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Leilanie Morales Rivera



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Short Post

August 1, 2018
 lmorales

I've been working today in my past web development projects and my resume. I don't plan on doing anything else besides that.



REU|2018
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The benefit of doing grad school

July 31, 2018
 lmorales

A long time ago, when I started my bachelor's degree I never imagined applying to graduate school. Now that I'm in my 5th year of bachelor's degree I'm thinking of going to grad school. Certainly, this research experience at Iowa State has made me view grad school from a different perspective. There are many benefits of it and I think that it will be a good opportunity to go for it. I still don't know where, probably in PR, I don't discard the option of doing grad school at Iowa State, but I certainly know that it probably be related to Information Technology and Development of Virtual Business, Management in Information Security or Web Development or something Virtual Reality related.

That's all I have for today, here is a quote I found interesting.



The most awaited end

 July 30, 2018  Imorales

Recap of my last weekend in Iowa:

F: I went back to the apt after work and ate with some of the interns and then went to play pool at the Memorial Union.

Sat: I went to Val's to return my bike, funny story, I fell of my bike on my way there. After that I went to donate some things we weren't using. After that two of the interns and I went to play pool but it was closed so we decided to get food and head back to the apartment and watch a movie (Mary and the Witch's Flower (my first anime movie)) For a reference about how I fell look at the gif ->



Sun: I woke up early because I couldn't sleep, did some laundry, did some packing and went to VRAC to finish the poster.

This is my last week in Iowa and I don't know how to feel. I'm really excited to go back home but I don't want to start school yet and I'm starting next week. Also I'm nervous because of the Symposium, I hope to do good.

Today I haven't been doing much since we already have the model working, poorly but working and we are no longer submitting our paper so we don't know what else to add to the draft we have. I just hope this week goes by quickly. Even though I want to leave Iowa it was nice living here for two months and there were some fun stuff to do. I had fun. Until the next one!



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8 days left

 July 27, 2018  Imorales

Today's Friday which means we are one week and 1 day away from going back home. I think this week has been hard since it's almost over and we had to get a lot of stuff done before next week. At this point I just want to go back, I want to rest and see my friends, family and Puerto Rico. I want some puertorrican food too, it's been a while since I had it and I think I deserve some really good homemade food. That's all, week 10 I look forward to get over you.

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The usual...

 July 26, 2018  Imorales

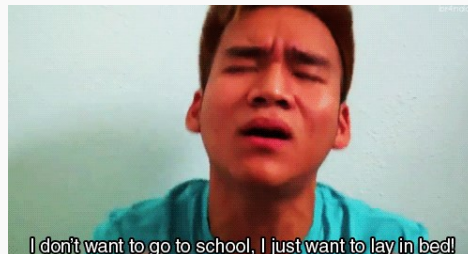
Nothing interesting to say today, I've been working on the paper most of the day. Most of the time I feel like I don't do much maybe because the internship is almost over. Looking forward to get some rest!!

 REUJ2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Moving back...

 July 25, 2018  Imorales

It's almost the end of week 9, here we are. My team and I have been working with the poster and it's almost done which is good. The model and the paper are coming along so I think by the end of this week we will have it all. Being already in week 9 makes me feel happy but concerned. When I came to Iowa I brought a lot of stuff on my luggage and while being here I've bought stuff too. I don't know how I'm going to move back home with all that stuff, I just hope I can find a way.



Also, I am leaving Iowa next week which means I'm starting school 5 days after I get back home. I think from my 4 years in the university I never had that many things, school related, as I'm going to have now.

Once I start school I'll start doing research in mobile development, I'm going to continue working as a web developer in my school and I'll be taking 4 courses (PCs Maintenance, Cloud Computing, Statistics and Geography). I just hope I can get through the semester in one piece.



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Posters and more posters

Today, as usual, we had our Craft of Research course in the morning in which we had to present our poster. Kind of disappointed because we had only the abstract and the background on the poster we presented and it wasn't that bad. We answered the questions the other interns asked and they gave some good suggestions on our posters. After the course, from 10am-11am I worked on the poster and I think that is looking better now. I hope we can finish it before Thursday and our mentors like it.

See you next time,

Leilanie

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It's almost over....

