

Julia Farrell

WRYKER Construction Supply, President

AGE: 25

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

I was born in Buffalo, NY. (Go Bills!)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

My family moved to Mooresville, NC when I was four, so I feel that the greater Charlotte area is my home. I attended college in Colorado in 2014 and moved to Charlotte proper in 2020.

TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

I am driven by curiosity and a love of getting things done. People who know me well would probably call me quirky, nerdy, or kind. My favorite subject is math – from early on it's always clicked and I truly enjoy studying it. Eventually I would like to go back to school and pursue a PhD in something math and physics oriented – still narrowing down the specifics. I try to employ my left brain at work and my right brain in passion products.

In my free time I prefer to spend time creating. From painting to building furniture, singing to playing guitar, I love putting meticulous care into creating beautiful things. I am working on a painting now that reflects my love of math and music, employing a few algorithms to translate music into artwork by mirroring the structure of a song into colors and patterns. A personal goal of mine is to never be bored (or boring!)

My parents and older sister have been huge inspirations to me in business pursuits. My family is very good at entrepreneurship, and I've been lucky to learn from some of the best coaches there are! My family helps me stay focused and feel loved - it's the most important thing in the world to me.

DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

Most memorable moment volunteering may have been at the bridge project. I worked with a young girl living in community housing twice weekly for three years. She would bring homework and we would work through any questions she had. After homework was done, we would talk about things we were interested in, and I think some of those conversations resonated because the longer we worked together the more excited she got about her classes. When I graduated, our tutoring stopped. But I do know that Olivia is about to graduate from high school and has plans to attend college! I'm so proud of her.

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.

I contribute to the community with the work we do at WRYKER Construction Supply each day. Our mission is to help ensure construction workers get home safely from work every day. From fall protection to asbestos safety classes, we provide necessary supplies and instruction for hard working professionals to get their work done safely.

Our company has partnered with a local food bank, where we recycle boxes from incoming inventory. The food bank uses the boxes as a vessel for providing local families with nutrient rich food on a weekly basis. Additionally, each year we donate the equivalent of 1% of our profit to a local charity. Either directly with a monetary donation, or by donating sought after supplies. Last year we donated over one thousand face masks to the Christian Mission to help their amazing operation be safe amidst the pandemic.

Before the pandemic hit, I used to volunteer at the science museum. When I lived in Colorado I worked the Space Odyssey exhibit, talking to kids about Mars, the solar system, and our favorite missions into space. Once I moved back to NC, I began volunteering at the Discovery Place in a very similar role but have been hesitant to go back with Covid being a concern. I can't wait to get back in there and share my love of science with future generations again soon!

PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

When in school at the University of Denver I was awarded several grants for research in photonics and was given the chance to lecture on researching physics. Additionally, I was a featured graduate, getting a neat article written about me and my plans after graduating. Now that I run my own company, I don't get accolades internally, but have been recognized by young professional groups as an upcoming leader in the construction industry.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?

I love to create; singing, painting, 3-D sculpture, tiling, and fabric arts are all regularly in my after-work rotation. Sports have been an amazing part of my life since childhood. Tennis was definitely my favorite sport, and I still enjoy playing matches and hitting around with friends. In college I spent a lot of time snowboarding, rock climbing, rafting, and biking as well. Basically, if it gets me outside in the mountains – I'm in.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?

The best way to do it is to do it. – Amelia Earhart

This quote grounds me to reality – the quickest way to move forward is often to just start moving. Giving a problem your best go without overthinking is an important way to move the ball forwards. It goes hand in hand with the "fail fast" mentality driven into many startup entrepreneurs like me who follow John Maxwell's advice. Fail fast, fail forward. But most importantly, *do something!*

I used to get stuck in my head by over-planning solutions to problems. Coming up with new avenues of interest to pursue, my brain would immediately try to work out infinite details for issues that would probably never arise. This approach is a massive waste of time and energy. Planning is important to a degree, but I believe in learning as you go, positively channeling energy into doing, not just thinking.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?

In five years, I see myself growing WRYKER to at least 50 employees, helping construction workers get things done safely. My work goal at this point will be to exit the company and move forwards to my next pursuit.

In ten years, who knows! I know I want to be a stay-at-home mom, and I know I want to make a big impact in improving our education systems in America. I am using the company I've founded to make my start in the professional world and hope to use connections and the success I garner to make moves in improving the education system in America. I believe education is the best way to give every person the opportunity to succeed in life and think everyone deserves that chance.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

This is a tough one, it's hard to pick just one! I would really like to go heli-skiing in Japan at some point.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?

My sister got married this year and we went to Belize for her bachelorette party! Caye Caulker is a lovely island that I highly recommend if you are looking for a relatively inexpensive, fun but still low-key beach adventure. Particularly if you like to scuba dive or snorkel, it's hard to beat.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?

I'm a pretty open book... but maybe people who don't know me aren't aware that I broke my knee last summer in a sort of freak rafting accident in the middle of the biggest business deal of my life. I was on bed rest waiting for swelling to go down enough to get surgery, trying to maneuver 1 million nitrile gloves into the US from overseas in the height of the glove shortage. It was very stressful, and I do not recommend duplicating that experience 😬 Despite two months in a wheelchair, I am fully recovered now and even went snowboarding this spring.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

My hero is probably my dad. He is a diligent worker, an extremely kind and generous person, and I look up to him in business and in life. Following in his footsteps by pursuing entrepreneurship has been an amazing way to team up.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

I just finished up the 14 book Wheel of Time series by Robert Jordan two weeks ago. Not necessarily my favorite writing, but the story is gripping and fun! Needing to fill the fantasy book hole left when I finished those up, I started reading the Black Prism series by Brent Weeks. It's a very fun fantasy world and if you're into that genre I totally recommend it.

WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

The new Cinderella movie! What an absolute gem, I love how the current generation of fairytales are inspiring girls to work hard and make their own dreams come true. Also love the singing.

WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?

Nora en Pure in Charlotte

INSTAGRAM