

LiamGlendening.com

LiamGlendening.com is an introduction to me (Liam Glendening), focusing on two important aspects of my life, my professional/educational career, and the hobbies that interest me the most.

LiamGlendening.com is a website that will give visitors a deep dive into me. The website will focus on two different sectors of my life to allow them to understand my history and my interests. Primarily it will introduce people to my work and educational history, allowing visitors to understand my work history, and my key takeaways and learnings from my previous and current jobs and work. Secondly, while also important to understanding me is my hobbies. This section is much more focused on the things I enjoy spending my time on, exploring my history with them, and the reasons why I love these hobbies and activities so much, while also discussing the positive impacts these hobbies have on my life. Overall, this website is catered to understanding how important aspects of my life and history, allow me to be who I am today.

Personas

1. Future Employer: Age 35-45, A senior or mid-level employee who works at a firm or company, that which I am applying. This user would interact with my website in a professional capacity, using the information I provide for employment consideration. Goal would be to provide polished and professional content, that would leave a positive lasting impression.
2. Friends/Family: Ages 20-25;40-65, This user would use this website in a much more informative and non-professional way, mainly looking at the website casually, to see what I have created for my education. The main goal would be to provide polished and informative content for both my hobbies and work career.
3. Former Employer. Age 40-65, An old manager or employer, who would use the website in a critiquing manner, using the content I provide as a review of sorts of my employment and my thoughts of the employment. Goal would be to provide my honest thoughts and takeaways from my employment opportunities, while remaining overall neutral, as to not have an overly positive or negative reaction to these experiences.

Comps

1. <https://ericfoltin.org/>

2. <https://danny-garcia.com/>
3. <https://www.natsaiaudrey.co.uk/>

Copywriting

WORK AND EDUCATION

Introduction

This Space is dedicated to my professional career, still being in school I will talk about my education and the few important jobs I have had in my life, and how these have deeply impacted me, and help shape the person I am today, and in the future with the career. That I hope to have.

Throughout my life I have primarily focused on my education, while still working to start to pick up professional skills and learning how to be a productive person in a professional world. While my jobs up to this point have been something productive for me to spend my time doing while earning some extra money, I feel like I have been deeply impacted by those that I work with and the roles that I have been in, that have taught me important skills that I can use throughout my future.

Education

My education has had some of the biggest impacts on my life and has shaped me to becoming the person I am today in the most prominent ways. My educational life was probably a bit unique compared to most children going through education the education system as my mother was a principal in the district that I attended throughout my primary schooling. I believe this had extremely positive impacts, and fostered the upmost respect for all school staff, especially my teachers, allowing me to create positive relationships that left lasting impacts on me.

My primary education began in Kalamazoo Public Schools, at greenwood elementary, where I attended the school from kindergarten to first grade. Being at such an early age in these grades, I do not really have any concrete memories that lead to my educational development. After transferring to an elementary school that was considered my home school, I remained there for the rest of elementary school, in the second grade my first year at the new school is where I began to form relationship with other students that would become my closest friends for my entire time in primary school, at the time I did not recognize it but many of the friends I surrounded myself with, were excellent students and great people, who all pulled each other up, and made sure we strived to be the best students we could, and all shared the same level of drive that we needed to succeed to the highest levels. Late in elementary school was also the time in which the school recognized that I needed to be in higher paced and advanced programs, again surrounding me with those great students, where we flourished in learning in a different much more independent style through the Kalamazoo Avante Garde program, which I was in throughout the 5th grade.

