

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT KARLING WILHELM

## WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I actually wanted to go to UVA for college but got rejected so as a joke I applied to Virginia Tech and ended up here. I always said “why would I go to a school where there are more cows than people?” But I’m still here and loving the area.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

I love to water paint, but find I don’t have enough time to do it as much as I’d prefer. Also, building keyboards. I have three different keyboards at my desk that I rotate. And I probably have another 4-5 keyboards at home that I haven’t begun yet.

## WHAT’S ONE OF YOUR UNIQUE PASSIONS?

In my house, you’ll find a tissue box and trash can in every room. It peeves me when I need a tissue and there isn’t one available.

## OTHER QUIRKS? ONE OF YOUR PET PEEVES?

Quirks—I can wiggle my nose like a bunny. I don’t know how I taught myself. For pet peeves—chewing with your mouth open. I don’t need to see into people’s mouths and their half-chewed food.

## FIRST JOB?

I worked in retail at Macy’s. I absolutely hated it. The late hours, constant cleaning up after the customers... It taught me a lot about how to be a customer, but the job was just miserable.

## FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

There is a courtyard between Slusher Hall and Campbell Hall I love. It’s the perfect place to be outside without a lot of people around. There are some trees that are perfect to hang a hammock.

## ONE BUCKET LIST ITEM?

Traveling to all the national parks. I’ve just been to a handful. But I think it would be a great way to travel around the US and see the beautiful parks that the US has protected since 1872.

## FAVORITE QUOTE?

“We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand.” - Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

## ONE CHORE YOU ENJOY? ONE YOU CAN’T STAND?

I hate, hate, hate folding laundry. Don’t mind the washing and drying, but folding is a struggle.

## WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU’VE VISITED?

Ireland—I loved learning about the history of the area and love the medieval architecture and castles. And, the food was soooo fresh compared to American food.

## SOMEWHERE YOU’D LOVE TO VISIT ONE DAY?

Scotland—for the highland cows and medieval architecture.

## FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?

I’m not a sports person. I’m like the least competitive person when it comes to sports and don’t see the enjoyment of them.

## WHAT’S ONE OF YOUR PHOBIAS?

I hate roller coasters. The free-falling feeling you get just makes me sick.

## DO YOU STILL BUY CD’S OR RECORDS?

I have a record player and do buy them on occasion. The last one I bought was *Wilder Mind* by Mumford & Sons.

## FAVORITE MOVIE?

Okay, it’s hard to narrow this down to one.

*Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)  
This was the first stop-motion animation movie I had ever watched. It amazes me how clay inanimate objects are carefully moved frame-by-frame to develop a whole film.

*Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)  
I watched this movie every Christmas season with my family. There’s something about this movie I just love.



**Business Operations  
Coordinator** (Bursar’s Office)

**Hometown:** Gainesville, VA

**VT Class of 2019:** (Degree in *Business Economics*)

**Joined Virginia Tech:** 2019

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**Job Responsibilities:** I mainly do two things: (1) help support the office through supply orders, helping on emails/phones, etc., and (2) work on a number of different projects.

## FAVORITE FOOD?

Duck is hands down the best food ever. I will say, duck is not only my favorite food but also my favorite animal. Kind of morbid to eat your favorite animal, but as the song from *The Lion King* says, it’s the circle of life.

## FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU COULD NOT GO WITHOUT?

My brain does not boot up until coffee has been added to my system.

## IF YOU COULD LEARN TO DO SOMETHING, IT WOULD BE...?

Picking up languages. I would love to speak multiple languages, but I just don’t have the knack for it.

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

Teacher, but then I actually got to help a class in grade school and realized quickly that teaching was not the way for me.

## ANY PETS?

No pets, but I hope to one day get a corgi.