Kendall Harvey is a 4th year IAPD student. He began his studies at K-State in manufacturing engineering and while he loved the intricacies of making things, it wasn’t creative enough for him. Then as fate would have it, he competed in a design competition vying for a job as a Lego designer and met IAPD Alum, Teague Peak. He was ultimately the one who convinced Kendall to transfer to IAPD. After completing his first two years at UMKC under the reciprocal agreement, Kendall joined IAPD as a third year student. And while his educational path has had many twists and turns he is grateful to have ended up in IAPD.

Kendall is currently on an internship with Disney. He’d followed Disney as a potential employer for quite some time, and last year he had the chance to sit down and talk with an Imagineer that gave a lecture at K-State. During that lecture he learned that to be eligible for a Disney Imagineering Internship you need to have had participated in the Imaginations competition they hold each year, or you need to really stand out in your field. “I took his advice and spent that semester learning about all sorts of emerging technologies I felt would be valuable. Then, I took a shot in the dark and applied online.” Kendall happened to be in the right place at the right time with the right set of skills Disney needed and he landed an interview.

For the interview Kendall skyped with the head of the department to which he had applied and the VP of WDI Creative. They discussed his background in design and fabrication, model design and examples of projects that he had built in shop and outside of school. The week before finals he found out he had gotten the job but he only had two days after his last final to get to Florida and start work. Once in Florida, he spent half of his time CAD modeling and setting up construction documents, and the other half was spent managing projects and installations. He is currently wrapping up a second internship with the same department, however this time the job is much more creative. While he can’t say what he’s done due to confidentiality, he can say “the Avatar expansion at Animal Kingdom is going to be really, really, really cool.”

“I feel the most valuable thing to take away from IAPD is the diversity in what we are taught. In my case, the digital class with Professor Headley introduced me to the design software, Rhino, which has been monumental to my success.”

“Everyone should work on a design project they are really passionate about outside of studio and add it to their portfolio. More often than not, these are the pivotal points in interviews where you can really stand out from the crowd.”