Moving into middle school was a time of rapid change in my life, as I was in a new school, surrounded by many new people, and in a completely different environment. Middle school was filled with up and downs for me personally, as I continued to succeed in my education, following honors classes that kept me at an advanced pace, however this was also the point in which I believe I got lost in the social sphere in school, as I began to lose some of my early friends while finding new ones, splitting me between multiple friend groups that would lead to much social anxiety and stress, as I did not fully know where I belonged. With this whirlwind of social stresses, mixed with my continuing success in school, left me feeling kind of pathless, but knowing I could always count on myself to make sure I am fulfilling and surpassing all the expectations I had for myself, and the expectations that my parents and teachers also had with me. On a positive note, however, middle school was where I began to discover my love for computers and technology, especially excelling in computer related courses that students had to take at Maple Street (my middle school). This love really set in when I was one day randomly called into the discipline office, and instead of getting in trouble, I was asked to help a security officer with some of the computer troubles that she was having, learning later that it had become known throughout my school, that I was willing not only to help others with technology, but to help people learn how to use the technology that they interacted with on a daily basis. This moment for me I fully believe was the reason that I continued to foster my knowledge of computers, and to constantly look to educate myself outside of school on how computers and applications really worked, to a level that far exceeded the requirements of my school.

High School again was a very interesting time for me, as again I was faced with advanced courses and a higher pace of learning, which made me feel very good about myself and made me think I was making the right decisions, while still feeling like I did not fully fit in with any people in school, with my friends changing multiple times throughout my 4 years of high school. My freshman year of high school seemed like everyone else's, with many of the people I had known in middle school appearing in my classes, with all of us taking the same introductory courses, that would prep us for the rest of high school. My high school education really changed with the beginning of sophomore year, as I took an education for employment course, focused on Information Technology, that lasted throughout the entire school year. This course was the first time I was truly introduced to independent pacing and learning, as our teacher was there really to be a facilitator for us to pass an end of year certification exam, that covered all aspects of computers and basic information technology. This course I can firmly say was my favorite throughout all of high school, as I was surrounded every day with a small group of students that shared a deep interest in the same thing that I loved. The end of this year ended in on an extreme high note as I passed the CompTIA A+ exam and had a basic professional certification in the information technology field. Continuing into my junior and senior years, I also believed this course prepared me to take multiple Advanced Placement courses. My junior year was the time where I began to prepare for my secondary education, choosing to take multiple ap courses, taking AP chemistry, AP U.S government, and AP Literature. These courses was where I truly began to enjoy high school, as I was being challenged in my learning, and learning about things that I found to be incredibly interesting. This time was where I also began to create deeper connections with my teachers, as my AP teachers were not just teachers, but mentors, who wanted me to succeed if I was willing to put in the effort. These teachers were also the ones who made acknowledgement that I must pursue higher education and try to seek out a university that would fit me the best. These are the teachers that. I truly thank for leading me down a path to success in education and is part of the reason why I am where I am today.

The end of my high school was completely different than millions of other peoples, as the end of my junior year and entire senior year were deeply affected by the covid-19 lockdowns, with my district electing to host the end of my junior year, and senior year completely online, due to the pandemic. This was a complete shift for me, as before I was used to using technology to aid in my education, but not the sole method my education was delivered. My senior year was extremely stressful for me, as I had been so used to being in person in school, with all the other things that come from being in school 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. While I managed to complete and uphold my expectation for myself in terms of my grades, I believe that being isolated for so long

and being so easily distracted at home, harmed me in the long run with my studying and socialization.

College to me was a return to normalcy, while still introducing independent living and truly feeling like an adult for the first time in my life with many things becoming sole responsibility. College also was the time where I really focused in on my information science degree, and my love of technology because it fostered my ability to select courses that I find to be of interest, and productive to my future.

Work

Work in my life can really be broken up into two main chapters at this point, high school and college. Both of the jobs I have had up to this point have been in small businesses, working in a family-owned hardware store in high school, and working at a partner owned bar during college, each of these jobs have been in the service industry, directly and indirectly work to help customers.

