-7pm. However, I think I am better prepared to start now. I reread some articles and I better understand the basic processes used to make the nano Pt and silver deposits. That gives me a more stable foundation for everything else we will learn this summer.

Oh. Before I forget, Gabe has a message to share:

Getting linked in

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

We spent this morning in a resume workshop and Journal Club. It was a bit taxing to be in the same closed off room all morning, but I slept enough last night to remain bright-eyed and bushy tailed throughout. I had learn a lot of the resume tips at previous workshops. I have worked on my resume a lot. However, like Roger Bentley mentioned, there are few definite rules for resumes, so you can gain different opinions and tips from different people. I liked that we also talked about Linkedin. I am a recent Link-y (you like?), so I am still unsure about what to put on my page. I even delayed adding connections because of that reason. The meeting today helped me realize that I can format my page as I like. Ah, freedom. I feel better now that I can be creative and 'design' an experience for my viewers. Pictures, posters, projects. It actually sounds like fun.

Last night Sarah also told me about the new Decision Board feature on Linked in. I hope to use that to start my graduate search. It seems very useful because it can provide real data about what jobs certain graduates are able to receive. I have a lot to do this summer in terms of grad school preparation. However, I need to squeeze it in between the work I'm already doing here. Maybe Linkedin is just the catalyst I need.



Nanohearts

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

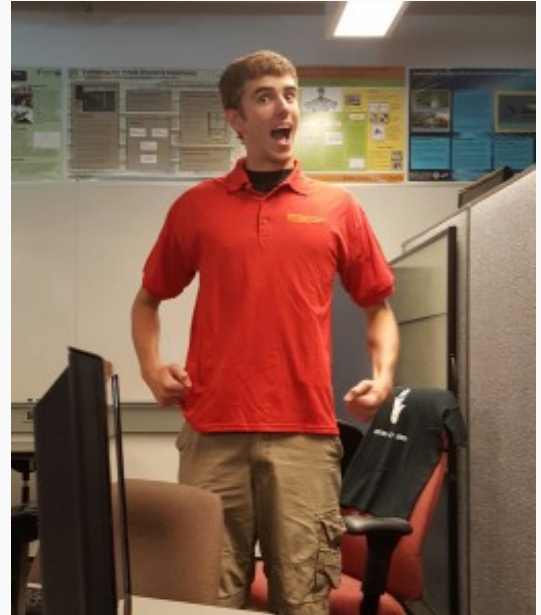
First, here are some pictures in case anyone is interested in nano-Platinum covered fabric. We held a team meeting yesterday to discuss the articles we read and any questions we had. We should be starting our experiment next week.

Yesterday Mak and I also learned how to make wire jewelry. The rest of you missed out! We walked away with some really cool lowan/Slovakian souvenirs. They looked very complicated in the beginning, but required a relatively simple process.

My group finished modeling our earpods today, but I could hardly pay attention (but my attention was split between) because I was trying to work on the problem statement simultaneously. I felt anxious because I thought we needed to rewrite the entire thing and time was running out. They later decided that our previous paragraph would do fine. That definitely lessened my rush, but I'm glad that I started what I did in case we still need to rewrite it.

(6/10) The Modeling-Stargazing-Researching-Intern-Student

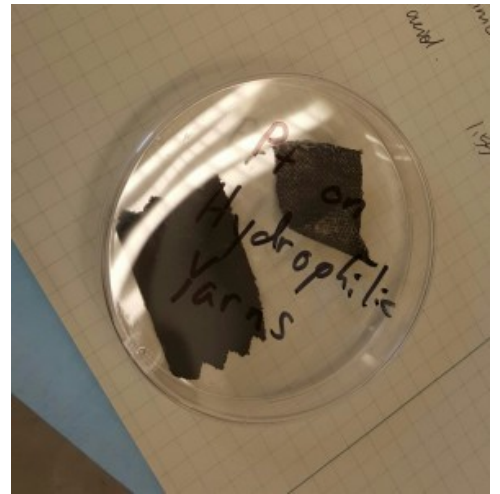
Posted on [June 10, 2015](#) by [oaddeh](#)



He loves the polo ;]



testing resistance





Yesterday afternoon most teams had their scheduled team meetings. Ours was pushed back until today, so my team continued reading articles and worked on our modeling projects. I worked on a tutorial and then—lo and behold—I finally figured out how to create the steering wheel. Excyting, I know.