📅 July 23, 2018 🧑 Imorales

I think that from all the weekends I've spent here, this weekend was the best one. On Saturday a large group of interns and I went to Jordan Creek Mall in Des Moines. We left at 10am and arrived there by 11am. We went to different stores, each one of us went separate ways. I personally wasn't planning on buying anything but it was inevitable not buying anything so I did. After shopping we decided to grab some lunch in the food court and I chose the Zombie Burger place. I found the place was good but quite expensive. Even though it was expensive I really enjoyed the burger I chose (picture below).



For this week, week 9 already, I plan to finish working with the poster and the paper with my teammates help. Our model is slowly getting there so I feel less tense by knowing that. Also, this is our last week of work since next week is presentation week and our flight home which I'm excited about.

That's all for today, stay tune for more

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🌶️ Chili Cheese Hot Dog 🍔

📅 July 20, 2018 🧑 Imorales

I know, I posted today already. I just wanted to tell you my story. As usual, I asked my fellow REU's, the ones I always go to get lunch with, and Ahmed and I ended up eating at Freddy's while the others ate at Arcadia Cafe. I ordered the Chili Cheese Hot Dog for the first time. The place was crowded so we had to wait a little for the food to be ready. Once we got our food we headed to Arcadia Cafe to meet the others. I decided to open my lunch when I noticed that it wasn't what I ordered. I went back to Freddy's and told them what happened so they prepare my hot dog and let me keep the food they gave me by mistake. All in all, I got lunch and dinner for the price of one.

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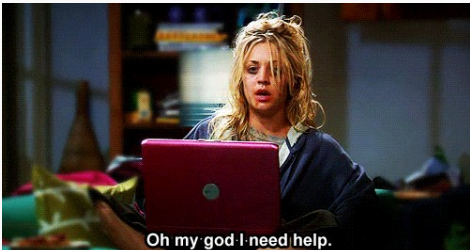
Final Countdown.....🕒

📅 July 20, 2018 🧑 Imorales

Yesterday, as usual, we had our TIMELI Weekly Meeting. We discussed our progress with the paper, the dataset and the model. We got to the conclusion that we need to work together on the development of the model and we only have 1 week left before turning in the paper and the poster which means less time.



Besides that, I worked with the lit review yesterday but I haven't finished. Also, I have to fix the introduction of the paper to add more information. At this point I feel useless, writing is getting hard and the tension is getting worse. We are running out of time!



Oh my god I need help.

For the rest of the day I will try to get the written part done and try to help my teammates create the model. As usual, for the weekend I have plans. Tomorrow some of the REU's and I are going to Des Moines to Jordan Creek Mall. After that I expect to do some laundry and watch some Netflix. On Sunday I guess I'll rest and finish working with the paper if I don't finish today.

That's all for this week, see you soon,

Leilanie

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Just go with it

 [July 19, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Yesterday I did some reading to start my lit review but I wasn't successful. After leaving work I said that I was going to write the lit review but I got a migraine and decided to go to sleep and leave it for today. I got to VRAC early like, 8:30 something and I just started writing and I was able to get a good amount of writing done.



After working with the paper I realized that I had to finish writing my school paper about the project I've been working on during the summer which is due as soon as I go back home. The good thing is I think I'm almost done with it. So I'll just go with it and finish it before next week.



In the afternoon, I'll keep working with the paper and hopefully we will be able to turn it in. We were supposed to turn it in today at 2:10pm but we had some trouble writing and working with it which delayed us.



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Lights, Paper, Action

 [July 18, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Yesterday, as I mentioned in my last post, wasn't a good day. Tension started to get into me and I couldn't do that much which frustrates me. After work we went Light Painting with Paul which was fun and made me forget about my day for a while. Today I've been reading papers to write my part of the lit review and I also worked in perfecting the Intro, which the comments the grad student gave me were good and inspired me. For the rest of the day I'll continue reading papers and hopefully I'll get the lit review part done.

Until next time,

Leilanie

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Tension is knocking!