In high school, I worked at the family-owned hardware store that my family has been going to for as long as I can remember, Gales True Value. This store mostly serviced the residents of my neighborhood and contractors that worked on the business and the universities in the area. This employment was my first real job, with me working there for three summers before college, and during the summer between my freshman and sophomore years in college. In this job I was a floor associate, and a shop worker. Depending on how I was scheduled I would walk the floor and tend to customers, helping them find the products they need, and lending my expertise on solutions for their problems related to their homes, or whatever project they were working on. These days for me were very fulfilling as I was able to talk to and help all different types of people, from professional contractors who would educate me on specifics of trade work, to homeowners who had varying ranges of adeptness with problems they would come into our store with, to even the mayor of my city, who chose to come into the store because of the environment we all worked so hard to maintain. The people who would come into the store everyday were what made the job for me, as I was able to talk and help people that I would regularly never interact with.

On the days I was working in the shop, I would work on all different types of projects, from simple repairs to complete engine repair. These days I had less direct interaction with customers, however I would still work with customers at the service desk to help

get these items checked in, and understand what their issues were, and help identify simple solutions that could get them going quickly, or having them leave their items behind, while getting detailed descriptions of the work they would like us to perform for them. Working in the shop I was also working with people who had been in the trades for years and who would regularly pass on their knowledge of working with my hands at a rate and level of exposure that I had never had before. Working in the shop also tough me many best practices, and tough me to problem solve, as many of the issues that customers would bring to me did not have simple and elegant solutions.

This job taught me valuable lessons, as I had to remove many of my preconceived notions, as the things that I believe to be common knowledge, are not for everyone else. This was a difficult challenge for me at the beginning, as I became annoyed when I was required to explain myself multiple times, changing my language, to make sure that anyone could understand the problem they were having and the solution that I was suggesting. This is where my manager came in, who over time would talk to me, and make sure that I was doing ok, and to make sure I was not getting irritated, and ensure that I was learning how to communicate with all types of people clearly and respectfully. The flip side to this is that there were things that I did not understand as well as some of the people I worked with and the customers I helped, and they often took the time out of their day to help me learn and understand these concepts, Aswell. I believe that this first work experience genuinely helped me become clearer in my communication and helped me become more respectful in my communication style, as at the end of the day. I was trying to help others and make sure they were happy. My biggest takeaway from this job was that I will be interacting with all different types of people and I should make sure that as I am communicating with people, I am clear and make sure that I am communicating in a highly professional and overall positive manner.

The second job that I have had for a few year at this point is working at a local bar in East Lansing, Lou & Harry's. I began this job at the beginning of my junior year of college, working as door staff and as a cook in their kitchen. This job was a complete shift from working in the hardware store in high school, with the customers, and job demands being much different.

The biggest role I when I initially worked at the establishment was door staff, which was a very demanding role, involving me dealing with patrons who had been drinking for hours, and working hours long into the night. The specifics of the role were to ensure the safety of all patrons, to make sure people were following our guidelines, and to make sure only people of legal age were allowed into the establishment. Working with college students who are intoxicated is a whole different beast, as they do not have the same level of respect for the employees and other people, that the customers I was

working with at the hardware store. These patrons required me to act in a much different way, instead matching my attitude with those around me, and responding in an appropriate yet respectful manner. This was especially challenging for me as working under these sometimes highly stressful situations, at hours where most people would be sleeping, would add extreme stress to me, day in and day out. This job took an extreme level of dedication as I was also having to battle these demanding hours and long weeks with maintaining high grades in my college courses. These factors ultimately led me to resigning from the position temporarily to refocus myself and ensure that I was taking care of all my other responsibilities. Leaving was immensely difficult however, as the family that I had at the bar, was as close as any of the friends I have had in my life up to that point, and I chose to leave in a capacity that would allow me to work there again when I had improved on myself.

HOBBIES

Introduction:

This space is dedicated to my interests and hobbies, things that allow for healthy distractions and a way to recharge from the more serious aspects of my life. primarily these hobbies provide an immense sense of joy to me, while also being there to allow me to rest and unwind, and exercise my mind and body in unique ways, that my education and work cannot provide for me.