Back to what we're really here for: Research. I'm glad that Suprem is one of our graduate mentors. Although he gave us more terms to research, I know that he just wants to push us. Searching for information by ourselves may be the best way to learn. That is, as long as they clarify our understanding, as I'm sure they will later today. It can be hard for me to understand the terminology sometimes since I don't usually work with Biology, Chemistry, or Engineering/Electronics. I may take computer science courses, but we don't talk about electrodes and potentials. However, I am understanding more and more by reading the articles. Wikipedia also helped out a little :]

In the evening, we had an awesome planetarium and stargazing adventure with Travis, the hilarious. It was interesting to learn that the stars had stories and even more amazing to know that different cultures have their own stories as well. The graduate students there seemed very engaged and excited about their field and in sharing that joy with others. They definitely enhanced our experience—especially when they argued about technical details. Someone, pass the popcorn :]

(6/9)

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

To the pool! I never expected that we would go to Furman's aquatic park so soon. It was just as fun as I expected.

At work on Monday afternoon, we continued to research and read articles in order to learn more about our projects. It was quiet in the intern area, but I plugged in some music and finally got into the research zone. I found some more good, comprehensive articles about electrochemical sensors. I have been having trouble focusing recently, so I am glad that I was finally able to do solid work for a few hours.



I was also happy that everyone finished their games! We could still do a little tweaking on our PokeBattle, but I'm proud of how it turned out and of how hard my team worked on it. As for the other teams, I'm amazed that they chose to take on GUIs.

Obligatory Pictures:

Busy Weekend

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

I assumed that we had C++ programming this morning. I was excited to learn that we would get our hands into 3D modeling instead! Constructing an object from nothingness without drawing skills? Sign me up!

I first learned about CAD during hands-on Engineering expo at my school. I was not able to keep up there, so I am glad that we walked through a self-paced tutorial today.

We also experienced a great weekend. We drove to SkyBox where I showed off my skills of flailing around in a soft pit. The soreness after trampoline-ing always catches me by surprise, but like that I can then acknowledge muscles that I have ignored all of my life (Hello there, shoulder blades!). At least I'm alive to feel the pain after evading assassination on Saturday.

However, I can't forget our last excursion: yesterday's picnic. David rounded me into (badly) playing soccer with some people from a Math REU. I never play sports, so I had a bit of trouble learning. I felt like I got a little handle on the sport as we went on. I guess it's all about practice.

One more picnic success: a new friend for the SPIRE-EIT. Hopefully, we go to the pool soon.

Programming success: Now ready for a Pokemon Battle!

Lights

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

Light paint has a secret power: the power to make anyone have fun. Make no mistake—that is not an easy task when dealing with quasi-adults who have been forced to delay dinner. I remember that we were griping about the 2-hour length and planning to leave early. Our reluctance shot out the door once we started and realized just how awesome the activity was. The creativity aspect definitely engaged us. In 2 hours, we found ways to light paint that (maybe) no one has thought of before.

Other than light painting, my team is working hard towards finishing our Pokemon game. It's fun and it requires a lot of mental organization. It's a fun challenge.



Is it a plane? Is it a star? No, it's Venus!



Planetarium view



Guess who



Looking official :]

How to not suck

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

We received another dose today from Dr. Oliver about the need for persistence, above standard work, and general non-suckiness. I am honest enough to admit that I still have room for improvement in those areas. I am not yet my best self. I feel the need to be better than myself—or maybe just my best self? It's time for Ogue 2.0 to arise. Well, really, to 'push through' (It's going to take work, after all). Fortunately, this summer away from home seems like a perfect opportunity to refine myself. I've been freed from the pressure of grades, but I am still laden with assignments that give me achievement goals. I can also use them to pinpoint my progress along the way.

What is the first step? I always have big goals and (really) lengthy to-do lists. This time I'll try to start with one really small step and go from there. The real key will be to recognize my patterns and determining how to break them or redirect them.

IDE Frustrations—but I'm still a fun guy :)

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

Visual Studio! I don't. Understand. Your obtuse. Messages. Why are you always yellow? Lets be adults and use our words.

(Update) Apparently, you just feel unsure of yourself until someone saves you. Afraid of vanishing through wayward deletions? Unstable existence. Existential worries. I understand. Don't you feel better now that we've had this heart to heart?

