



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BRYAN HOLLOWAY



HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN DIFFERENT DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Before the pandemic, my wife and I visited Lynchburg about once a month to see family and friends, but we no longer do that. I think that's been the hardest part for us, we have family members that are getting up there in age and unfortunately we're unable to see them.

WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I graduated from Virginia Tech and knew I wanted to stay in the area. I was lucky enough to find a procurement position, with a local manufacturing company after graduation, and then I had the opportunity to join VT in 2019.

WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT WORK SITUATION LIKE?

I'm working from the office about twice a week and working remotely about three days a week. Personally, distractions (i.e. DOGS) and staying organized have been the only real challenges from a working perspective.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THE CORPS OF CADETS? WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?

I actually clicked on the wrong button during my application process for VT. I thought I was clicking on a button requesting more information on the VTCC, but I actually agreed to the program. I went along with it and never looked back.

The most rewarding part about being in the VTCC was how it prepared me for life after graduation. Most people don't realize that the Corps of Cadets does have civilians that go through the program. Those civilians conduct mock job interviews, host resume workshops, and even host networking events.

WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THAT EXPERIENCE?

Nothing worth doing is ever easy. Sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone to better yourself. I also made plenty of friends along the way, most of whom I still communicate with on a daily basis.

- **Buyer Senior, Research and Scientific** (Procurement)
- **Joined Virginia Tech in:** 2019
- **Hometown:** Lynchburg, VA
- **bryanh91@vt.edu**
- **Job Duties and Responsibilities:** Handling and processing purchases and facilitating the competitive proposal/bid process for campus, manage university contracts, maintaining appropriate business relations with vendors, and serving as a resource for campus to field and purchasing related questions and issues.

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IF YOU COULD ONLY KEEP THREE APPS ON YOUR PHONE, THEY WOULD BE...?

Snapchat and Facebook to communicate with my friends and family, and the other would be MyRadar. It's just a simple weather app, but I'm somewhat obsessed with the weather.

ANY PETS?

My wife and I have four pets: Bo our 4-year-old Siamese cat, Baxter our 10-year-old poodle terrier, Bailey our 2-year-old German shepherd, and Goose our 3-year-old German shepherd.

TV RECOMMENDATIONS?

I'm a little late to the game, but I've been watching *The Office* and it has not disappointed.

ARE YOU INTO PODCASTS?

Not very much. However, I do play recordings of thunderstorms to act as white noise while I'm working.

FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

The Drillfield. I had so many memories take place there: running with the VT Corps of Cadets at 5AM, the fireworks during ring premiere, the snowball fights, the list goes on and on.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES?

Fishing, hiking, barbecuing, anything Hokie sports-related, and I've recently added computers to the list. My wife and I also like to drive around surrounding small towns and explore those; however, we haven't done that in quite some time due to COVID.

HAVE YOU EVER MET ANYONE FAMOUS?

I played football against Logan Thomas (former VT quarterback) in high school. I played defensive end and decided to try and tackle him on my own. I woke up a few seconds later on my back and he was about 15 yards down the field. I was always embarrassed about that moment, until I saw him do it to other Division 1 football players. But, that's probably the closest I've come to "meeting" someone famous.

MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Being able to help people. I love being able to walk people through problems or being able to assist them in some way.

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

I can honestly say that I had no idea. Even after I was already in college, I ended up switching my major like five times. Engineering, Engineering Technology, Machining, Business, and I finally ended on Accounting.

FAVORITE HOLIDAY?

Halloween and I have no idea why. To be honest, I'm not even a fan of scary movies, but I like the weather and I like the days getting shorter.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN?

"If you can't do the little things right, you will never do the big things right."

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT STRENGTHS YOU BRING TO THE JOB?

I'm always willing to lend a hand wherever I'm needed.

WHAT IS ONE...

THING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

To see the Northern Lights.

PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT?

The Bahamas. I've always wanted to see clear water and go snorkeling.

PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON NOW?

Sourcing a food digester for the new Student Athlete Performance Center. The machine will mechanically digest food scraps left over from athletes. Once the food has been mechanically digested, the bio-waste will then be discarded through the sewer. This machine will help cut costs and reduce our carbon footprint.

MOMENT IN HISTORY YOU WISH YOU COULD WITNESS?

May 8, 1945 – Victory in Europe Day. I can't imagine the relief the world felt that day.

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

"COVID IS OVER."

OF YOUR WEIRD QUIRKS?

Cleaning is weird for me. Everything has to be put away or straightened up before I can begin my day.

FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU COULDN'T GO WITHOUT?

Chick-fil-A's Waffle Fries. They are life.