 [July 17, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Yesterday was a stressful day for me, however I didn't do that much. I did some reading for the lit review but haven't finish yet. Also I did some research on how to change the trained model I had to identify the classes I want to be identified but I didn't succeed. I showed the Introduction of the paper to my teammates and their feedback was half good half not so good. The not so good part is a bit annoying due to the way the person expresses it. Besides that, today I've asked one of the graduate students for help. I let the grad student take a look at it and make some comments. Thanks to those constructive comments I think the intro is looking better. I guess I'll be working with the lit review and the model for the rest of the day.

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Into research...

 [July 16, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Last weekend wasn't that exciting, as I established, on Saturday I stayed at the apartment and watch Netflix and do some laundry. On Sunday I woke up late and went to the market to get some stuff I needed and lunch. After that I

headed back to the apt and wrote the Introduction to our research paper. Today we start our 8 week of the program which only means we are 2 weeks away from our Research Symposium. Today I've been doing some reading to start working on the Image Classification Models part from the Lit Review of the paper. Also, I just came back for the "How to create a Research Poster?" workshop which made me realize that so far, the poster is looking good. We have the structure in which we want to divide the content and we have the color schemes, logos and our names and the mentors names. All in all, I feel we've made some progress and I think by Thursday we'll have our paper draft so Dr. Sharma can make some comments about it and we can fix it before turning it to the TRB Conference which submission date is August 1st.

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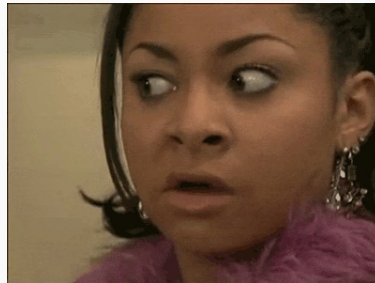
Ditches, Laughs and other Stories

 July 13, 2018  Imorales

Yesterday the TIMELI team had a weekly meeting as usual and for the first time I felt confident and stood up for myself and explained what I was working on and what I was planning to do. I also showed our poster to our grad students and mentor and they liked it, which makes me happy since I've been working hard on it. After the meeting I started reading a paper to start working on the paper because our paper draft is due next week. During the afternoon, after work, Ahmed, Teandre, Aidan, Victoria and I headed to the Bandshell Park Concert. We got there and Ahmed and Teandre went to grab some food. Like 30-45 min passed and we started to think they ditched us so we left without saying anything.



Since we thought they ditched us, we planned to ditch them but the plan backfired. First, we got in the wrong bus.



After getting in the wrong bus, we waited a couple of minutes for the right bus but when we got to the next stop where we should have changed buses the bus left and we had to wait like 20 min to get into the next bus back to Freddy. Almost getting to Freddy, the last bus almost leave us, again.



That's all, I just wanted to tell our funny backfired plan.


P.S Only 22 days left till we leave Iowa!!!!

 REUJ2018  [1 Reply](#)

Drafts and Models

 July 12, 2018  Imorales

Yesterday we went to the Etiquette Lunch with Stewart Burger and it was really nice, the lecture, the food, everything in general. After that we got really nice Iowa State t-shirts and then Paul took a lot of cute pictures, thanks Paul. Today I've just started working with TIMELI poster draft and I think is going good. I still can't access the GPU so I still can't start working with the training of the model with the dataset. For the rest of the day I plan to continue working on the poster and maybe do some lit review.

 REUJ2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Early daily post

 July 11, 2018  Imorales

Yesterday I tried to work with the VGG Model but since I am using a GPU and I couldn't access it I couldn't do anything. After work I went to watch Ant-Man and the Wasp which was really good and funny, recommended. Today I just got in and I tried to access the GPU again but still nothing. It's kind of frustrating because we are only three weeks away and we still have so much to do. I hope I can access the GPU sometime soon and I can get to work. For the rest of the day I think I'll do some reading for our lit review and later today we are going to an Etiquette Lunch and after that the program is gonna buy us t-shirts and take some pictures.

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Really getting there...

 July 10, 2018  Imorales

2



5 left for my flight back to Puerto Rico. Its impressive how time flies and how much we've done. Today we had a Craft of Research class and it was really good since we discussed how to create our research posters for the final symposium. I was choked when they said that we needed to have our poster for July 30th and that is three weeks away so we are actually getting there. I'm happy because I feel like I've learn different things that I know I couldn't learn back at my school. For the rest of the day I think I'll try to work with some of the data set we have so far and train my VGG Model to see how accurate it is.

