EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

SETH RODGERS

Financial Systems Lead (Bursar)

Hometown: Cambridge Springs – a small town near Erie, PA.

Joined Virginia Tech: 2023

Email: serodgers@vt.edu

Job Responsibilities: Improving Bursar's Office operations through our systems and be a liaison between our office and our IT teams.

WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?
I love academic environments, especially those that emphasize community. I was sold as a student on the Masters of IT program, and when my fiancée also joined as a Tech grad student, we finally got to immerse ourselves in the town.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
In our own way, we're helping continue an individual's pursuit of their dreams by providing the best environment to learn and follow those dreams.

PASSION?
Education as a whole, because it allows a person to both discover and pursue their dreams.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?
Traveling and exploring; sports events, pickup games, hiking, golf, snowboarding; gaming.
My golf game is a never-ending project and it's been that way since I was little. The mental awareness golf helps create would be its best reward (because the scores never are).

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?
Quebec City, Canada. The blend of European influences, especially in the old city, and the rich history made it an extremely interesting place to experience.

WHERE HAVE YOU NEVER BEEN, BUT WANT TO VISIT?
After experiencing the smallest bit of Alaska, I would love to see the rest of the beauty it offers. I'd love to compare the landscapes to that of Norway and the rest of Scandinavia. Bucket list also to visit every state and every Major League Baseball ballpark.

FAVORITE FOOD?
Most of my favorite dishes incorporate fried chicken in one form or another.

FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC?
While I dive into any genre depending on mood, my defaults are 2000's pop punk and indie. If I had to pick any, Fall Out Boy through the years would be the staple band.

HAVE YOU EVER MET ANYONE FAMOUS?
I ran into Pete Wentz , the Fall Out Boy bassist, at his local music store. I just gave a head nod acknowledgment.

FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE?
The Hobbit and *The Lord of The Rings*. There are many lessons to pull from this series, my favorite being that even the smallest folks can make the biggest differences.

ANY PODCASTS YOU RECOMMEND?
Critical Role (Fantasy); *Dan Carlin's Hardcore History*; Shut-down *Fullcast* and *Splitzone Duo* (college football); *Last Podcast on the Left*, and *Lore* (Spooky).

WHAT TV SHOWS ARE YOU WATCHING THAT OTHERS NEED TO CHECK OUT?
What We Do in the Shadows and *I Think You Should Leave* – both for their zaniness.

FAVORITE HOLIDAY?
Thanksgiving – I enjoy food and football.

FAVORITE BREAKFAST FOOD?
Frosted Mini Wheats.

FAVORITE TEAM?
College football: [Nittany] Lions and the Hokies. We were robbed of an amazing home and home series.
Pro: Washington Nationals

DO YOU HAVE A WEIRD QUIRK?
Because I grew up with Legos and still enjoy them, I have a Lego travel companion (can provide proof if requested.)

WHAT ARE SOME STRENGTHS YOU BRING TO THE JOB?
Communication and authenticity. Without a quality stream of communication, we can't deliver the best for our academic community.

WHAT 3 APPS ON YOUR PHONE?
Phone for calls, Messenger for texts, a web browser for everything else.

SUPERPOWER YOU'D LIKE?
Mindreading.

IF YOU COULD HAVE THE ANSWER TO JUST ONE QUESTION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Why, in the original grand plans of the universe, couldn't we have the ability to talk to animals?

ANY PETS?
2 pups: Jack (mix of many things) and Felix (Mini American Eskimo)
2 kitties: Blair (black medium hair) and Pepper (black shorthair)

FAVORITE QUOTE?
"And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good."
- John Steinbeck, East of Eden