Thinking about all my hobbies and activities of interest, I have identified three that have been mainstays in my life, being with me for as long as I can remember. Each one of these hobbies is completely different, all focusing on different parts of me and my personality, and all challenging me in completely different ways. The three hobbies I would like to explore in more depth in this space and understand them to a deeper level are Sports specifically Baseball and Golf, LEGO, and Video Games. These three hobbies are a basis of most of most of my free time and will never exit my life.

Baseball & Golf

Baseball forms a core part of some of my earliest memories, with me beginning to pick up the sport at the age of 4, when I began to play tee-ball at my local little league, as I was exploring the many options that I had for sports going forward, at this young age I did not understand the aspects of baseball that would make me love it so much, being part of a team, and refining my physical skills in a competitive atmosphere. These aspects became readily apparent however when I made a shift from casual play to a more serious step in my baseball career with travel baseball. Beginning at 9 years old I started playing for the West Michigan Broncos organization, where I had to try-out for the team, displaying the skills and proficiency I had gained through my constant practice and playing during my formative years of the sport. This point is where I began to understand the team aspect of the sport, and that I was playing but a small role (specifically 1/9) that would lead my team to success or failure. Playing baseball is not easy as there is much down time, interspersed with quick moments of high intensity, that required my complete focus and attention, and a use of a multitude of physical skills required to play. These short stints of action resulted in immense highs and lows and required every one of us to find the roles that we were suited for best, that would lead to overall success. For me I quickly found my calling to be that of pitching, due to my left-handedness that would otherwise limit the positions I could excel at.

This chapter of my baseball (Pitching), which lasted until I "retired" from the sport at the end of high school was one of the most demanding positions that the game had to offer. Being a pitcher can be compared to being a quarterback, as they are the ones who are the leaders on the field, and the team's success or failures lied directly on your shoulders throughout the entire game. The nature of pitching is very singular, as the pace of play, with the resulting actions of the teammates around you in your hands. Pitching requires a different level of focus and a refinement of skills, mainly concentration and accuracy, with a mix of mental strength and discipline in order to complete your singular goal of getting your team off of defense and onto offense, through hitting an imaginary box the width of Homeplate(give or take a little-bit depending on the umpire) and the height of a batters just below a batters shoulders and their knees. Pitching provided a unique challenge to me mentally, as I was not only working with or against myself and my catcher, against the only opponent who could impact me, the batter. Physically pitching also tough me some motor skills, which would not normally be developed in many other sports, as it required extreme accuracy, all while having the dexterity to keep your accuracy, velocity, and ingenuity up to continue to battle against the opponent's entire lineup. These unique challenges provided to me by pitching, and baseball taught me to understand my role in a larger group, and how to work with people who all have similar but diverging skill sets, that would all help us toward working towards our one true goal, winning games, and tournaments.

After unforeseen world events, quickly barred me from continuing my baseball journey, and understanding that while I loved the game, my future was quickly coming to an end with it, I decided to move to another sport that has a completely different set of challenges with it, golf. Beginning to play golf for me was an eye-opening experience as the game was completely different to the game of baseball, mainly as it was an incredibly individual activity, I was playing by myself, against myself. Still being in the early days of my golf career, I have quickly realized the unique challenges it presents, requiring extreme focus and consistency for an extremely long period of time, and requiring a set of skills unlike any other sport. While not having a deeper understanding of golf that I do with baseball, I still find it extremely enjoyable as I have been able to see myself quickly progress with the game, and slowly understand what aspects of my game I excel at, while balancing that with the areas of the game that I need to continue to practice on.

Baseball and Golf, I believe have been a great pairing of sports in my life, as at an early age I was introduced to working on a team on every level, working toward a shared success, while still having individual aspects that me and my teammates excel at. Baseball also has tough me the importance of having comradery between us, as beyond just playing the game, we would spend hours a week together, and while putting in hard work, we would all still have fun being together, and practicing. While later in my life I switched to an individual sport, which refocused me on looking at myself and understanding my strengths and weaknesses and having a self-drive to continue to improve and get better at the game.