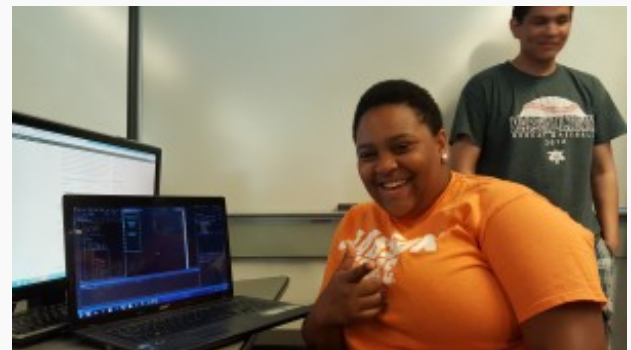
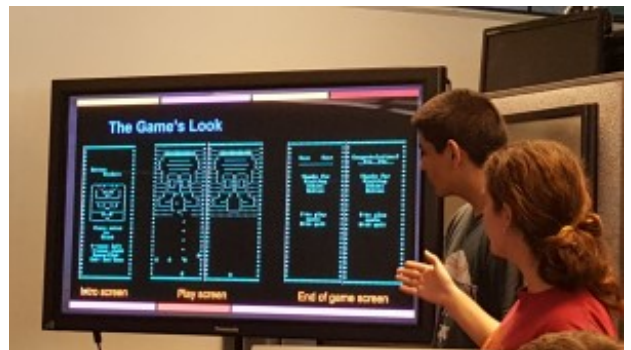
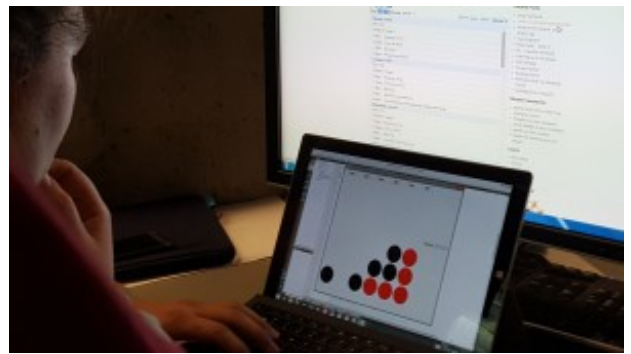
On another note, my team toured our lab yesterday. We got to see nanoprinter, which looks very new in its sparkling chrome. Apparently, using the printer requires a lot more finesse then the commercial ones we use. There is a lot more variables to manage rather than just a button to push. it seems that we *may get the chance to try it out or even design something to print. Be on the lookout for that.

Also, bravo to everyone for finally deciding on a t-shirt design. I'll just show you a teaser here. You'll have to wait for the final design

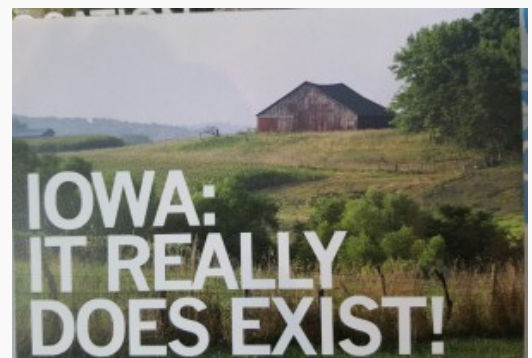
Lastly, some teams' games already seem to be shaping up. I can't wait to see(and play) the final versions.

Today's edition of dark jokes

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



Winner winner, chicken dinner



If I learn one thing this summer...

We just emerged from an hour of fast speaking, engineering stories, and dark jokes. It was engaging, to say the least.

Listening to Dr. Stone speak was a show unto itself. He was energized, quick, and he really packed in a lot of information. Come meet the academic Energizer Bunny. I was in awe of his presentation skills by the end of his beginning spiel. It was so put together, that I wanted to ask how many times he practiced the lecture. I never got the chance. I finally determined that he possessed a natural gift—thus rendering my question useless. He handled random questions to the same caliber (unless they involved *The Price is Right*). —Ok ok. I've obsessed over his speaking skills enough. I don't want to overshadow the interesting projects that he also explained to us.

Aside from the lecture, I am looking forward to working out our Pokemon project. I need to brainstorm with Mak about how we can achieve the battle sequence. We are also going to tour Dr. Claussen's lab after this. Week two and we are slowly getting down to the research nitty gritty.

Another day, another tour

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

On to another blog post. We programmed today. I know that some people were dreading the experience, but I looked forward to it. I had hoped to experience an intensive programming over the summer. The classes were one thing that drew me to the program.

