

MEET THE INTERN

JULIAN NUÑEZ NOVA



WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

It was either Virginia Tech or Iowa State. I didn't really have a sense for the differences between the two engineering programs. But with Virginia Tech being an in-state school (and in-state tuition) it was cheaper and it also turned out great.

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO VIRGINIA? WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST ADJUSTMENT?

I moved to the U.S. when I was 17 after spending my whole life in the Dominican Republic. The social adjustment was significant. It is drastically different in terms of how people interact, the values, and the entire society. It took me over a year to start feeling like this was home and accept that how I grew up may never align with "normal" life here in the U.S.

AND YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING YOUR U.S. CITIZENSHIP?

Yes—I am hopeful to take the final citizenship test within the next few weeks.

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

I think I am a very good listener and have an ability to communicate and understand what people need for a project. I think I am able to ask the right questions and get to the core of a problem.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP?

Just hoping to make some meaningful connections, with my coworkers and with my bosses. Also this will be great for expanding my skills, whether that's technical, or interpersonal, and just learning more about finance. I am an engineering student but I think it will be good to have a strong finance knowledge as well.

DO YOU THINK YOU'LL RETURN TO THE D.R. FOR A CAREER?

I do not want to go to the D.R. for a career but I would love to help out with the development of the country in some way.



- **Hometown:**
Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic
- **Studying:**
Major in Industrial
Systems Engineering
- **Graduation Date:**
May 2024
- **Internship Rotations:**
(1) Procurement
(2) Risk Management
- **Contact**
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WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

I love playing music—the piano and guitar. I enjoy baking and working out. I also really like learning new languages and am trying to learn French this summer.

FAVORITE MUSIC?

Many kinds—Spanish indie, pop, rock. Heavy metal I don't like. I've been playing piano for 11 years and would say my favorite composer is Chopin.

ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH ANY STUDENT GROUPS?

I'm part of Latin Link, a really big organization here. I was the co-president for QTPOC which provides a safe space for queer and trans people of color. This club helps to get all those people together.

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

WhatsApp, Instagram, and Safari/Google.

ANY TV SHOW RECOMMENDATIONS?

My favorite show is Money Heist. I've watched it like five times, introducing it to friends.

ONE FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU COULDN'T GO WITHOUT?

Pizza—I love pizza. I'll eat any kind of pizza, even if it has pineapple. My favorite place in the area for it is Your Pie, where you can build your own pizza.

FIRST JOB?

McDonald's. Taking orders, preparing meals, all of it. It wasn't very fun but it was a very intense job that tested me in a lot of ways. One time they threw money at me in the drive through (and then I quit). I haven't been back.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

Samaná in the D.R. It's a beautiful tourist location (but a lesser known one) so it's very calm. The beaches are cleaner and if you go in January you can see the whales.

SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO VISIT ONE DAY?

It sounds basic but I've always wanted to go to Italy.

ONE OF YOUR STRANGEST QUIRKS?

I don't know if this counts but I used to have a fascination for solving Rubik's cubes. I used to solve different kinds and keep them as decoration. My personal record with a three-by-three was 19 seconds. It would probably take me 30 seconds or so now.

ONE THING YOU'RE REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT?

One thing I do after working here is I have a small baking business. I sell brownies and cupcakes, so after work I will come up with new ideas for the business. It's just me right now and in its initial stages. I do want to have some kind of business in the future.

WE'RE AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED TO TEST YOUR PRODUCT...

Oh yes, I brought some here to Procurement and they liked it. I asked for honest feedback!

WHO IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES YOU?

Jim Quick. He had an accident as small child, which caused him memory and reading problems through high school. He barely got into college but now has been a mental coach for big companies such as Tesla. He wrote a book about his experiences called *Limitless*. It gives you so many tips on how to improve your memory and learning skills, and overall he is just a very inspiring story.

FAVORITE BOOK?

I mean this is pretty classic, but I really enjoy the *Harry Potter* series. I read all of them when I was young.

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

An astronaut.

EVER MET SOMEONE FAMOUS?

Only in passing, but I "met" Queen Latifah in DC. We were walking by one another on a sidewalk and we made eye contact but I didn't process it fast enough that it was her. I turned around and it was definitely her. It looked like she was catching up with a friend and I was pretty sure she didn't want to be seen or bothered.