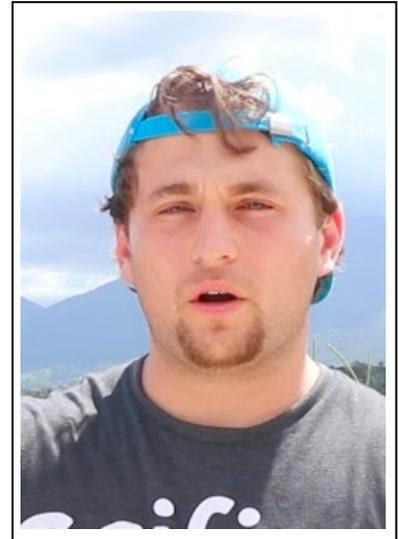


Sean Biava
Computer Science and Information Systems in Engineering
Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering/Warrington College of Business

Sean Biava is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Florida's Computer Science and Information Systems in Engineering program. Sean has engaged his interdisciplinary studies in Chemistry and has studied abroad in Chengdu, China to learn the Mandarin dialect.



Born just outside of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Sean grew up in a diverse environment that would be the inspiration for his interest in many cultures and hobbies. In his time serving as a board member of the National Honor Society, in addition to serving as the captain of his Highschool's Varsity Lacrosse and Varsity Football teams, Sean learned the value of human connection and the role it plays in creating a collective sense of success and fulfillment. Looking back, Sean recognizes that facilitating human connection has been the common connective tissue driving him in each of his endeavors.

His first two years at the University of Florida involved a deep period of self-discovery. Spending much of this time developing his logistic skills and design-focused thinking, Sean planned numerous large philanthropic events in the UF student community when he served as the Philanthropy Chair and Public Relations chairs for Delta Chi, and also as an Assistant Director for Dance Marathon at The University of Florida.

Pairing his leadership experience in designing and facilitating events with his background in Engineering, Sean was recruited by Empowered Prosthetics (now known as Symbionix) to be President of the company and lead their design teams.

After moving on from the company, Sean saw the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the Gainesville innovation and startup ecosystems, so Sean co-founded The Bodega (www.thebodega.net) - a restaurant tech company that uses innovative processes to bring a locally-sourced flare to the bodega market model. At the same time, as the founder and president of the Entrepreneurship Collective, Sean spearheaded the rebranding of the student entrepreneurship ecosystem - with a focus on connecting students, the university, and the established startup and tech companies within Gainesville.

While it may seem that much of his focus has been on leadership and facilitation, in the background Sean was hard at work with his Engineering degree to build his own technical knowledge and skills. Returning to his connective thread of facilitating human connection, Sean has entered his new company, Nexus Inc, into a startup accelerator and is developing experimental software tech that "drives human fulfillment." Sean also works on the management team of the travel experience company Startup Island (www.joinstartupisland.com)