When interacting with the students of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program, you are bound to come across some unusual concentrations. A good example of this is Adam Freitag, an Interdisciplinary Studies (INDS) student who specializes in Ludology, the study of games.

Freitag did not come to UMBC with this major in mind. In fact, he has changed his major several times. He came in as an intended Philosophy major and switched among Biology, Math, Bioinformatics, and Computer Science. All these majors helped him develop knowledge and skills he drew upon when he decided to design his own major in INDS entitled “Ludology”. Ludology is a fairly new field that combines the disciplines of psychology, art, English, computer science, and education. Ludology is not just about designing Monopoly, card games, or Call of Duty, but rather how games can contribute to society and help solve problems.

Freitag comments, “There’s something about our lives that just isn’t quite right, and there is something that we can do to make it better. As a society of human beings, we make our lives a lot harder on ourselves than they have to be.” Freitag believes that games can be used as a painless way to approach the injustice, unfairness, and inefficiency that comes with the tackling of world problems. Freitag believes, “A lot of reason that we don’t work on a lot of problems we have is that we think they are going to be too painful to solve. I don’t intend to use games as an anesthesia. I do intend to use games as a method for people to develop muscle memory and for people to develop a coping mechanism for some of the problems that we have.”

For now, Freitag is taking an internship with INDS as he learns to design games on commission for a client. He hopes to explore the potential usage of games in an educational environment.

Did you know…
Eric Brown is growing pumpkins in his backyard?

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**Game On!**

*Featuring Adam Freitag*

*By Chrysandra Medley*

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**Interdisciplinary Studies Students’ Summer Plans**

**Nimasha Fernando**
INDS Class of 2017, will be participating in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at The University of Arkansas to increase Diversity in Research.

**Kameron Fielder**
INDS Class of 2016, plans to volunteer at a local fire station.

**Wyatt Griffith**
INDS Class of 2017, will intern with Maryland State Police and Talbot County Sheriffs Office.

**Ian Mokunas**
INDS Class of 2017, will be volunteering his time to serve homeless children in Lithuania.

**Stephen DiNardo**
INDS Class of 2017, will be interning with the Baltimore Orioles by executing behind the scenes operations.

**Allison Opitz**
INDS Class of 2017, will spend her summer Interning at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense.

**Maya Sanders**
INDS Class of 2017, will be interning at the Anne Arundel Police Department.

**Karli Furuk**
INDS Class of 2017, will be competing as a national level figure competitor in the NPC Junior USA’s.

Information compiled *By Charra Wudtee*