Today we went over some C++ basics. The short class period surprised me. However, I think that it will be interesting for me to continue learning different programming languages. I am not sure how well I will balance languages in my head. Java already pushed out my Python knowledge for the most part. I also need to learn C for my next semester classes. Unfortunately, I think that learning C++ now may make C more difficult for me since I had wanted to get head start on C. Oh well. I'll try to start on some external project and see how it works out.

And, of course, I have my mandatory pictures of the day.

By the way, we took another tour today through the Mirage. It has been interesting for me to learn about the different collaborations that are possible here.

More excytement. Working on effort.

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

Exercise is the best way to have fun because you can feel good about yourself later. I'm glad that the others are also privy to this truth. They had the idea to go rock climbing today. I would like to highlight some overachievers here. Brava to Maya for overcoming her ill-found decision to just watch. I'm glad you got on the wall! Double bravos to Mak, climber extraordinaire, who was brave enough to take on the cave.



Zombie-Allie killing/not-killing Maya



A friendly meeting



Kudos to Jordan for going farther than she ever did before and, in fact, going up 3 or 4 times. I am not yet on that level. I was lucky that my body recovered enough to go twice. Lastly, hurrah to Gabe for whom everything was easy :P. I only wish that I could have taken pictures while I climbed. If so, your eyes would now be enjoying a glimpse of the purple fields in Iowa heaven. Alas...

There were also some H₂O adventures. However, I relegated myself to the ripe position of pool creeper. Note my lovely results below.

Later, I buckled down to homework, but I have been getting tired much too quickly (as my roommates would happily attest to). I need to structure my days here better, so that I complete work early in the morning during my prime time. I need to put in the effort.

Late to the Party (c6 pictures)

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

(I forgot to post this one from Friday, so here it is. Watch out for a Sunday edition later today.)

It will be interesting working in teams this summer. The teams that I have worked on so far only influenced our own grades. Our teachers had no personal stake in our outcomes. This summer, however, our professors are relying on us. They need us to work well as a team.

As everyone knows, teamwork can be difficult and varies based on the people involved. The computer building and ARG activities made me reflect on my role in previous group projects. First, know that I have never really been attracted to leadership roles. For example, I never thought to imagine myself in the highschool SGA. It did not apply to me. That is my background. Since then, I have had to take more controlling roles in school projects, so I am not a complete stranger to leadership. I usually try to propose ideas, organize, and then let everyone do their own thing.

However, I can also easily fall under line to teammates who seem to be taking charge and seem sure of themselves like with I did with the spaghetti challenge. It was very fast paced and that caused me to forget my own fleeting idea to start with a wide base. Meh...I thrive better with relaxed brainstorming. So, instead of suggesting ideas, I helped organize the team around a different plan. That was completely fine with me. It's just interesting to note how I behaved.

There was also one part in the the computer building activity that I found interesting. While we were choosing between all of the each teams' specs, I started writing notes on our conversation about each (I'm a notetaker. What can I say?). What was interesting about this was that the group actually benefited from my notes in the end when we had to vote without the papers in front of us. I just find it



I lovee this one, Gabe!



Nano printouts



Glovebox. Not just for cars.

interesting that groups may sometimes need things, but never think of that need beforehand (me included). It is something to think about.

We also visited the C6 on Friday. I found it amazing that you could do so many different things with virtual and augmented reality. They achieved conceptual design work, data visualization, educational video games, and dance performances all through the same technology. It just goes to show how diversity can fuel innovation. Different focuses or interests lead to different results. Really, who other than a dancer would think to do a dance performance, huh? We should all draw on our unique interests as we work in technology.



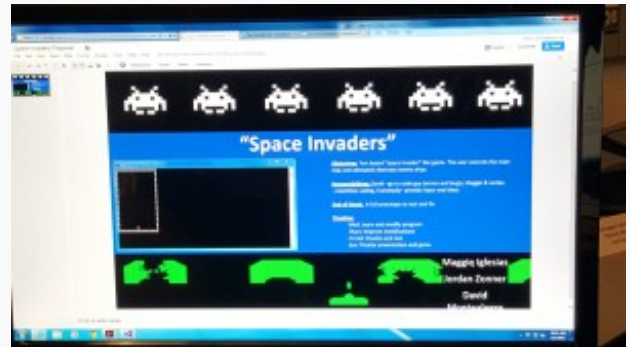
Nanoprinter

Saturday Trip

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

Our first Saturday trip. Cute creatures all around. Puppies, cats, hamsters, ferrets, and bro tanks. We went from random location to random location and enjoyed all the sweet baked goods and laughter in-between. It was really cool that we, as a group, could find things to laugh about regardless of where we went. Hopefully, that same energy will leak into our team projects as well. I think that we could work well together this summer.

