

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT PAT OLIVER

WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I spent the first 18 years of my life in New Jersey. A friend had moved to Virginia and loved it. I had visited Virginia when I was younger and thought it might be a nice place to live. I wound up in Lynchburg. I spent a semester at Lynchburg College and then moved to Blacksburg and transferred to Tech. I fell in love with the area and stayed.

HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED DURING COVID?

Not being able to visit with family and friends has been very difficult. But, fear of carrying an illness to someone else is something that I never thought about until COVID happened.

SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE THAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Animal Welfare. I've seen firsthand what happens to unwanted companion animals and it is heartbreaking to me. I grew up with both companion animals and livestock and thankfully, my family taught me to respect and be kind to animals.

ANY PETS?

I have five rescued cats, one rescued dog, five fish and a mule.

WHAT'S A MEMORABLE QUOTE OR PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED?

"Happiness is a personal decision."

My mother used to say that. She never let situations or people diminish the joy she had for life.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Gardening, painting, hiking, listening to music.

WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY?

I enjoy all different types of music - classical, folk, jazz, rock, country and everything in between. It really depends on the mood I am in.

DO YOU STILL BUY CDs OR RECORDS?

Yes, I listen to and buy both. I believe the last CD I bought was by Pink. If I hear an artist or group I like, then I'll buy their albums when I find them. Some music really does sound better in record format.

ONE OF YOUR WEIRDEST QUIRKS?

I like working with and building things with rocks. I find it both mentally and physically challenging.

ONE OF YOUR PET PEEVES?

People who assume they can multi-task while driving, particularly when one of those tasks involves a cell phone.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WISH YOU COULD LEARN TO DO?

I would like to be able to learn how to speak several different languages fluently.

FAVORITE BOOK OR MOVIE?

I think my favorite book is *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. It's a wacky and funny way to look at life and the universe.



Loans Supervisor
(Bursar's Office)

Joined Virginia Tech in: 1989

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VT Class of '85
(Bachelor of Arts)

Job Duties & Responsibilities:

I work with Student loans that are owed to the University - Perkins loans, Health Professions Student loans and 5 institutional loan programs. I also process petty cash requests and set up projects in the ClinCard program.

FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

The horticulture gardens. I enjoy the water features and I seem to always find a plant that I hadn't seen in previous visits.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

Germany, the countryside was beautiful and the people were friendly.

SOMEWHERE YOU WOULD LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

There are several places I would love to see. I think Ireland would be first on my list, it looks beautiful. Australia is another place that really looks interesting and different.