Video Games

Video games have been in my life almost as long as baseball has, and again has provided me with unique opportunities, and sense of relaxation. Throughout my history of playing games, I have sunk my hours into both singleplayer and multiplayer games spanning most genres. I believe that these two distinctions provide me with a different sense of satisfaction, with single player games filling up the same type of enjoyment I would get out of watching a movie or tv show, while allowing me to interact with the story presented to me in a much more granular and unique way. Multiplayer games on the other hand provide me with a competitive nature that I so deeply enjoy, very similar to the thrill I get of playing sports. I feel like I must look at individually to understand where my love of video games comes from.

Looking at single-player games first, I find these games and the stories/experiences contained within, to have a unique way of capturing me, as I am not sitting idly by watching the story progress exactly as how someone else wanted me to experience it, instead I am given a sandbox with the boundaries of the gameplay and story to guide me. For me the most influential single-player games are the ones that focus most on player choice (RPGS, Open-Worlds) as I am really allowed to experience everything the game has to offer in my own way. Furthering this point, these experiences really let myself shine through on the characters, with some of my favorite games, having a playable character that is silent, allowing for me to put myself in the characters shoes, and understand my rationale for why I am making the decisions I am, instead of trying to make decisions that I think the character themselves would make(Fallout: New Vegas is a shining example of this, while also being one of my favorite games of all time). Outside of the game, single player games also allow me to tinker with them to an extreme degree, as I am not confined by anti-cheats, or protecting the experience for other players, this is where another massive love for single player games comes, modding them. I have poured countless hours sitting outside of these games, in mod launchers and config files, installing and tweaking the game to my exact specifications, and exactly the way I want them. This is the reason that many of Bethesda Game Studios games are some of my favorites, they have a complete open-source package of modding tools and access, that is unrivalled in terms of their scope, and amount of user generated content. This aspect allows me to tap into my natural desire to mess around, and tinker (More than half my hours in Fallout 4, are in the external mod creation tool). With modding I am presented with a unique experience to troubleshoot and craft the game to my exact specifications, making playing them even more rewarding, as I feel the experience is truly mine.

Multiplayer games on the other hand are a different beast for me, taking up most of my total hours playing video games. These games are wholly unlike single players as they require me to play the game the ways the developers want me to, and instead get my enjoyment from the competitive nature of them. The Call of Duty franchise is a great example of this, being the series and game year after year I have the most hours in(by a wide margin) where I do not get to play at my own pace, instead the joy I get is from getting better and better at them, and to see how I slowly progress into become a player with an extremely high skill, and taking satisfaction in knowing that the effort I have put into these games over thousands of hours will display itself every game in my performance, as they are unforgiving, with extreme multitasking, split-second reactions and decision making, that can result in my success in failures alone. This game is among the most casual multiplayer games I play, with others ramping up that skill requirement, and really focusing on their competitive nature.

A game that has had a large impact in my gaming life - and really underscores the competitive I seek out of multiplayer games - both in my mind, and in total hours played is Counter Strike: Global Offensive, a game built from the ground up to be highly competitive and skill based, with much of the randomness of other games completely removed. This game to me gives me the same sense of joy that baseball does, as you will not win without working together as a cohesive and efficient team. This game again pulls another unique aspect out as it is a game that requires intense levels of focus and attention, much like a sport to be competitive in, while exercising completely different parts of my mind and body than something like baseball or golf does, but instead focusing on my ability to make split second decisions in a shorter time frame than any sport does.

Video Games to me provide two extremely different levels of enjoyment, one that allows me to relax and enjoy a story at my own pace, tailoring my experience to the things that I find having the most fun with, with multiplayer competitive games present me with challenges like playing a sport while bringing in unique aspects for me to practice and refine my skills in to get the edge, and really bring out the split-second decision making and multitasking skills, that I use in many other aspects of my life.

