

## Graduate Profile

**DAVE  
SCHOOL**

(407) 224-3283



**Name:**

Dean Lewandowski

**Hometown:**

I am currently living in Los Angeles but I grew up in Chicago.

**What is your current job?**

Currently I am working as a Virtual Art Department (VAD) Lead on James Cameron's *Avatar*.

**What is the #1 reason you chose The DAVE School over other animation schools?**

I had just finished my undergrad for Computer Graphics and Animation and was working on my Masters when a coworker showed me The DAVE School web page. The quality of work coming out of the DAVE School far surpassed what I was able to do. The web site also listed graduate placements into big name production houses and that's when I realized I wasn't receiving the education I needed. Making movies is where I wanted to be and I knew that staying at my current university was not going to help me reach that. I did research on the DAVE School and flew out to Orlando for a tour. After seeing the school and meeting with Jeff, I knew that this was the place to be if I wanted to reach my goal of making it into the movie business... And I was right!

**What is the most valuable lesson you learned at the school that you have used during your career?**

The most valuable lessons I learned at The DAVE School were how to work under pressure and how to be a team player. The final project was spot on to how a real production worked. The skills I learned and the interactions I had are what helped me become a lead here at my current job.

**What project/job are you proudest of?**

I will always be proud of *Teddy Scares*. It was my DAVE School final project and I feel that, as a class, we really came together, worked hard and produced a great movie for the amount of time we had. It's been two and a half years since we completed *Teddy Scares*, and I still keep in touch with all my classmates.

**What advice do you have for people thinking about a career as a VFX artist?**

Unless you are the best artist around, if you want to make it in this industry, you need to learn to be a team player and have a good attitude. A lot of people have the skills to do what we do, but it's your attitude that keeps you employed and if you can't get along with anyone, no one will keep you.