Interview Notes

## Oct. 14, 2014 7:00pm @ MAGNET IDM Grab Lab

Interview with Eddie:

Is procrastination a problem you face?

* Yes! Absolutely! (He answered before I even finished the question)

Rate your organization skills on a scale of 1 - 10

* 0
* My desktop is so messy that I just hide everything

## Oct. 6, 2014 4:30pm-6:00pm@MAGNET

**Brigid Walsh Final semester Grad student at IDM (IDM Grad Lab)**

1. For the most part (fix lights and temperature). Better now because for last 2 semesters there was no assigned study room for grads. Did not work outside—too many people talking. Comes to Grad lab because it is quiet.

2. Usually studies at MAGNET/Grad Lab. Gets distracted at home

3. Hates studying alone, likes having people around—not necessarily to talk to—but just around. People she knows. People working together in the same room keeps her on task. Other people working keeps her working

4. Procrastinator until lately—responds well to stress though so she can perform. She needs to write things out for them to become real (she says she needs to use a calendar but she would ignore it). She also studies better at night.

5. Studies better in a group—better if they are not talking though. If had to be talking she would rather study alone.

6. An app (rescue time) that would lock out her distraction websites helped—then she stopped setting it because it got tedious—she wanted to get better at ignoring the sites herself. If social media didn’t exist, that would help also.

7. Music without or with minimal lyrics. Helps if it is not cold and dark (referencing the IDM Grad Lab)

8. Organizing notes. Evernote and Zoetero don’t work for her. She needs a tool to help her organize notes. Her sorting methods are not organized. “Where’s my stuff?”

9. Has two other degrees related to media. Her last degree was in art where she learned programming. She wanted to learn more about the science and engineering behind what she knew. She felt she was reverse engineering where she wanted to directly engineer. She also likes teaching—she’s done a lot of gigs. Wants to close the gender gap in STEM.

10. Wearable EEG reading technology that maps brainwaves. She wants to map emotions to brainwaves. Interested in how new/emerging technologies are adopted by society and mediate social interactions. Interested in wearables because they are a new field. Potential for good and for not so good because they can become less transparent and effect things like privacy.

11. Product developer for a wearables company “would be totally awesome”. She doesn’t have an engineering degree though.

12. Ridiculous amount of money it costs to be at NYU and live in New York. The school’s cost is the only prohibitive factor. Tons of smart people otherwise to work with and learn from.

13. She was asked to join the program—was originally thinking of ITP. DeAngela asked her to apply to IDM—and she received a fellowship.—Less expensive than ITP.

**Paul Dariye Management of Technology Graduate student (first year) (MAGNET main area)**

1. International Student from Central Nigeria—comes from a minority tribe in the country

2. Computer Science background (from Cyprus)

3. Studies in MAGNET now because he takes classes in MAGNET. Would like to study in MAGNET if he wasn’t a student (it has a ping pong table). It is a good space when he wants to work on expressive things—less so when he wants to write a paper.—Magnet is a great place for creative pursuits.

4. Would suggest a quiet room or quiet rooms within the open space

5. Somewhere with a Teapot (likes something hot when he’s studying)—he gets hungry when he studies.

6. He gets distracted easily (with other things to study)

7. He’s still developing study habits. They are so dynamic with less structure. Sometimes he leaves things until the last minute and other times he just has too much to do.

8. Studies better individually. Unless the group knows exactly what the subject matter is to the utmost detail

9. Automatic tea machine

10. Getting pointers on how to start writing papers (when he does have them)

11. Tea

12. He likes management (he thinks). Wants to see if he will be good at it. He isn’t as good a programmer as he would like, but he doesn’t think it is viable to be both a coder and a manager

13. He wants to eventually start a company in Nigeria. But before, he wants to work for a good company to gain experience. He is getting the knowledge-base in his program—he needs experience to follow.

14. “Balancing the whole act” social life, sleeping, good grades, family, etc. he feels he doesn’t have balance. He is “busy”. Balance should be there.

