

# MEET THE INTERNS



## CATHERINE LONG

**MAJOR:** Business Information Technology  
(Decision Support Systems)

**HOMETOWN:** Cheriton, Virginia

**CLASS OF 2021**

**ROTATIONS:** CAFM, FIT, Hokie Passport Services

### WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP?

I am looking forward to understanding how Virginia Tech departments work and how a University operates from the perspective of an administrator and being able to compare that to my student perspective.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

I hope to gain an idea of what it is like to work in an office, and whether that is something I would like to pursue in the future. I also want to gain more experience that I can use while I am still an undergraduate student and when I start my career.

## SEBASTIAN ANDRADE

**MAJOR:** Double major–International Studies (Business) and  
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

**HOMETOWN:** Bogota, Colombia

**CLASS OF 2020**

**ROTATIONS:** Budget & Financial Planning, CAFM, Controller



### WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP?

I am looking forward to learning how the whole financial process works at a large institution and I am also looking forward to learning how a public higher-education institution like Virginia Tech operates.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

I hope to gain invaluable knowledge about the different financial processes that are needed to fund and develop an institution.

# MEET CATHERINE



## WHAT DREW YOU TO ATTENDING VIRGINIA TECH FOR SCHOOL?

My grandfather served on the Board of Visitors in the 1980s. Along with multiple extended family members, three of my siblings graduated from VT and I am the ninth Hokie in my family. So what drew me here was the sense of carrying out a legacy, and being a part of a committed community with a strong sense of and appreciation for history.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?

I chose Business IT because of its uniqueness within VT. I want to help people understand technology that could help them grow their businesses, as well as creating and discovering new uses for the technology that can make our lives easier.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES?

I enjoy hammocking, hiking the Cascades, reading Jane Austen, drinking tea, and watching the Great British Baking Show.

## ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH ANY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS, ETC?

I am a student leader at Ukirk Presbyterian Campus Ministry and I am also a supervisor and official at VT Intramural Sports.

## WHO IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My mother married and moved three states away after graduation. She then raised eight unwieldy children while simultaneously getting her graduate and doctoral degrees in Nursing. She now has five grandchildren and is still working full-time to put me and my sister through school...I am very lucky to have her as a mother.

## WHERE'S SOMEWHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN, BUT WOULD LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

I would love to go to Scotland, living in the beautiful country and experiencing Scottish life. I wrote a thesis on Scottish independence and culture, so in the current political climate, I would love to go watch history being made.

## WHAT'S SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL OR THE OFFICE YOU'RE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am passionate about history, specifically European history. I read a lot of books that are based in historical time periods that paint a picture of how life was for those who came before me. I also am passionate about everything my nieces and nephews do—they make me smile and I love it whenever I get a chance to be with them!

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

I am watching Downton Abbey and now I totally understand why so many people like it!

## IF YOU COULD ONLY KEEP THREE APPS ON YOUR PHONE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Spotify, Pinterest, and Starbucks because I can't let all my Star Rewards go!

## WHAT IS THE ONE FOOD OR BEVERAGE YOU ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT GO WITHOUT?

Twining's Lady Earl Grey Tea, and Cinnamon LIFE cereal.

## ARE YOU INTO PODCASTS? ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?

I listen to "Invisibilia" by NPR and "This Week I Learned" by The Week. This Week I Learned is a fun, lighthearted podcast that is about 20 minutes long and keeps your interest while teaching you fun facts.

## WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE OR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT STICKS WITH YOU?

My intramural sports boss often quotes John Wooden, who said "ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

## WHAT WOULD YOU DESCRIBE AS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT OR GREATEST STRENGTH?

I think it's probably having an adamant pursuit of knowledge, whether that be new experiences, or learning a new skill. I enjoy digging deeper into topics, or people, in search of greater understanding.

# MEET SEBASTIAN



## WHAT DREW YOU TO ATTENDING VIRGINIA TECH FOR SCHOOL?

I was raised and grew up in Venezuela but because of the ongoing humanitarian crisis there, my parents and I realized that studying there for my Bachelor's was not an option. After consideration, I came to Virginia Tech for the Language and Culture Institute (LCI) and with the option of applying and pursuing my Bachelor's degree. After a couple of months with the LCI, I decided this was the place I wanted to study.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR(S)?

I originally wanted to study in an engineering field, because of the analytical way that engineers face and solve problems. I wanted to apply these approaches on business and global platforms, so I switched to International Studies with a business concentration, which gives me a more direct and complete picture. I added Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) as a second major because it helps me to get a more holistic and interdisciplinary perspective on global issues. I also have a triple minor in Business Leadership, Leadership and Social Change, and French.

## ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH ANY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS, ETC?

Yes—the Latino Association of Student Organizations, Council of International Student Organizations, Global Ambassadors, SalsaTech, and the International Student Advisory Board.

## WHO IS SOMEONE WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My dad. He taught me what hard work looks like, how to balance responsibilities, set priorities, be a leader of a company and within a community, be an advocate and an ally, and so many other things.

## WHAT'S SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL OR THE OFFICE YOU'RE MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I am really passionate about social change.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HOBBIES?

Playing sports, especially soccer. I also enjoy Latin dances, photography, cooking, reading, and now I am starting to sketch.

## WHAT'S ONE OF YOUR WEIRDEST QUIRKS?

I take my bottle of water everywhere.

## IF YOU COULD ONLY KEEP THREE APPS ON YOUR PHONE, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

WhatsApp, Spotify, and Google Maps

## YOU WIN THE LOTTERY...WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'D BUY?

I think I wouldn't buy anything initially, but I would invest it all so I have more money at the end of the day.

## ARE YOU INTO PODCASTS? ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?

Yes—right now I am into “99% Invisible” which examines all the things in society we don't think about that actually shape our world.

## WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE OR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT STICKS WITH YOU?

“Whatever you do, do it at 100 percent.”

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

I would have loved to witness the Cuban Missile Crisis and the interactions between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev. I believe that was proof of the kind of cooperation that leaders can build to avoid fatal or significant conflict.

## WHERE'S SOMEWHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN, BUT WOULD LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

Singapore

## IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would love to have super detective abilities, like the ones of Hercule Poirot.