You can have all the opportunities in the world, though if you are not ready to embrace that reality it could disappear, never to truly manifest again. It is only a tragedy “IF” it was your dream that is vanishing. I’m living proof of that fact. My life has been filled with what many might call missed opportunities. Maybe some may have wanted similar networking contacts. But,I found myself wading upstream against a current to get away from an industry that I felt no deep rooted connection.  There was a time in high school, that I had the desire to explore the world of technology.   They way that it was being taught at the time, I found to be too complex.  Would you consider this an unmitigated catastrophe or success? That would be irrelevant! Though my past has helped to propel me toward a foreseeable future in mobile development.

**WHAT HAVE I DONE?**

In my earlier years, in high school, I was the artist and the person to go to get thing done. Stage manger in theater productions, prom committee, yearbook committee, creating floats for our local parades are only a few of my talents during that time.   Winning a local art competition; and being awarded a full ride scholarship to Molloy College and not use it was once thought to be a regret.  I wanted to take my time and actually figure out who I was...clearly, and what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.

My mother pushed me to go straight to college and take fashion. So I enrolled in Nassau Community College for Fashion, Buying and Merchandising, and eventually graduated. I worked three jobs, two of which were on campus: one in the office and one at the reception desk, so when my friends were hanging out, I got paid to hand out with them. Afterward I would go to the mall and work in the evenings. The school set me up with an internship as a buyer in Macy’s Herald Square, but I wanted to try my hand at marketing; which I did at IM International, a fashion-forecasting firm in Manhattan. That went no were and for a long time I could not find work anywhere except fast food and the malls.

My life was quite a networking adventure, beginning in Roosevelt, New York: from Eddie Murphy, Steve White, Frantz Casseus as we had many comedians in our area and spent much time at comedy clubs. I spent time with Public Enemy at Adelphi University radio station. Hanging out with Doctor Dre of “Yo, MTV Raps,” at his home in Westbury, New York. In Studio 6 in Philadelphia with [Tony Dofat](https://twitter.com/TonyDofat) and a few friends chewing the fat with Grover Washington, Jr. Going to Redman and Method Man’s video shoot with a friend from MTV and becoming friend with [Dana Stinson](https://twitter.com/rockenoch13) (aka Rockwilder). Volunteering on the host committee for the Grammy Awards when it was in New York. I almost began designing album covers for some artists at Atlanta and Elecktra Records, after handing with friends I was asked to see my portfolio. I had been playing with a friend’s equipment creating flyers in an early version of Photoshop. They wanted my resume and I didn’t have one at the time. Sometime later I remember being introduced to [Silvia Rhone](https://twitter.com/iamsylviarhone).

I mention many of these connections by name, not to name drop.  It was because when I finally began working in the fashion industry, I used many of these and others to provide networking opportunities to merge both worlds.  In entering this industry I did so  as a temp. Having exposed myself to many other industries during my time at the agency.  Many job opportunities came along because I absorbed information rapidly.  In landing a position at The Fashion Association, I quickly moving from receptionist, to Executive Assistant, then Manager, Public Relations and Membership Services, Associate Creative Director and Associate Fashion/ Marketing Director; often wearing multiple hats simultaneously. I’m not even going to go into how I ended up at a private A&R meeting at the Supper Club, as I positioned myself front row center. I looked up on stage and Clive Davis was trying to figure out who I was. I learned to blend and mingle flawlessly.  Yet, there were at least one disastrous moment that I could recall that was significant.  I found ways to live beyond set-back and detours.

I remember at an event we were doing at either the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers or the Waldorf Astoria, I was speaking with [Emme](http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/shoppers-browse-the-true-beauty-by-emme-fashion-collection-news-photo/1853465) of E’ Entertainment’s Fashion Emergency, who wanted to begin her own closing line. I introduced her to Robbie Ellis who was handing public relations at that time. In turn, since I had once been Norman Karr’s Executive Assistant, I was able to get a meeting set up in a private room at the hotel. These events were where fashion media and executive networked, often as freelancers. For it was not uncommon to have [William Kissel](http://www.brentblack.com/pages/robb_report.html) representing the LA Times one day and the [Robb Report](https://twitter.com/RobbReport) another as fashion editor.  I began to understand the importance of living your dreams and discovering your own destiny.

