

## Answering the Questions

### 1. *What professional networking site do you plan on maintaining?*

I plan to maintain all of mine including my Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, personal website, and personal blog. My website is my primary and public account for any employers, interested professional parties, or future fans can see my history, follow closely with my education and thought process to truly understand how I work, and keep tabs on my progress. I am already reaching out on LinkedIn to employees of companies I would want to work with and other Full Sailors. I plan to use these platforms to also reach out and find new groups and friends that can help, mentor, and progress me as I can them.

### 2. *What professional organizations do you plan on joining?*

I am already an active member of the UE4 Answer Hub and many Stack Exchange websites, and I plan to engage in some of the private groups with my degree that I can find at events like PAX and Game Developers Conference. I plan to use professional organizations as a powerful networking tool to get connections and make good friendships. One of my primary goals in networking is to learn more so how to use them as tools to meet new people. Through these people and websites, I can find specific groups for my field and possibly even a job in my field.

### 3. *Where do you plan on making professional contacts?*

My plan is to use every resource at my disposal to ensure that I network to my fullest capabilities. I will use Facebook, YouTube, IndieDB, ModsDB, TheGameDB, Twitter, AustinSBunker.com, my personal blog, UE4 Answer Hub, and at conventions and meetups as often as I can find them. I will be calling my advisor for the school as soon as I am through with Orientation to get the dates of Full Sail's professional gatherings and speakers. This will allow me the opportunity to meet current and future professionals from all walks of life and enhance my understanding of gaming and art.

### 4. *What conferences would you like to attend? When? Why?*

When I lived in Seattle, Washington, I attended PAX Prime, I believe it was 2016, and got to see The Witcher 3 display; horses with unicorn horns, women dressed as elves, men dressed as Geralt of Rivea, and people standing around stunned... It was amazing. My nerd began to show and thus gave me a whole new respect for massive conventions like that. I would love to go to Comic Con's main gathering and PAX Prime again, and I dream of attending the GDC (game developers conference) as not many Full Sailors are in Game Development compared to Game Design. I am excited to learn of more events and add them to my list, as I am more of a fan of large generalized expos rather than game specific like Mine-con. I plan to attend these after school, as before money is very limited.

### 5. *List three steps you will take right now to start networking.*

There is an optional Student Community Association Networking Summit today at 6:00pm that I am going to attend to open my connections and hopefully meet more Development students or Gamer students. Our Apartments have ample Full Sailors in them, and I have been making a point to meet the neighbors (the person directly below us attends FSU) and ask questions to see if they attend. I also have my personal website up at AustinSBunker.com where I showcase my college career as I go; it has been half of a month since an update because of Orientation and the move to Florida, but it will be updated within the week. Also, I have been going out of my way to ensure I meet people on campus and ask their career path and stories, and I have met at least 15 people and exchanged stories and words. I am enjoying networking with a group so like myself; it is new, fresh, and warmly welcomed.

## Replies to Classmates



**Sean Flores** Tue Oct 9 @ 2:30 pm MDT

The social networking site I plan on using is LinkedIn. As far as groups I will be joining I will use LinkedIn to find groups within my area of game design such as G2 game design, Naughty Dog, Blizzard and many more. Making contacts I feel is a whole different story and for that I plan on attending conferences like E3, Casual Connect USA, and Unite by Unity. The soonest I will be able to attend would have to be after I am done with school and ready to get my career started. I would really like to go before to get a head start on everything but it honestly how I am doing financially at the time. One of the ways I am going to start my networking is by following the companies on social media sites and keeping up with everything I need to know. Another way is by contacting my local indie game companies and asking them what they are looking for in a game designer and asking plenty of other questions to gain more knowledge from their perspective. One more thing I can do is create a game and post it for the world to see what I have created and get feedback from the gaming community. By doing this I will talk to people who have better insight than me and could enlighten me. The things that can come from all three of those ideas is that I can possibly create a team with the people I meet and just start creating and enjoy the process of creating.

Linked in link - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sean-flores-834a1b171/>

9 replies Edited by Sean Flores Fri Oct 12 @ 4:16 am MDT

### [Response to Sean Flores](#)

I agree with you as far as the conferences go, I would love to network there every year, but it is not feasible financially. Also, I am starting to follow a few companies I hold interest in joining online as well and have learned a lot! While talking with my aunt who is a nurse, she informed me that Epic Games makes the gold standard equipment in the hospitals for

record keeping and a plethora of other things; that is why they are publicly traded as a medical company and not a gaming company. On the topic of gaming, once you release that game I want to try it. I crave feedback on my games, but no one close to me really understands the kind of feedback I am looking for, they only take it at surface value; I think it would be awesome if I could help you out, and hey, maybe you can help test mine! If there is one thing I have learned on my first on campus day that stands out it is the sheer diversity of stories, backgrounds, locations, destinations, and paths at Full Sail, and completely see where you are coming from when you say that you are excited to allow people to enlighten you in ways that you couldn't have been before. I would like to have been able to hear more about your path at Full Sail and how you plan to use your Full Sail colleagues to network too.