15. Came to America with the American Dream and thought he could wiggle his way into a job and realize he needed certain things before that could happen. He didn’t have the right visa status so he decided to enroll in school. For a capstone project, he wanted to build an actual company—not sure how feasible it is though. He doesn’t like to experience failure—he is the type that is broken when/if he fails once. Believes in meeting the right people

**Pierre Depaz Grad Student in Game Design MFA (Tisch)—Second Year (MAGNET gaming room)**

1. Half French Half American—registered as an American

2. Often studies in MAGNET (more than he’d like) because of the environment which isn’t distracting

3. Two screens, a good sound system, and white boards

4. Studies more efficiently here in MAGNET—if you make the effort of going, you have to make it worth while

5. He feels all he does is study. A lot of his life is dedicated to studying. Classes are just a framework for him to make his ideas real (he would work on his ideas anyway)

6. Doesn’t believe there is such a thing as studying in a group. Working in groups is the reality not studying in groups

7. Having an internet connection is the ultimate pastime (can be used for distractions). Selective internet connections would help him study better.

8. He always wanted to make games and recently realized he could make it into a career.

9. Live installation and sound design (he is an average programmer and graphic designer)

10. He doesn’t know. Since you never know how good you’ve become until you are in an environment that demands your skills. He wants a job though.

11. Not enough money. Having people trying to justify why games are relevant and not working to make them relevant. People end up making games that they are trying to veer away from.

12. Thesis is an exploration on faith as a game design mechanic—he will make an actual game.

13. He doesn’t know if it is worth it to engage in research. He doesn’t know if his premise is worthwhile

14. He would like more access to faculty feedback. It’s hard to expect a prof. to give his utmost attention to every student.

**Sam Cheng – IDM Grad first year**

1. Comes often to MAGNET. Library is too noisy. Can come to the research lab which is quieter.

2. Any quiet place

3. Likes to study during the day—sometimes saves work until the last minute (sometimes too much homework). Teaches himself through tutorials when he doesn’t know the material

4. Depending on the classes (where there are group projects)

5. Quiet places

6. Distractions—friends call/text, email he has to reply to immediately

7. He has to often teach himself software

8. IDM courses are more self-directed. Other programs are too restrictive

9. Find internship opportunities after he graduates to get enough experience to get a full-time job

10. Language is a problem sometimes

11. Speaking more may help.

**Min Zhu**

Female

master of cs final semester

What is your cultural background?

* China

What are your studying habits?

* She doesn’t preview. She uses doing homework as the prime way to study.

What would help you study better?What helps you concentrate?

* Focusing on one problems in a continuous period like 3 hours. She won’t do other things until she finish this one. She usually listen to music to help her to concentrate. Actually, she isn’t really listen to the songs but to use the sound to exclude distractions.

Do you study more as part of a group or individually?

* Study more individually but prefer to study with classmates inasmuch as she can discuss with them of difficult questions.

What problems do you face while studying?

* Not so much academic problems she met. Usually she can figure out those problems by herself. Sometimes she searches the Internet to solving problems.

Do you you like what you are studying?

* Yes. Was originally studying EE in undergrad, and found interested in CS during work.

What do you want the end result to be?

* Being admitted to top companies such as Facebook, google and so on. Better job, higher salary.

Why do you study?Why did you choose the program you are in?

* She had worked for three years before came here for her master’s degree. She found she need more knowledge related computer science and she is more interested in cs than EE. As well, she would like to experience a different kind of life and see the world.

What do you think of this environment?

* Magnet is a little noisy, many people talk to each other. But it is better than Dibner.

Why do you study here?

* Having class tonight in Magnet.

What is your ideal studying environment?

* Bobst.

How often do you come here to study?

* Two day a week because she has classes here.

Do you think you study more efficiently here? If so, why?

* No. It is too noisy.

What problems do you face as a student?

* NYU has a pretty high tuition. Poly needs more space for students to self-study.

Are you supporting yourself or do you have outside financial support (i.e. parents)?

* Family support her financially.

