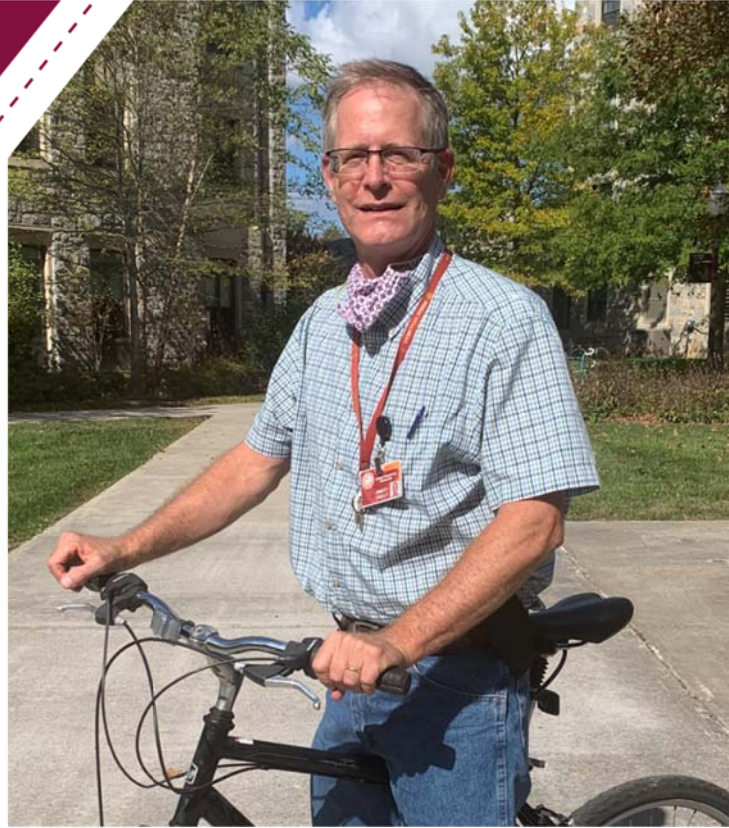


EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BRET KELLY



WHAT IS YOUR WORK SITUATION LIKE WITH COVID?

The Hokie Passport technical team has been working on campus. Keeping safe is a big priority because I must enter buildings with possible or known COVID cases to repair electronic locks.

HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN DIFFERENT DURING THE PANDEMIC?

I am no longer able to carpool or eat lunch with my wife since she started working from home. She works as an applications developer for VT CALS IT.

WHAT'S ONE PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON?

I have been working with Housing and Network Infrastructure & Services on planning the installation of electronic locks in the new CID LLC residence hall on Kent St. There are close to 600 locks going into this building and planning the infrastructure has been a challenge.

SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE YOU'RE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I build my house myself. It is a two-story timber frame and I cut all the trees for the timbers. I attended a weeklong workshop in North Carolina on basic timber-frame joinery, and then I came back and cut all the joints for my frame with a mallet and chisel. The downstairs is not yet complete, and I just really enjoy working on it.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Besides working on the house, I enjoy cooking and riding my bicycle.

ANY PETS?

I have three cats. Silky is 17 and likes a warm, quiet place to sleep. Olive is 2 and follows me everywhere, and Penny is 8 months and is a little ball of energy.



- **Electronics Technician Supervisor** (Hokie Passport Services)
- **Joined Virginia Tech in:** I started with Network Infrastructure & Services in 2013 and joined Hokie Passport Services in 2016.
- **Hometown:** Montgomery Co., VA
- **bkel5002@vt.edu**
- **Job Duties and Responsibilities:** Supervise and assist the installation, maintenance, and repair of Hokie Passport access control systems at Virginia Tech.

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...EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT... BRET KELLY

FIRST THING YOU'D BUY IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY?

I'd get a garage to work on my vehicles. If you have ever worked on a vehicle in the cold while lying on your back in gravel, then dropped a nut or screw, you know exactly what I mean.

FIRST JOB?

I worked as a cook at McDonald's in Wytheville on weekends and summers during high school. I enjoyed the extra money and working with the people, but I hated smelling like grease all the time.

WHO IS SOMEONE THAT INSPIRES YOU?

My father-in-law Tim, who was a 1958 graduate of Virginia Tech, was and still is my inspiration. He was a hard-working man who enjoyed life. He was devoted to his family and his friends, and he never met a stranger.

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

I wanted to attend the Coast Guard Academy and be a Coast Guard Officer. My eyesight did not meet the requirements. I enlisted instead and served 8 years as an Electronics Technician. It was very rewarding.

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

We use an outside contractor for a lot of our new access installations, but there are a few jobs where we do all the work. It is very rewarding to be a part of these jobs from start to finish.

ONE PLACE YOU'D LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

My wife and I have travelled to many places and Japan is next on our list. We have friends there, and we want to experience the culture and try the food.

ONE SENTENCE YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUR BOSS TOMORROW?

"We don't have to do performance evaluations this year."



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE...

PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

While in Italy, my wife and I spent a day exploring the ruins of Pompeii. That is a fascinating place because of how well it was preserved.

SPOT ON CAMPUS?

Past work has allowed me access to the top of the Lane Stadium towers. I love the view of the campus from up there.

MUSIC?

I listen to a wide range of music but *Coldplay* is my favorite band.

FOOD?

Korean

HOLIDAY?

Halloween. I enjoyed carving jack-o-lanterns with my daughter and taking her trick-or-treating. Now that she is grown and on her own, we exchange pictures of our jack-o-lanterns.

SPORT OR TEAM?

The Hokies, of course!

MOVIE or BOOK?

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy—I love the quirky British humor.

BREAKFAST CEREAL?

I like Golden Puffs the best, but I have a made-from-scratch, buttermilk pancake recipe that is wonderful and I have yet to find its equal.