

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## ADAM FERNANDEZ

### WHERE ARE YOU FROM & WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

My father worked for the State Department so I grew up primarily overseas. My wife is currently attending VCOM which is what drew us to the area.

### HOW HAS COVID IMPACTED THINGS FOR YOU?

I am currently working in the office but I've certainly had to be much more adaptable because of COVID. It has inadvertently caused me to interact with a lot of new people in different departments which is actually quite nice!

Since my wife and I had been in the area for less than a year when COVID struck it has made it more difficult to meet people or to even go out and see what the area has to offer.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

I started homebrewing during the early days of COVID and have enjoyed learning and experimenting more with that; it's nice to be able to have a tangible product to work towards.

### FAVORITE FOOD?

Cuban sandwich, with all of the traditional fixings.

### FIRST JOB?

My first real job was working for a large grocery chain in Michigan called Meijer. While the work was pretty tedious, the people who worked there were fascinating and a real joy to work with.

### AS A KID, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I wanted to be an archaeologist in the style of Indiana Jones.

### ONE THING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Taking my wife to Australia since it is one of the top places she would like to go.

### ONE MOMENT IN HISTORY YOU WISH YOU COULD WITNESS?

I would love to be able to see the Hagia Sophia in its original form. It has gone through so many changes that at this point it's hard to imagine what it would have been like originally.

### ONE HOUSEHOLD CHORE YOU CANNOT STAND? ONE YOU ENJOY?

Personally I don't care for mowing the lawn, particularly since I'm allergic to grass pollen. I enjoy routine cleaning because there's a certain satisfaction to be had once everything is clean and sparkly.

### SOMETHING YOU'RE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I'm passionate about my family because they've been one of the few constants in my life. And of course I am very excited that we'll be welcoming in a new addition to our family shortly. :)

### CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR FIRST CHILD DUE IN APRIL!

#### WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT? NERVOUS ABOUT?

I am excited about having a daughter while she can still have a chance to meet and spend time with her grandparents; I am nervous about taking care of her shortly after her birth because I don't have a ton of experience around small children one way or another.

#### PICKED OUT A NAME YET?

We have picked out a couple of names but are going to wait until we meet her to decide which one to use.

#### WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT BEING A DAD?

Apart from my corny jokes being excusable as "dad jokes" I think the thing I am most looking forward to is going to be watching and helping our daughter as she grows up.



### Accounts Payable Scanning Specialist (Controller)

Joined Virginia Tech in:  
November 2019

Hometown: Burke, VA

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### Job Duties and Responsibilities:

Typically I process incoming mail and sort it into different categories for Accounts Payable to pay, but lately I've also been working with a lot of different departments. Since COVID started, I entered COVID test information over at Schiffert, processed invoices for Accounts Payable, and am currently working with Payroll.

### ANY PETS?

We have one cat named Franklin who was found trapped in a tarp behind a Greek restaurant as a kitten, but now spends most of his time indoors.

### FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

The favorite place I've been to in a general sense would probably be Spain. The combination of great food with an interesting history (and having some familiarity with the native language) are what make it great to me.

### A PLACE YOU'D LOVE TO VISIT?

I would love to visit Alaska. In terms of natural landmarks and beauty, Alaska seems like one of the best places in the world you go to and I'd like to see it for myself. It also helps that it technically is still part of the US so travelling there isn't too complicated.