

MEET THE FELLOW

EMMA RUBY

WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

Virginia Tech had a large influence on me through 4H programs as early as elementary school. I attended VA Governor's School for Agriculture between my sophomore and junior years of high school. I saw *Ut Prosim* in action. When it came time to apply to college, my other visits paled in comparison to the summer I spent here doing Governor's School!

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I'm a runner! We live in a beautiful place with many trails to choose from, and running is a great way to explore. It is also straightforward to improve through training, which can feel great when I'm bogged down in graduate school assignments or other tasks that involve more brain power. It also gives me time to get caught up on the podcasts and music I like!

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Community engagement is big for me! I try to volunteer locally and support local businesses and events.

ANY PETS?

My husband and I have one cat named Mosey! She's about three years old and loves to watch birds out the window all day long.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

I love Greece and southern Italy, though I've only been once! I hope to go back in the next few years. Favorite places that we visit frequently are Asheville and Wilmington, NC. This summer, I have a goal of getting out to areas like Wytheville, Floyd, and the Mount Rogers region to explore downtowns and hiking trails.

WHAT'S ONE PODCAST YOU'RE REALLY INTO, AND WHY?

I listen to UpFirst from NPR about every morning for the news, and really like ArmChair Expert for an entertaining podcast.

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU WATCHING THAT OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT?

Succession just had its season finale and holy moly - so good! I also really love Danny McBride and his show, Righteous Gemstones, which has a new season this summer. Ted Lasso is also so good!

ONE BUCKET LIST ITEM?

I'd love to run a marathon and hope to start training in the next two years.

IF YOU COULD WITNESS ONE MOMENT IN HISTORY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Seeing the moon landing would be wild! The moon landing expanded what we thought was possible, and united folks around one mission.

WHAT ARE SOME ATTRIBUTES OR STRENGTHS YOU BRING TO THE JOB?

I'm curious and I think that is a big help when doing anything new, navigating changes, or managing personalities. Coming from a place of curiosity can help reduce judgement and diffuse conflict, as well as enhance your own learning by asking questions.

FAVORITE QUOTE?

Brene Brown has a line that says, "authenticity is a choice you make every day," and I like the message that individual, small choices add up to a larger impact in your life.

FAVORITE BREAKFAST CEREAL?

A 50/50 split of Fruity Pebbles and Lucky Charms.



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Why this Fellowship?

Through my MPA courses and previous role at the university, I have seen how management and stewardship of public funds is critical to the success of any program, policy, or organization. With the VPF Fellowship, I have the privilege of rotating through units that live this mission and contribute to the success of Virginia Tech behind the scenes. I hope to gain technical skills, exposure to financial policies and procedures and implementation of them, and a greater understanding of how each unit works.

ONE OF YOUR QUIRKS?

I love a good "bad" movie! Suspending judgment and watching an old horror movie, a teen slasher, or cringe-inducing comedy can sometimes be fun.

ONE OF YOUR PET PEEVES?

Walking four-across on the sidewalk so no one can pass you!

FAVORITE HOLIDAY?

I like Christmas and really enjoy picking out the 'perfect' gift and finding new traditions.

FAVORITE ICE CREAM?

Peach! My grandad made homemade peach ice cream all the time when I was younger and it is instant time travel to have a good scoop of peach ice cream.