

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

TRACY CHRISTENSEN



WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I am a third-generation Hokie. My grandfather graduated VT in the late 40's with an agricultural degree, my parents met at VT (Pamplin) in the early 70's, and I wanted to keep the tradition going. I grew up in Christiansburg but was constantly coming to Blacksburg, whether it be the Duckpond or VT football games (I played under the South Endzone bleachers when they were still 'high school' metal bleachers). I bleed Maroon and Orange; I often joke that I was a Hokie in the womb.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Some of my favorites include playing softball, water and snow skiing, hiking, and painting.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Other than parenting, I am a 10U softball coach and it holds such a special place in my heart. I have been coaching for 9 years. I love being able to watch them grow as individuals and on the field while developing their talents, seeing their sweet faces light up when they make a play or get a great hit and having the opportunity to celebrate with them. I love being one of their 'go-to' people for any and everything they want to bring to me.

WHAT IS AN ATTRIBUTE OR SKILL THAT YOU BRING TO VT?

Honesty—I tell my daughters all the time that your word is all you have, and integrity—it's important to do the right thing even when no one is looking.

IF YOU COULD ONLY KEEP 3 APPS ON YOUR PHONE, THEY'D BE...?

Facebook—I am very social creature and like seeing what's going on in my friends lives and seeing their successes, kids, etc.

Camera—I love being able to take pictures of my kids and the surroundings, freezing a moment in time to be able to look back on.

Starbucks—I literally live off of coffee :)

FAVORITE QUOTE?

Growing up my dad always told me, *"It doesn't matter what you become in life as long as you strive to be the best at it."* It's something I've definitely taken as a motto, "Why do something if you're not going to do it right?" Quality is an extremely important goal for me.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

My favorite places involve a beach. The Exuma islands in the Bahamas are really nice with beautiful clear water. There's a place there where you can see the blue water of the Atlantic meets the clear water of the Caribbean and it is stunning!

INTERESTING PROJECT YOU ARE WORKING ON?

The one I am most excited for is to assist in preparing the Board of Visitors materials as it consists of compiled financial data.

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

Neonatal nurse. I love babies and took pre-req nursing right when Ebola came out. I read an article about our polar icecaps melting and a bird's nest that had been discovered and was being biohazard transferred to Germany for study and the diseases we could be exposed to within the icecaps. I was literally scared back to business.

FAVORITE MUSIC? FIRST CONCERT?

I really enjoy most music but what most people don't know is I REALLY love late 50's and early 60's music! (Thanks Dad!). My first concert was Ludacris at the Dedmon Center at Radford.

FAVORITE FOOD?

Chinese buffet, but if I have to be more specific I'll go with General Tso's chicken.

FIRST JOB?

Summer before my freshman year of high school, at Ridgewood Swim Club, where I worked concessions. Selling drinks, snacks, answering the phone, scheduling swim lessons. I loved it.

Business Operations Coordinator (Controller)

Hometown: Christiansburg, VA

VT Class of 2020: (Finance double major—Risk Mgt. and Banking, and Business IT—Supply Chain Management)

Joined Virginia Tech: 2022

Email: tracyc19@vt.edu

Job Responsibilities: I work closely with the University Controller and leadership teams. I coordinate events and travel, as well provide support to the human resource cycle.

ONE BUCKET LIST ITEM?

I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie, I want to go sky-diving!

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

Learn computer programming—it is SO hard but it is so neat.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR "DREAM HOME"?

It is on a lake with massive kitchen and walk in closet (or 2)! It would have a huge boat dock that's in the sun, with an upper level to jump from/hangout on, and a lower level to be able to lay out in the sun!

ANY PETS?

I have a dog, Steeler, that I rescued from the RCACP in Roanoke when he was 6 years old, 3 days before my wedding, without telling my future husband. Good thing he loves me! We also have three 'Marvelous' cats: Nebula, Loki, and T'Challa. And, because I love my husband so much, TWO fish tanks (insert eyeroll)

MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Being able to say that I work for Virginia Tech, and feeling like I make a difference for my alma mater.