**Tyler Montgomery** Wed Oct 10 @ 12:22 pm MDT

### Networking Plan

Tyler Montgomery

I have a bit of a head start on my professional networking situations because I have already begun working on a LinkedIn account. Although I do have a Facebook account, I believe that LinkedIn is the best to use as a professional platform. I will leave Facebook for the unprofessional side of life, but I do have my settings set to friends only.

As far as professional organizations go, LinkedIn is chalk full of different groups and organizations that I can be a part of to connect with my peers in the industry and create some great networking opportunities. There are groups for finding jobs as well as interacting with other professionals in the field. I was also looking into WebProfessionals.org. Web Professionals was founded in 1997 and their mission is to inspire up and coming web professionals and even offering certifications in different areas of the field.

From what I can tell, LinkedIn will be a main source of making professional contacts and I will use that platform for most of my interactions. Hopefully I could find some local professionals and maybe meet up in person to collaborate and pick each other's brains a bit on our profession. Either way, the initial contact will come from LinkedIn.

I have recently learned of an annual conference in Sandusky, Ohio called CodeMash. I would love to attend this conference at least once. It is a collaboration of many different development genres and regularly has an attendance of over 2,500 like-minded professionals. Because of my work load and school, along with my family obligations, I probably would not get the chance to attend this conference until after I graduate from Full Sail University, which is not such a bad thing. I will know more about what I'm getting myself into and I will be more prepared to engage with my peers.

One way that I can begin my professional network is to start joining these professional groups on LinkedIn. These groups will connect with other professionals in the field and may give me more opportunities to learn or even land that first job after graduations. Another step that I can take on my networking journey could be finding some highly skilled and successful professionals in the field, preferably local, and connect with them on LinkedIn. I can try to arrange some online meetings, or even some in-person meetings if they are local, to gain some insight into the industry and maybe some tips that I can use to better myself on my journey. The third step that I can take to better my network is finding a professor or a highly skilled fellow student further down my Full Sail career and ask if they would mentor me and help me become a better professional in my field.

<http://linkedin.com/in/tylermontgomery>


10 replies Edited by Tyler Montgomery Thu Oct 11 @ 4:00 pm MDT

### [Response to Tyler Montgomery](#)

I got a head start as well, and it was smart because maintaining is much easier than creating, and LinkedIn is the best professional website out there. My dad has been in the Corporate Oil and Gas world for almost 30 years now without even a GED or High School Diploma, or a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. He is brilliant, though, and he knows so much more than most about his field! LinkedIn was the only way he could get a job at points, and since then, the contacts he made have been lifelong. In fact, he now has many of those contacts working for him! The groups helped especially when he needed to get a resume out to masses of other companies to get his name out. I have never heard of CodeMash, but I will look it up now because it sounds like my kind of conference! I would like to have heard more than what you plan to do with LinkedIn though, maybe through school or IndieDB; albeit LinkedIn is the best, you still want to expand your searches to other websites, even if they are like LinkedIn. Get your name out in the world as much as possible so people will

remember your name and recommend it. Being vast with your searches and posts will help you manage this task in a much more productive way that just using a singular or a couple of sources.


## Replies to Classmates Continued...



**Jeremiah Berryman** Sun Oct 14 @ 8:50 pm MDT

In June of 2018, I created a professional account on Instagram to show my personal artwork. I've been maintaining the page quite often engaging with my followers and those whom I follow. Creating post every week or so and post it on Instagram. I plan on using this account to meet professionals as I met quite a few as they share useful tips and information when it comes to drawing. One of the communities in currently engaged with is with Game Informer Magazine and also a subscriber to IGN detailing several updates on huge varieties of topics from the video game and industry. One of the conferences I plan on attending is the E3 Press Conference. Sometime after I graduate I would like to attend this conference as all the latest exclusive news is released at this conference. Although I have the time to go now I feel like it will be more appreciated after I become a professional myself. As I would have a background I could engage more at this conference. I've reached out to several artists to share work with each other or promote each other's accounts via Instagram. I also plan to offer some of my time to draw one of my follower's ideas as I do this quite often to spread my work to other supporting artists.


