I would consider my story a horror story that I hope to turn into a success story. When I started in Audio/Video, 10 years ago, I came in as an installer. As part of my tech school, the class was sent to a 101 AV programming course and that type of programming was very intriguing to me. So, after a couple years, I moved up to the highest level of installer and hoped that my hard work would warrant me being sent to further programming trainings so that I could be exposed to more of the programming side of the industry. When I was told multiple times that was not going to happen, I left for a company that claimed that they would groom me into a programming position. A few years go by with the new company where I complete dozens of certifications to prove that I would be ready, and it became apparent that was never going to happen. The same has happened for the next two companies that I have worked for, with the company I am working with now having me do a lot of the difficult programming work without the title or compensation of a typical programmer. This is the part that I consider to be the horror story.

The part that I believe will turn it to a success story is that all the denials drove me to complete my BA so there would be no reason that any other company would not hire me strictly as a programmer. During the process, I have been exposed to new languages and frameworks, garnering more interest in other fields and has even allowed me to start my own business completely outside of AV. Hopefully after completing my degree this year the story will turn into a success!