

Daniel Freeman Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?

I help people communicate more effectively. Sometimes it is because a child needs extra help getting the adult language, sometimes someone receives an injury, and other times someone just wants to be a little better.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I am just trying to make it through to the other side.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Yes. The exchange of ideas can never be overvalued. A technique in one field can often be used in another field. Besides, interesting people can be found anywhere.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Watching The Daily Show.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

Shutter Island. I read it during the summer break.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I think I've really appreciated the fact that I can knock on any professor's door and ask a question.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

What surprised me was how many hours are required to plan and complete assignments.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

I have trouble making the 7 hour drive back to where I grew up, I don't know if I could take a trip to Mars. Assuming the time was significantly shortened, I would love to go. The only thing is that they would have to keep me away from any buttons that could kill us all and I would be asking questions constantly.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

I go in waves. It could be pizza, chicken, pbj for a bit, ritz crackers– it's very strange indeed. I have no idea why.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would probably be working in a warehouse or some other non-skilled job while planning a get-rich-quick-scheme.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

May 2011.