For tonight we have an optional activity, which I'm not going to, but I'm going to watch Ant Man with some of my fellow REU's



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Storms and other stories...

 July 9, 2018  Imorales

Hi, we just started Week 7. We are 4 weeks away of our final presentation and the due date for our paper. This weekend I didn't do much, I just rest, watch netflix, do laundry and went to the grocery store. Today I finally test my VGG Model and it worked so I just have to wait for the data set to use it.



On other topics, there is a Tropical Storm occurring right now back in Puerto Rico, which I'm worried about. I just hope that it doesn't do that much damage since we just recover from a big Hurricane who left a lot of damage. I hope my family and friends are okay...

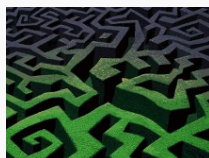
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Closer and Closer...

 July 6, 2018  Imorales

Today is July 6th, 2018. We just got back from 2 free days. After this two days I feel more tired. On Wednesday, we had a barbecue outside our apartment to celebrate the Fourth of July. After the barbecue some of my fellow REU's and I went to the Furman Aquatic Center. It was nice because the humidity here was horrible, I felt like a salamander, sticky. Yesterday, I woke up at 11am and hed out to VRAC to work with the last details of my MCA.

We finally have our VR Maze!



Today, I got here and meet with my MCA group to check on our project. After that I just worked on the VGG model which I created, finally, but I haven't try it since I have some doubts on how to try t. I feel better know that I got the VGG Model created, for next week I plan to try the model to see if it works with a simple image and see how accurate it is.





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Almost there yet not that close

July 3, 2018 Imorales

Today is Tuesday July 3th, 2018 and the weather is really good. There are some activities around today, i'm looking forward to one of them. Yesterday, as I said in my last post, I continued working with my MCA and got my maze done. Today we had the Craft of Research were our teacher was talking to us about the Results of our Projects. After that we had a double Luncheon Lecture due to we had two lecturers today, we got to know more about Pranamesh and Alec's research which was good. Soon after lunch I continued working with my MCA and forgot to post till now. I want to get the MCA done but I feel my teammates should be more involved to help and get their part of the project done.

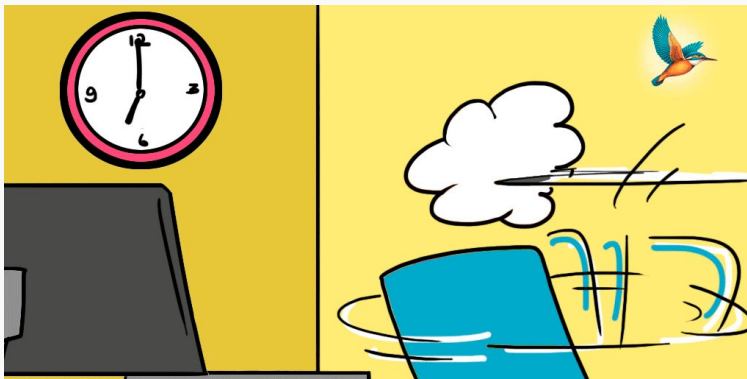
REUJ2018 [Leave a reply](#)

33 days and counting...

July 2, 2018 Imorales



Today's July 2nd, 2018 and we are 33 days away from returning back home. This days coming up are the hardest ones due to the amount of work we have. This week we have to days off, which is good, because of the celebration of The 4th of July. I've never being in the US for this time of the year before so is kind of exciting. Talking about our project, I haven't work with the VGG Model yet but I've being watching videos about it so I hope to later today or tomorrow start working with it. I also during the weekend worked with our Problem Area Paragraph adding some stuff to it. We also need to finish our MCA Project this week which my team and I haven't finish.



That's me when I see how many days left till I go back home and when I have days off from work.

REUJ2018 [Leave a reply](#)

Fridaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay!