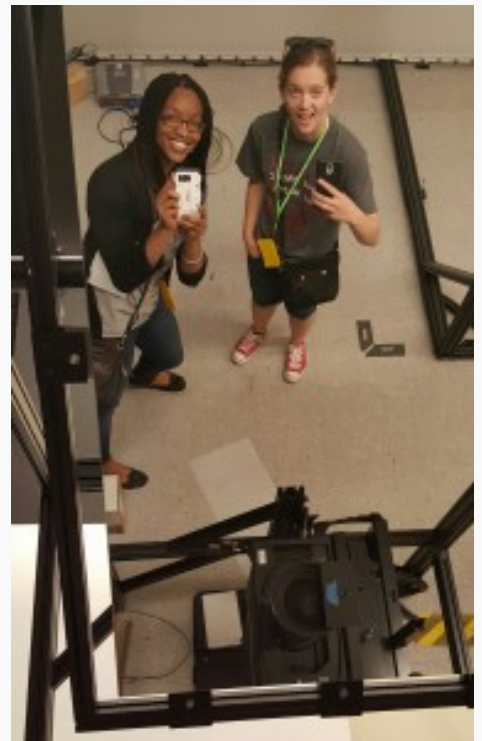
I can't wait for more Saturdays (plus some extra events... Chopped Kitchen anyone? Get exCYted.)



some nice powerpoints too ;]



Nancy and the dog attack



Mirage tour, selfie



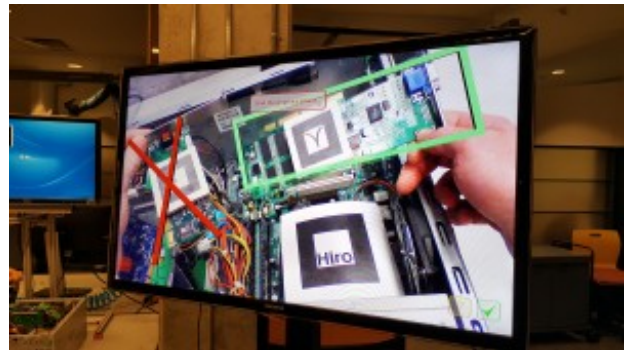
This sideways picture apologizes for its ineptitude.

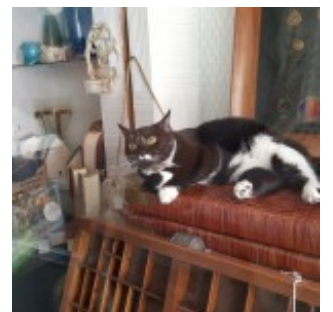


Alex finally got his hottub



Gabe is ballin'







And, for prosperity sake, the girls won Battle of the Sexes ☺

Flight VS Invisibility. Any Bets?

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

With that picture, I have fulfilled all my promises for the day. Now onto my (slightly related) blog topic: super powers. First, imagine that we are in a dim, decrepit underground factory. We have the choice to accidentally fall into a barrel of invisibility paint or to slip on nuclear waste and realize that we're flying.

Hard choice right? Well, not for me. Choosing between these slim pickings, I would overwhelmingly lean towards flight. After all, I only had one choice left after repelling from invisibility like the north pole from the south. I feel like you cannot progress or make connections if you cannot be seen. Why would I have spent my entire life forming relationships just to disappear? It is hard to contribute well to teams or to friends if they forget that you are there. How can they rely on you?

I know that sneaky, curious people enjoy invisibility because it enables them to sit in on conversations and visit closed off locations, but I don't care about that. They can have fun accidentally getting hurt by others and propagating ghost stories, but I'm going to be soaring towards new heights and perspectives.

I like to see objects from different angles because the changes sometimes blows my mind. I'm going to risk sounding dumb:...it is super awesome that this world is 3D! Sometimes on my home campus, I may even pause on my way to class and just walk back and forth to see how a tree would



‘change.’

Hey, don't look at me like that, ok. I blame an art class I once took. Anyway, the point is that I would see even more perspectives by flying. Flight really would have come in handy when taking the opening picture for this entry.

