**What Have You Done?**

I spent about 4 years in retail full-time after high school before trying my hand at cosmetology school. Towards the end of my education, I realized that this was not the right path for me. I attended mostly because I wanted to do somethingthat got me closer to a career, but at the time I didn't have anything I was passionate enough about to warrant 4 years of study and tons of student debt. Ironically, my cosmetology schooling remains a large debt with very little payout. Upon graduation, I found myself a part-time job working at a very small, but growing, e-commerce company. I spent the last 8 years working full-time for that same e-commerce company, helping it grow from two employees in my boss's basement to a very large warehouse with 50+ workers. The experience I gained here I believe to be invaluable.

**What Are You Doing?**

Currently, I work full-time for that same company I described above and I attend Full Sail full-time, in pursuit of a Mobile Development degree. The real world experience that I have gained over the past decade or so since graduating high school has helped make these first few months at Full Sail smooth sailing. My biggest problem is dedicating enough time to my schoolwork. My grades have not yet suffered, but I worry about how I will manage the future coding classes. I hope to further develop my time management skills so that I may dedicate more time to learning coding. Specifically, I hope to create time for myself to work through some additional online courses such as those available at Udemy and similar sites so that I might be ahead of my classes as they progress.

**What's Next?**

I hope to maintain my current GPA and graduate from the Mobile Development program as expected. As I currently have a job in a tech field, by graduation I should have ample experience to land a job in a company that deals directly with mobile development. My main objective is to develop my own apps that help people managing mental health issues manage the rest of their health. However, I realize that I may need more practical, hands-on experience before I can make the apps I dream about. I look forward to pursuing companies that aim to help others as I begin my career, so that I may start headed in the right direction. However, I recognize that I may need to forego this aspect in order to pay the bills while I develop my own app. The apps that I want to develop are very important to me. If need be, I am prepared to take a job that isn’t as satisfying but pays well enough for me to have time to pursue my own applications.