[If person is a grad student] Did you make the choice to attend grad school individually, or was it someone else’s decision?

* She decided to attend this program all by herself. She thought her previous job was boring. But after receiving offers, she was in a dilemma. Her families and friends, also her ex-boyfriend are in Beijing and she had a stable job with a good pay. But she got offers. So she came here.

Body language and emotion: No special body language and emotion.

## Oct. 3, 2014 6:20pm-7:00pm@MAGNET

**Vincent Lin**

What’s your major?

* Master in computer science

Why do you study here?

* The library is too crowded. There are less people here and quieter which is easier to get concentrate.

What do you think of this environment?

* Modernized, unlike the normal library and discussion room. It’s more like a creative space. Feeling good, relax, and more efficient here.

What is your ideal studying environment?

* Comfortable, quiet, peers around, and it would be even more motive if there are some overmatch around which makes me want to transcend the person.

Do you study more as part of a group or individually?

* It depends, mostly study self, then discuss with others after I have some personal understanding of the materials.

Do you think you study more efficiently here?

* To me the efficiency is depends on whether I am tired or not, the noise is not a big deal.

What do you think of people who bring food here?

* Doesn’t care about this.

What are your studying habits?

* No special habit as long as there is a computer that could connect to the internet.

What would help you study better?

* If I am interested in the stuff I am studying, I could always excel it; otherwise if there is must be some incentives.

Why do you study for grad (here)? What do you want the end result to be?

* To broaden a global vision, to improve my English, get a degree at the same time(less important), make more friends from diverse backgrounds, maybe find a girlfriend.

Is there any support (financially) for the study?

* Half from family and half from the savings.

How many people made the individual choice to attend grad school?

* I made my own decision on attending graduate school. Computer science is not actually my interested but there are more opportunity on getting a job in this field. In addition, it sounds more cool if telling people you’re studying computer science.  
  The reason of pursuing a master degree is because I would like to go deeper on the area I am interested in.

Why do you study another master degree here instead of another area?

* Since it’s more easier, also the salary would be higher if I have a degree from the US.

What do you want the end result to be?

* I’ll go back to Taiwan after I get the degree because all my family and friends are all there and this seems to be a more stable choice for me.

What are some shortcomings/ problems you face as student?

* The professor doesn’t allow me to graduate.
* Couldn’t focus and procrastination because of distractions from the internet such as facebook, chat, news, laziness.

What makes more efficient on studying?

* Invite comrades to study with my, not necessary to be physically, it’s also fine if though the videocon on the net.

Do you procrastinate less if here?

* Yes, the environment and atmosphere there helps. But there is no food in MAGNET and takes time to commute.

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## Oct. 1, 2014 6:20pm-7:00pm@MAGNET Grad Research Lab

**NEILL CHUA**

* Grad, 1st year

What do you think of the research lab?

* likes having our own space
* quiet
* it’s more exclusive, that’s why he likes it
* no reason to go outside besides bathroom
* sometimes he thinks there’s too many people, but he’s never felt like there wasn’t space for everyone
* it’s really cold, but that’s how the whole school is

How do you think our room is better than outside?

* brighter in here than outside

Have you been to Dibner?

* There’s too many people there and it gets distracting

What about the games?

* Yeah, that’s more distracting
* makes me not want to do my work

Is the room comfortable? It’s decorated

* it’s comfortable
* hasn’t had issues with it
* maybe more couches!

What are your typical study habits?

* wait until the last minute
* due tomorrow, do tomorrow

Do you procrastinate less if here?

* yeah, if at home i don’t do work because im comfortable
* If i have a lot of homework, i come here specifically bc i’m out of my comfort zone and makes me need to work
* There’s nothing else I can do
* I don’t bring my mouse bc that makes me want to play games
* forcing myself to do my work when I come here

Do you study better individually/group?

* individually
* I get too comfortable when with people
* I can never do study groups bc we end up slacking more than getting shit done
* I’ll work with people but only online
* in person you end up talking more, eating more, you make up more excuses with more people
* You can get more work done if you do separate parts and meet, but more gets done when online
* it’s faster to ask questions, but

How often do you come here?

