

MEET THE INTERN

SEBASTIAN ANDRADE



WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

Growing up in Venezuela, my parents and I made the decision to go abroad to seek my education and Virginia Tech was a great option for me in the U.S.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJORS?

At first I chose International Business because it thought it could be helpful to me in the private and public sectors, then when I started taking economics and philosophy classes I realized I liked the more interdisciplinary approach so I decided on the dual degree.

TELL ME ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS ASSEMBLY YOU PARTICIPATED IN...

It is an annual summit held by the World Bank in D.C. every year. I got to go last summer and meet with some legislators at the national and international...

...level, and several people from the World Bank. It was a very eye-opening experience for me. I gained some amazing contacts and met people from around the world. It was a way of seeing where I could potentially be in a few years.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP?

I want to just learn and continue being challenged to grow as a young professional and student as well.

WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR STRONGER ATTRIBUTES OR SKILLS THAT YOU BRING?

I'm a people person; it allows me to get to know people on a more personal level and be involved with people activities. My passions and activities tend to gravitate toward people. I'm really passionate about humanity and its relationship and interactions with the environment.



- **Hometown:** Lechería, Venezuela
- **Dual Major:** B.A. in International Studies, concentration in Business and B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)
- **Graduation Date:** Received International Studies degree in May 2020; will obtain P.P.E. degree in May 2021
- **First Internship Rotation:** Capital Assets and Financial Management
- **Contact:** sebasa97@vt.edu

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WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Lately I've been doing some woodcarving and painting. I usually sketch a lot, and I love sports and spending time outside—soccer, Frisbee, basketball, hiking, and riding my bike. I've been cooking a lot recently too.

YOUR GO-TO DISH IS?

Sirloin steak topped with walnuts and honey.

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

WhatsApp, Spotify, Netflix

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

A conservationist and working with animals. It was between that and an archaeologist. It was either Steve Irwin or Indiana Jones.

FAVORITE BOOK?

It's a cliché but my favorite is *The Little Prince*. I've read it in four languages and over 20 times, I just love that book.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED OR FAVORITE QUOTE?

I love "this too shall pass" - it applies to so many things. Right now with COVID-19, it's important to have the mentality that this will pass.

FLUENT IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGES?

I speak Spanish, English, French, and Italian. I am working on Portuguese. I kind of had to learn English to live here. Spanish is my mother tongue...I've always been interested in French culture and history so I chose that one. A couple years back we discovered there was a huge Italian heritage in my family, so I decided to become the first one in the family to learn Italian.

WHO IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My dad, he's a business owner and manages his own company. He inspires me to think outside the box when I struggle financially, he's able to make a living and do something he's passionate about. He takes good care of his employees and he's a family guy and that's something I aspire to be.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I worked at a camp in Venezuela, taking care of kids and playing with them. It was primarily a sports camp.

EVER MET SOMEONE FAMOUS?

President Sands? 😊

I was able to meet some of the presidents of South American countries (Venezuela, Peru, Chile). I met Messi, the soccer player at a tournament in 2008. He was staying 5 minutes from my house, so we just went to the hotel and stalked him. Got to talk with him for a couple minutes, it was nothing big.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

Florence, Italy. I'm a history junkie and it is full of history. It's full of art, architecture, knowledge and a lot of the things that have influenced modern culture have come from Florence.

SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO VISIT ONE DAY?

Turkey

ONE THING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

There's so many. I want to skydive and I want to do it before I have a family—which is also on my bucket list. I want to backpack around Europe or Southeast Asia and go scuba-diving in Curacao.

ONE FOOD YOU COULDN'T GO WITHOUT?

I love dark chocolate.

PODCAST OR TV RECOMMENDATIONS?

For podcasts, I really enjoy *Stuff that You Should Know*, *Marketplace Morning Report*, and *The Stuff You Missed in History Class*. I've been watching a show on Youtube called *The Task Master*—a British comedy show where they get comedians together and make them do the silliest tasks you can think of.