When I began to create my Facebook page some years ago, I began to reestablish many of my old contacts. It is nice to see people like [Christina Neault](https://www.facebook.com/christina.neault.3?pnref=friends.search), who was once the show producers for the Mercedes Benz Fashion Event in New York and she travels the world; often consulting. Or, [Leon Hall,](https://www.facebook.com/homme1952?pnref=friends.search) no longer playing fashion police with Joan Rivers, living far away from the “Red Carpet” in a Latin American country; for he, like me, was no longer interested in that life. I realized overtime fashion and music often blurred lines and backdoor licensing deals had become commonplace. I found that much of the fashion and music industry was based on whom you knew. If you could get past the gatekeepers you can write you own ticket if you had something to offer, if you were able to sell yourself as a brand.

*I wonder who I am, or rather who I was. As I read a letter to a former two former executive directors at The Fashion Association (formerly, The Men’s Fashion Association), which reads, “I want to extend my thanks to you and your team for thinking of Haggar Clothing Co. with the opportunity to dress Leon Hall with E! Entertainment’s “Fashion Emergency.” I especially want to extend my thanks to Zena. She is indeed the whiz that you told us she was when we first met back in July.” Or, the one from J.M. Haggar, Jr., where Joe say, Thank you very much for all the hospitality and everything that your office through Zena did to make our stay at the Sheraton comfortable.”*

*Norman Karr wrote he was the executive director of three organizations and that I had demonstrated an excellent grasp of the situation and had multiple talents – strong media and member contacts, innovative computer and graphic skills, a good sense on event planning, and a willingness pitch in to help on a whole range of public relations activities.*

*While another dear friend Ted Shumeyko kept trying to honor me for work that I had done for him over time. Trying to surprise me at Sardis, I was always a no show. Finally, I got a call from Robert Dilenschneider of The Dilenschneider Group, Ted had called him about me. Then, a following letter that read, “anyone who get the rare review that I received from Ted Shumeyko is someone they should talk with. I never followed up. It was as if I was in the midst on an internal battle. This is the world my mother wanted. Not me!*

I was not ready for where this life would have taken me. The luxury market was far beyond my comprehension, I value simplicity, family. Maybe that sounds strange to some of you. I was a single mother and my concern was of the well being of my little boy. He now in his twenties, was the one that introduced me to Full Sail. I decided to encourage my son to pursue his path of higher learning, as I lead by example by registering in the graphic design program for this part of my journey. But, this was a world that I never really wished to reside. I began feeling a level of instability. Not financially, in fact living in rural Georgia I made less than minimum wage. I finally came to terms with myself. I wan to travel and work remotely like many of those that I knew in the mid-90s. I want to continue being a part of my children’s lives and possibly one-day grandchildren. Have laptop/ remote office… will travel.

**WHAT AM I YOU DOING?**

Now that I have changed degree programs, I have never been happier. I had my very first taste of code in the SDI and I became hooked.  Prior to beginning my first class I attempted to use Lynda.com to jumpstart my education in this field.  I was all over the place.  There is so much to learn.  I have downloaded many off Lynda.com tutorials on my Macbook Pro using the Lyndia.com app so I will be able to access these materials offline as well.  I’ve begun researching mobile development career opportunities. Keeping an active file of positions, salaries, requirements and bookmarking tutorials of code languages that had been cited in those specific postings. I’ve also begun researching of temp agencies in that field and internship requirements.

In addition, to begin the process of editing social media pages. Following feeds that direct me to positions in mobile development and MeetUps in the region, as well as bookmarking online magazines to keep abreast of industry trends.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

Taking baby steps, I have come a long way. I am currently substitute teaching and am looking to focus on being an adept coder. Work on finding the best way of incorporating prior work history into a coherent CV and expand on that, in addition, to working on my ePortfolio. Revisit the C# language. Redo a few of the previous SDI projects for proficiency. Create a better understanding by doing.

Keep and active list of educators at Full Sail that will help me to complete this leg of my journey, ask questions….ask questions…and then ask more questions.  I am slated to graduate in 2018, the same year as my youngest son is graduating from high school.  Once I have completed this degree I have researched additional coursework to take me further in my new career.