June 29, 2018 Imorales

Another week goes by... After this week being working with my MCA I feel like I want to continue learning more about Unity. From the courses I've taken while being here is the best one for me, I think I said that a couple of post back. Now, talking about project related stuff, for next week I have to continue doing some research in VGG Model Image Classification so I can later work with the data set that one of my teammates is working on. For the rest of the day I plan to continue working with my MCA and once I leave work take the night off and maybe watch some netflix. During the weekend I think I'll go get some groceries, rest, do research and continue with Unity. I also feel like I have to do a lot of stuff due to we have 2 free days next week, exciting!!!



Talking about other stuff I've being looking forward to go on vacation which I think I can't because I only have like 5 days left, before starting school again, once I get back home. I just want to go somewhere and relax before the year ends.....



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More Unity...

June 28, 2018 Imorales

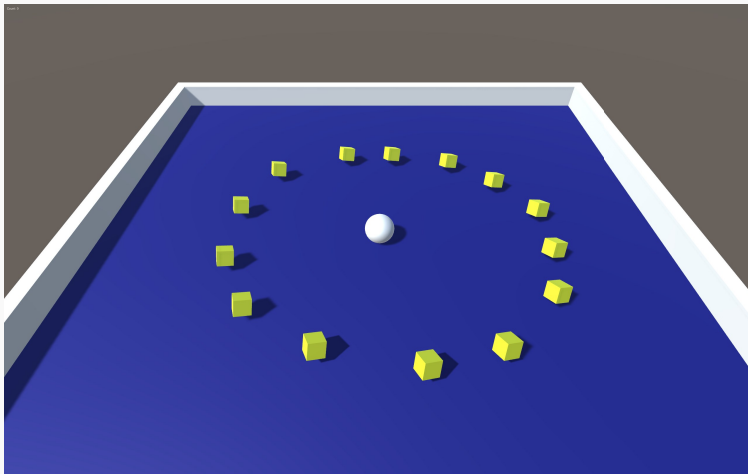
So I continued working with my Tanks game in Unity. I also tried to work a little with our first Project Paper Draft. Besides that I haven't done much. I'm really looking forward for the weekend to have some time to rest and play some games.

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Unity and Game Development

June 27, 2018 Imorales

Today's the middle of Week 5, kind of exciting. As my Deeper Dive I got Unity Immersive and we have been learning a little more about Unity. Since we started with Unity I fall in love with it. We worked with a project in iOS for VR and one for the Vive. Since I knew we were starting with our MCA's today, yesterday I worked with developing a game in Unity (image below). I am currently working with another game and I'm really looking forward to getting our hands into our MCA.



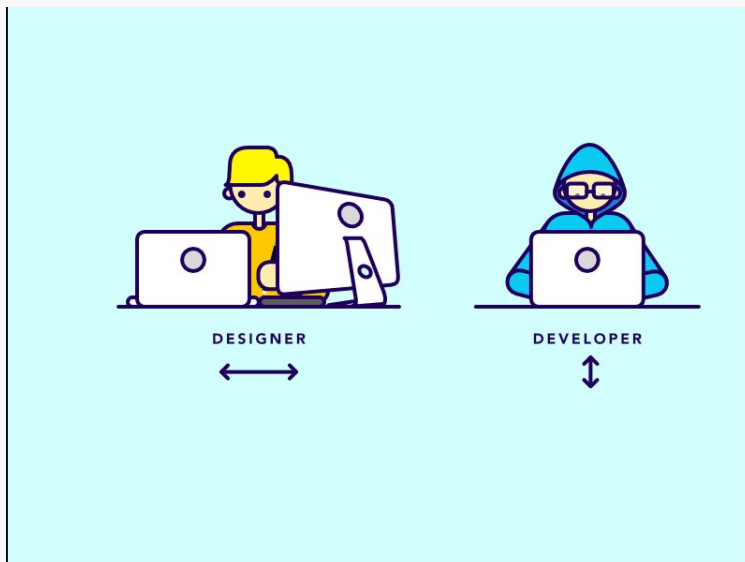
The goal of this game is to collect the cubes. While collecting each cube the game counts how many have you collected and tells you "You win!" when you collected all of them

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Almost there

June 26, 2018 Imorales

Week 5 just started and I think we have entered the hardest part of the internship. I feel like we have only 5 weeks in which we have a lot to do and don't know how to do it. For this week I am currently searching for Image Classification using vgg algorithms while my teammates are working on different things. I'm a little stressed since I feel we haven't accomplished that much and we need to do stuff. I hope by the end of the week we catch up with the work we had to do for last week and start looking into what our project really is and what we need to do. After today's luncheon lecture, which was good, I am thinking more about grad school but still feel like I want to take a break before I do it.



