

**Interview:**

**How would you describe your area of study to your grandmother?**

Business is the mechanism that allows the world to function. An MBA is a means to expand my “toolkit” to meet the demands of this ever changing global environment.

**What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**

I am intrinsically motivated to get an MBA. It has been a personal goal since high school.

**Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?**

Yes. As a business professional, I know that most innovation for new ventures comes from other academic disciplines. To that end, this could create a win-win situation for both parties.

**What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**

I like to hike the Appalachian Trail around Roanoke with my family.

**What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?**

I finished the “Emperor of Ocean Park” about a year ago. With that being said, I do not get much time to read for pleasure. Most of my free time is spent with my family.

**Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

From my experience in Roanoke, I have established a robust personal, professional, and academic network with my classmates. I believe they are the greatest asset to this program.

**What surprised you the most about graduate school?**

The professors have been very flexible with my working schedule.

**If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?**

I would absolutely go on the mission. To that end, I would contribute an adventurous spirit to the mission and be the first to volunteer for most any activity (i.e. space-walking).

**What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?**

Is beer a comfort food? If not, I like potato chips because they are a salty indulgence. I usually eat them at least every other day. I especially like the salt and vinegar variety.

**If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?**

I would still be working full time at Stryker Medical.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**  
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