EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

ELENA CIRMIZI

Position: Director, Tax Compliance, Controller's Office

Joined Virginia Tech: 2024

Education: Bachelor in Law, 2007, Moldova State University; Masters in Law, American University, 2010; Ph.D., George Mason University (in progress).

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TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB

I ensure that Virginia Tech adheres to all federal, state, and local tax laws and regulations by overseeing tax reporting, filings, and audits; develop and implement tax policies, provide guidance to departments and maintain our tax-exempt status while minimizing tax risks.

WHAT IS ONE PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON NOW?

A comprehensive Remote Work Policy.

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Finding solutions to complex tax challenges and assisting others in resolving issues that arise daily.

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

I wanted to be a ballerina in elementary school and then a veterinarian in middle school.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I like gardening and winemaking. I am also learning ice skating.

ONE THING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Defend my PhD dissertation. I am studying ethnic conflicts in Eastern Europe by analyzing ethnic minorities' narratives.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

I have 2 adopted cats, an Abyssinian Loulou (12), and a calico kitten named Beenie—just 4 weeks old!

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND AND COULD KEEP ONLY 3 THINGS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

I am very practical: I would bring a tent, hatchet, and fire starter kit.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

I travel a lot and enjoy various places. Among my latest: Mediterranean coast of Turkey, and the Carpathian and Trakian mountains in Romania and Bulgaria. I also enjoy exploring Mexican indigenous heritage, and hope to travel to the Yucatan peninsula.

WHAT IS ONE PLACE YOU'D LOVE TO VISIT?

I would like to visit the New Seven Wonders of the World. So far, I've managed to visit only Chichén Itzá.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE... FOOD?

Mashed potatoes and burgers

MOVIE?

I absolutely love Marvel movies

SPORTS TEAM?

Capitals (Hockey) and German National Team (Soccer)

HOLIDAY?

I love Thanksgiving and New Year celebrations. We have large family and friends' gatherings at our house on these holidays. I enjoy cooking traditional dishes, decorating the house, and creating a festive atmosphere of anticipation.

MUSIC?

I like Imagine Dragons, Queen, and country music.

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU WATCHING THAT OTHERS NEED TO CHECK OUT?

Chicago PD

IF YOU COULD KEEP ONLY 3 APPS ON YOUR PHONE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Facebook, Camera, and Messenger.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, IT WOULD BE...?

Time travel would be fascinating. The opportunity to journey to the past and learn more about different societies and how people lived in earlier times would be an incredible experience.

WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR WEIRDEST QUIRKS?

I can eat a large bowl of kimchi in one sitting!

YOU WIN THE LOTTERY. WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU BUY?

I would buy vineyards and a winery in Loudoun County!