P.S Eliot I wasn't mad at you for making us wait a little longer to go grab lunch.

REUJ2018 [Leave a reply](#)

Back to work

 June 25, 2018  Imorales

This weekend I enjoyed it the most due to I had time to rest. On Saturday I went to the Farmer's Market, which wasn't that good, and after that I went back to Freddy to grab some food. Later that day some of my fellow REUs and I went to Reiman Garden which was kind of nice. Yesterday I just did some cleaning around the dorm and rest while watching Netflix. Later last night I started watch an ML video explanation. Today I started looking up to ways to convert our data videos into images using ffmpeg but haven't being successful.

 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Learning from my mistakes

 June 22, 2018  Imorales

Today, I've being working with the videos again due to I made an error and I had to start over. It kind of bothers me that some of the data doesn't match but I think I am getting the hang of this and I'm learning from my mistakes and others to.

 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Yesterdays late post

 June 22, 2018  Imorales



I forgot to post yesterday because I was in a meeting and after it I worked on the video data for our project. On Wednesday we finished Unity and got to choose our Deeper Dive, I got Unity Immersive. I'm excited with my deeper dive, I liked Unity the most of all the courses we have taken. Yesterday after work we went to Perfect Games, played bowling and laser tag, which was fun and then we got ate at Mc Donalds. When we got back home one of my fellow interns was waiting for me with a cake and I was really happy and surprise, you know who you are and thanks a lot.




P.S Thank you all for the birthday wishes and for going with me to Perfect Games, I had a lot of fun!!

Ahmed watch out for the cops ha ha ha



 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Wendyay!

 June 20, 2018  Imorales

Finally its wednesday, middle of week 4. This week I haven't being doing that much, I continued my Python tutorial, still haven't started the ML one. Also, on Monday I read about ffmpeg and I wanted to continue reading but I was to tired when I got back home. Today we worked with Unity during the morning and now I hope to start working with our dataset and ffmpeg.



 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Tuesday, June 19th 2018

 June 19, 2018  Imorales

As expected, yesterday I started reading about ffmpeg but I don't quite understand it yet. Also, I read a little more about HCI so im more familiar with everything we have being learning and working. For the next few days I will continue learning and reading about ffmpeg, hopefully I'll understand it and start working with our paper and the dataset for our algorithm.

Fun fact: We, me and the REUs, are going bowling on thursday since its my birthday and I wanted to do something fun.

 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Starting Week 4

 June 18, 2018  Imorales

The weekend passed by to fast but it didn't mean that I didn't had fun. Some of the other interns and I went to the movies on Friday, mall on Saturday and yesterday rest. After this awesome weekend we start a new week and with it new challenges. This week we are suppose to be reading papers, learning ffmpeg and creating a dataset of images from the videos. I haven't started learning ffmpeg so one of my tasks for this week is to learn it. Another task is to create the dataset with my teammate Ahmed. I know we can do it after we completely understand what we are doing and how to do it. Besides that, I hope to have a great Birthday Week, were I can have fun, accomplish my tasks and rest.

 REU/2018  [Leave a reply](#)

Accomplished Tasks

 June 15, 2018  Imorales

The end of Week 3, yay! That means we are going back home soon but as good as that sounds it means its getting

harder. This week the TIMELI team (Ahmed, Ilan and I) was assigned to train a deep learning algorithm to identify Cats and Dogs and we succeeded. We also turned in our Problem Area Paragraph which means that after we add some stuff missing we can get started with our paper which we have to turn in soon. I am glad we accomplished our task for this week and hope we can accomplish the tasks assigned for next week. As for today, we are going to take a night off and go see Incredibles 2 on Cinemark Theater.

That's all for this week folks, stay tuned for more.

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Teamwork and ML

 [June 14, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

This week my research team and I, Ahmed, Ilan and I, finally turned in our Problem Area Paragraph. We also got our deep learning algorithm trained to identify cats and dogs pictures. Interactions within our team were good but I still think it can be better due to sometimes someone decide to do something by themselves without letting the teammates know.