LEGO

LEGO, is the final of the three hobbies that have been in my life since my formative years. LEGO for me provides a sense of relaxation more than it does of happiness, although I do find immense joy in finishing a model or having one of my creations be complete. I love LEGO for the simplicity it brings, and the distinct change of pace it brings into my life compared to my work and school, and my other hobbies. With LEGO I can focus on just one thing, that is not technology, and nothing that I must stress about, I am simply working with my hands and my mind to pass some time and build a set. I believe that this simplicity is the reason LEGO is still in my life today, even if it's considered a "toy".

LEGO entered my life around the same time as baseball, with my parents purchasing my first LEGO set when I was in early elementary school, from that point I was hooked, with any opportunity I had to get a new set or more pieces I would always take my parents up on. My collection quickly grew to an unmanageable size, with my room in my childhood home being littered with completed sets on display, and boxes of assorted pieces taking up most of my closet space. The collection as I reached high-school and

college age became almost unmanageable, with every room in my house featuring multiple large sets. Although I found the display of them nice after, I truly found the building process and the connection it built with my parents to be the most special part of this hobby.

From the beginning, me and my dad have always worked on these sets together, in my childhood starting with me really watching him build the more complicated parts of the models, while I would sort out and find the pieces from him. Progressing through my life and becoming more independent in building these sets, I would always make sure to leave them left out with the pieces all available so my dad could come in and build while I was not. This teamwork we had in a sense would always make me very happy, as I felt like I was still a little kid with my dad being by my side helping me out. This continues to this day with me being in college, as I typically only build LEGO when I am on school holidays, spending time with my family.

LEGO provides me with a sense of solidarity and calm, as I must focus and concentrate on building, or I will make mistakes that I will only catch much later when a piece doesn't line up like it supposed to. For me I really think of LEGO as a mindfulness exercise, as I can let all the other stresses and things in my life go for just an hour or two at a time, and dedicate myself and my mind to something that I take immense joy in doing, that doesn't involve me sitting in front of a screen of any type, and just being in my own zone, with the little plastic bricks that have been in my life for almost 20 years at this point.

BASIC INFO

Introduction

Hi, I am Liam Glendening. I am currently a senior at Michigan State University, studying Information Science. I have created this website, so anyone reading is able to get a deeper understanding of me, specifically in two very important and constant aspects of my life. This page will focus on my work and educational history, and the hobbies that I have, that have been with me throughout my entire life.

I hope through this website readers can get a deeper look into what my drives and motivations are, and the lessons I have learned throughout my many experiences, and the takeaways I have had from these experiences and how they have changed me a person and help shape who I am today.

Basic Info and Background on Me.

I want to start this page with some information that I believe readers should know, that does not necessarily fit into either of the two broad categories I will dive deeper into throughout the rest of this site.

I was born on March 22, 2003 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Kalamazoo was where I lived and grew-up for 18 years before I moved to East Lansing for college, while I lived in Kalamazoo me and my family never moved, and I lived in the same neighborhood for that entire time. In my eyes Kalamazoo was a place that I could never stay as I grew up, as I did not feel like my personality and goals could be happily fulfilled in the city. When I graduate college, I hope to move to the southern United States, with states like North Carolina and Georgia being on the top of my list for places to move to and start my adult life. Growing up I went to Kalamazoo Public Schools, which while I had my complaints, as any student does, I believe I was given experiences and opportunities that many other students did not have.

Beyond my educational and where I am from, my family and childhood I believe was a very important aspect in shaping who I am. I believe that my childhood was very similar to many others my age, although I had the experience of being an only child, which came with its own set of benefits and challenges (although, it seems like it is more obvious to others that I was an only child, than it is to myself). I am also blessed to have two extremely loving parents, who are very highly driven and successful in their careers and were able to imprint many positive characteristics into me, which I am eternally grateful for.

I Feel like that wraps up most of the background information I wanted to touch on. My work history is here _____ and my deep dive into my hobbies and my history with them is here _____

