

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## TULIKA CHAUDHARY

### WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I am originally from Northern Virginia and came here for school. I ended up loving the area, the sunsets, the overall lack of traffic and just never moved away.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

I love literature and poetry, cooking, and playing Dungeons and Dragons! Poetry is one of the best ways of sharing the human experience, especially across time and geography. I also love to paint and will not stop trying to play the piano despite being on month 11 of no success with that!

### IF YOU COULD ONLY KEEP 3 APPS ON YOUR PHONE, THEY WOULD BE...?

The camera! Going through old photos is my favorite way of revisiting old memories, big and small. The NYT Crossword app because word puzzles are so easy to play alone or with people, and they fit in any amount of time you have available. Epicurious for meal inspiration because I love to cook and also love to pretend like I will actually follow a recipe and not get carried away.

### WHAT MUSIC DO YOU ENJOY?

I'm a huge rock fan, I love soft rock and indie rock the most. Anything that feels nice and mellow is my jam.

### ONE OF YOUR PET PEEVES?

I hate when people round when I ask them what time it is. If it is 6:47, why would you say 6:45? It's the same amount of effort! I just want what the clock says.

### ONE OF YOUR QUIRKS?

I sleep with four blankets, one of which is heated. I have a heated mattress pad, too, and another one of the blankets is weighted. I am pressed like a panini at night.

### FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

The quad area in front of D2...great for flying kites.

### FAVORITE QUOTE?

From C.S. Lewis, Voyage of the Dawn Treader:

*"In our world," said Eustace, "a star is a huge ball of flaming gas."*

*"Even in your world, my son, that is not what a star is, but only what it is made of."*

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

I love to vacuum, sweep, and dust! However, I will not touch a dish. The sensation of wet hands is gross and that's without all the gunk from dishes.

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

Buxton! The beach is so serene and that far out into the ocean, the stars are absolutely breathtaking.

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

Patagonia—I want to see natural structures unlike any other.

### FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?

Green Bay Packers & Boston Celtics.

### WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR PHOBIAS?

Snakes. Too few legs. Too wiggly. Hard pass.

### ARE YOU INTO PODCASTS OR AUDIOBOOKS?

The Magnus Archives! I am a total chicken about horror and it has an incredible narrative structure and is really unsettling without being gratuitously gory.

### FAVORITE HOLIDAY?

Halloween! I get to wear a brightly colored onesie out of the house and get free candy? How could you beat that?

### FAVORITE MOVIE?

*Finding Nemo*. I love movies that have concrete journeys filled with well-defined characters.

### ONE BUCKET LIST ITEM?

To go deep-sea diving.



### Applications and Data Programmer (Finance IT)

**Hometown:** Herndon, VA

**VT Class of 2018:** (Degree in Computational Modeling and Data Analytics)

**Joined Virginia Tech:** 2022

**Email:** tulika@vt.edu

**Job Responsibilities:** I support the Finance division by making information more accessible and developing apps to streamline processes, especially when mass amounts of end users are involved. Basically, the goal is to make everyone's life easier and less tedious.

### FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU COULD NOT GO WITHOUT?

Fries. They're so diverse, regular, crinkle cut, waffle, etc. And you can put just about anything on them and call it "loaded fries."

### EVER MET ANYONE FAMOUS?

Will Ferrell. My high school PE teacher's daughter baby sat for him and I got to meet him when I visited.

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR "DREAM HOME"?

It's a two-story stone cottage, ideally on a lake or with a pool, I have a library, a huge kitchen, and in-home infrared sauna.