

David Loya '08 Combines Work & Play

Meet David Loya '08. He is putting his Sage degree – in the well-established field of business administration – to work in an emerging industry: Video Games.

Loya is in charge of quality assurance at Troy, N.Y.-based Agora Games, which has built online features and web-based communities for the best known titles like Guitar Hero, Dance Dance Revolution and a series of games based on professional skateboarder Tony Hawk.

According to Loya, Agora captures data like high scores from games. When players – “gamers” as they call themselves – finish enjoying a game on their console, they can hop online and view their stats against players across the country and around the world. Agora also promotes online gamer events, such as tournaments, contests, and giveaways. With Agora’s technology, players get more out of their game, and game publishers can gather data that informs future game development.

“As the QA Lead I am responsible for managing the quality of our projects from start to finish. This is accomplished through creating test plans, test cases and rigorous testing throughout the project time line,” said Loya who began working at Agora as an intern while he was a Sage student. “There is a lot that goes on within a ‘typical’ work day, but it is never the same. Most days I meet with the engineers and project managers to see where we stand in regard to our milestones. From there I may need to document a test case or start a new test plan. Throughout the day I shift my attention between projects to ensure that testing is up to schedule for any milestones that need to be met.”

The video game industry demands a multidisciplinary workforce, and Loya says Sage prepared him well. “Throughout my time at Sage I found that the business administration curriculum emphasized the ability to adapt to evolving technology and ever changing needs of the work place,” said Loya, who supplemented his business courses with electives in web development. “Businesses today rely on students having more depth in technology when they are coming out of college.”

Agora Games – which has doubled its client base and employees over the past two years – recently won a “Rising Star” award from Tech Valley’s Center for Economic Growth. It’s a fast-paced, entrepreneurial environment. “You need to be willing to do a lot of work,” said Loya. But there is a major perk. “Being in QA does involve actually playing our clients games.”