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Middle of Week 3

 [June 13, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Today my team and I went to the Traffic Management Center. It was really cool how they detect the accidents, constructions and stalled vehicles. After this visit to the TMC I have a much clearer idea of what our project goal and really learn how the actual TMC detection system really works. For the rest of the week I hope to accomplish turning in the Problem Area Paragraph, learn more python and ML besides teaching a deep learning algorithm to identify dogs and cats.

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Week 3: Tasks

 [June 12, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

For this week we have the tasks of learning about machine learning and python. Once we are done with that, we have to train a deep model learning algorithm for a computer vision AI. I think these tasks require a lot of time and dedication, also it requires careful thinking and comprehension. I already started learning python and I find my way a little familiarize with the syntax and everything. Can't wait to get into machine learning.

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Week 3: Goals!

 [June 11, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

This weekend was a little different, on Saturday we went to the Ropes Course which was fun and a little scary. On Sunday, we went to get our bikes and fix bikes, measure rims, etc. After that, we rode our bikes back to Freddy Court.



Today we are starting week 3, so exciting! For this week I plan to accomplish learning/familiarizing with python, machine learning and understand solidworks. Besides that, I'm really looking forward to the TMC (Traffic Management Center) visit to explore the place and see how everything works.

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Intro to Machine Learning

 [June 8, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

So I finally finished my Week 2 in Iowa. I'm happy for the accomplished task this week, TIMELI group (Ilan, Ahmed and I) wrote paragraphs about our focus area. Why is this good? Because we got to meet as a team and share ideas, develop new ones, we put in practice our communication skills, our team work skills. Besides that, today we got an Intro to Machine Learning due to we are going to work with it in our project. For the next week I want to be able to formulate a question that came to my mind when talking about our project and working with it, so I will be learning and familiarizing more with Machine Learning and Python.

Apart from that, I found two real-life Bad UI's design:

1. The plug:



In my opinion, this plug is a Bad UI design because you cannot tell which is the correct way to plug your charger.

2. Washing/Dryer Machine Buttons:



The washing/dryer machine buttons are a Bad UI design because they are arranged in a way where you can make the mistake of turning the dryer when you want to turn the washer on and so on.

That's all for this week!

P.S: Really looking forward to the Ropes Course tomorrow.

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Accomplished Tasks and Interactions

 [June 7, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

This week I've started getting the hang of our TIMELI project. I read the project's proposal and a paper about it and from there, as a group, Ahmed, Ilan and Me, started to discuss our possible focus area for the project. Also, we started looking at the system and figuring out what does it do, how and when. I think, from what I see, that my teammates and I have good team work skills, know how to communicate and get to an agreement on certain topics.

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June 6th, 2018

 [June 6, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

We are already at the middle of Week 2, it hasn't been that bad. On Monday we started with our C++ course, really happy for that, yesterday we had a Luncheon Lecture where Profesor Wright talked about Biofuels and Globalization. Today we continued our C++ course. I hope the week continues good, as up to today.

I'm really looking forward to the Ropes Course on Saturday.

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June 5th, 2018

 [June 5, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

Today we haven't done much, we got to the VRAC, take the Week 2 The Craft of Research Presentation, go to Luncheon Lecture and later we will be taking pictures for our blog. Yesterday we started our C++ course and I'm glad I'm taking it because it works as a refresh for me due to it's been a while since I don't program in C++.

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June 4th, 2018

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After my first week at Iowa I started missing my home, my friends, my family, boyfriend and going to church. I know time goes fast and I am actually enjoying everything here, but I sometimes feel lonely because its hard to catch what others are saying and I'm not used to speaking English every single day and it's sometimes hard to speak it, I'm not used to sharing an apartment with other people I don't know that well so it's a little hard and another reason is that I've never been this far from home for 2 months.

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Weekday Activities

 [June 1, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)



So we just came back from Fuzzy's, I really enjoyed it and food was great also. Hope we can continue going out having fun as a group. Also I'm getting used to being here at Iowa and working in the VRAC, I really like it here.


Have a nice weekend everyone!!!

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Hello

 [May 31, 2018](#)  [Imorales](#)

This is a sample blog post!

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