My Instagram account for my professional use is: @Seppukuart

1 reply  Edited by Jeremiah Berryman Sun Oct 14 @ 9:32 pm MDT

### [Response to Jeremiah Berryman](#)

Instagram is a wonderful place for an artistic type like yourself to flaunt your unique skills and engaging with your followers is the absolute best way to meet and interact with people in and out of your field; it gets your name to all audiences. I noticed that a period or two were missing, and it distracted slightly from the reading. You have a thorough source of news with games and art, and it

sounds like you really are interested in what is going on; that is a key to being in the industry as it is changing so much every day. That is one of the greatest parts about Full Sail, it accommodates that need with ease and allows you to focus on what matters. Hopefully one day I might see you at E3 and we can talk about how exciting it is and how crazy it is that we would run into each other! Drawing for your followers is another awesome way to engage yourself and others in your work and acquire loads of feedback so you know how everyone sees your art. It sounds like you are dedicated to your craft, and I would like to know more about your art and the artists which you have reached out to. It would also have been great to hear about some other ways that Instagram that you are getting yourself out there. Art has many websites and groups, even on Facebook, that are incredible at sourcing people together, and providing a base for networking.



**STEPHEN MEJIA** Wed Oct 10 @ 1:10 pm MDT

Stephen Mejia

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3.0 Networking Plan

10/10/2018

In an effort of building professional networking relationships, I have created a profile on LinkedIn. In order to become familiarize with Graphic Design companies and have more professional contacts I have joined the AIGA.org. The American Institute of Graphic Arts has the largest community of professional graphic designers to enhance professional development, inspire, educational guidance, and define ethical practices within the profession. Also, I have joined Google Design Newsletter to be informed on the latest articles, news, and events from one of the leading if not the leader in multinational technology company specializes in internet-related services and products. In addition to their informative blog, Google Design is a cooperative effort group of designers, writers, and developers discussing many aspects of software tools and training.

I don't have the privilege to know personally anyone in this industry for mentoring or guidance but feel this networking plan will be my platform into meeting, learning, and creating with leading graphic designers. I have begun the process of seeking a personal mentoring in the graphic design, marketing, and advertising industry whom have established their work within the industry through social media platform, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

While studying in Full Sail for Graphic Design, I will proceed to find associations, organizations, or any events related to my industry to stay in touch with the latest innovations and news: like International Council of Graphic Design Associations (Icograda), Graphic Artist Guild, Association of Registered Graphic Designers (RGD), Society for News Design (SND) to name a few. Locally I will be attending as many graphic design events possible in my Miami area, AIGA Studio Tour - Jacober Creative on October 18, 2018 in Miami Beach. During these events I will take the opportunity to make as many possible professional contacts.

The conference of all conferences I would love to attend is the 2019 AIGA Design Conference on April 4, 2019 - April 6, 2019 in Pasadena, CA. I might not be able to attend next years but will try to attend before graduating from Full Sail. In today's day social media runs our marketing and advertising world. Considering this I will be using twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to follow a few of the best graphic designers in the world like Chip Kidd, Rob Janoff, Peter Saville, Michael Bierut, Kate Moross, and Paula Scher to name a few. Also, I will be consistently looking to volunteer to work in graphic design conference or convention near me because I'm a visual learner and what better way to learn than to be expose to vendors, trends, and job opportunities that can arise from volunteering. Ultimately, this networking plan will be my base with the knowledge and education I will receive in Full Sail, I see a promising career in Graphic Design.

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-mejia-428958172>

### [Response to Stephen Mejia](#)

LinkedIn is a very popular networking website, which makes it an emasculate choice for your journey. It is very neat that AIGA.org exists because it gives creatives like you an outlet to talk to others in your field or similar fields. It inspires me to investigate something similar for gaming and game development as well; I will also have to join Google Design. I am in the same boat not knowing anyone (**yet**) to mentor me, but I agree that those are wonderful places to start, and it takes some work to know good connections. A saying from Michelle Obama, "...success doesn't count unless you've earned it fair and square." (Obama, 2016) Hopefully I will see you in some of the groups online, as while I am on campus, I plan to attend online groups still and stay in the Discord chats. The AIGA Conference would be a lot of fun, even though I am not a Designer, it would still be amazing to meet all the professionals and make the connections there. Being a Developer, I need the help of designers to get anything done, without you, we wouldn't be able to develop anymore! Keep

up the excellent work with your networking plan, it is solid and will for sure work out for you!