* only three days, M-W
* usually come after lunch
* after class, or afternoon

Do you find it open to collaboration and asking questions?

* yeah
* everyone who comes in is friendly
* everyone’s nice
* it’d be weird if someone was like NO and mean. if you’re mean, it’s awkward

What’s your ideal study environment?

* a giant bed and bottles of wine
* studying slightly buzzed is really really good
* not drunk! but great to do hw slightly buzzed
* i’ve done it several times and its beneficial creatively and it really helps
* for me, at least
* sometimes if i get too much work, i get really stressed so a little bit of alcohol eases it up; helps me work better
* i like to give up if it gets too much
* i get overwhelmed easily so if there’s any way to stop overthinking my workload, it helps
* sometimes it backfires and you’re like whoops

What are some shortcomings/ problems you face as student?

* no money

**LAZARUS DUPREE**

* graduate student; 1st year

Which place do you prefer to study? Dibner, MAGNET, or grad lab?

* prefers grad lab
* it’s quieter
* you see people you are actually in class with
* you don’t see people you don’t know
* there’s always something to talk about

How often do you study here?

* usually when i have projects to work, usually with groups
* if i’m early for class, I stop by here

How long do you study here?

* if i have a project, at least an hour i stay
* I live kind of far, i don’t come here just to study; i need to have something else to do

What are your study habits?

* don’t know if i have them
* study based on what’s due in the week
* sometimes i try to put aside time to learn software or research based on a project or idea i have

Do you study better with a beautiful view?

* i’d probably be more distracted
* i’d daydream and think of doing things other than studying

Why don’t you like MAGNET as much as the lab?

* it can be loud
* sometimes not enough table space
* people are usually walking all around, so i get distracted
* here, everyone’s usually sitting down
* no one really talks loudly unless it’s a funny joke

What’s your ideal study environment?

* COMFORTABLE CHAIRS, THESE CHAIRS SUCK
* good lights; not a fan of these lights
* lots of space
* wearing my playstation headphones
* good headphones are essential
* lets my relax and study at the same time
* at home, i have one office chair and a huge bean bag on which i do homework. I use it for posture :)
* never ending buffet

Do you study better individually or as a group?

* individually
* the way i learn is to be really engaged; i like to focus in on something without distractions that don’t come from me
* if im going to be distracted, i want to distract myself; don’t like being distracted by others
* once i get that learning/understanding, i don’t mind sharing with a group; but initial learning must be done alone

Do you find the space (MAGNET/lab) open to collaboration/questions?

* absolutely; i’ve never been rejected

Do you like to eat while studying?

* i like to snack
* if i have a big meal, i won’t do work
* snacking doesn’t break attention

What would make you a more efficient studier?

* having more hours in the day
* i don’t know; i take on too much and stretch myself thin
* stop taking on too much

What are some shortcomings/problems you face as a student?

* Not enough mentorship in IDM
* Opportunities, but not enough understudy work
* Often difficult when you don’t see people that look like you; hard to study when you don’t see people where you want to be
* You need to imagine what the right thing to do is or try and be like everyone else

**RACHANA OZA**

* Graduate student; 1st year

How often do you come to MAGNET?

* 4x a week for class
* Sometimes I come in early for group projects, but otherwise I study at home

What are your study habits?

* Easily distracted
* Likes quiet places
* No windows so I don’t look out
* Better at night

What are problems or shortcomings as a student?

* Travel! Commute is too long and takes too much time
* Easily distracted - no quiet place to study in MAGNET
* Hasn’t tried studying in Dibner
* Feels comfortable in MAGNET
  + If confused, can ask classmates or professors

Do you feel like you are being primed in the right direction for your post-grad career?

* Yes, definitely
* At the end of the day, it all depends on how much effort you put in

Do you feel you get enough student-teacher interaction?

* Not all the time
* Not in class because there’s too many student
* Outside, not really; their hours don’t match with mine
* Wish there was more interaction