Profile of a Civil Engineer:  
Yu-ting Guilaran, P.E.; Washington, DC.

Occupation  
Environmental Engineer; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Education  
B.S. Civil Engineering, University of Washington  
M.S. Civil Engineering, University of Washington

Studying Engineering  
I picked engineering because I enjoy logics and mathematics. I also wanted a technical degree so I could be more marketable. I chose civil engineering specifically because of the diversity of disciplines it offers. In the undergraduate courses, I learned a variety of possible career choices that ranged from surveying to hydraulics to waste treatment and management. I enjoyed graduate level courses better because I felt more connected with the professors and students than in the undergraduate classes. I am also glad that I chose to write a thesis for my graduate degree because of the amount of thinking and learning involved in developing a master's thesis.

Career Life  
I have been with the EPA since 1992, when I started as an intern. I have been in three different offices -- Superfund, International Affairs, and Water -- within the EPA. In the Superfund program, I managed the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. My duties included identification of pollutant sources and risk assessment, evaluation of potential remediation options, and design of remediation action. In the International Affairs Office, I was a co-project manager for the technical assistance program in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The assistance projects were developed in accordance with the environmental needs of the country involved. Currently, I work in the Office of Water, where I develop environmental regulations for the EPA. Specifically, I evaluate water (both drinking and wastewater) treatment technologies to assess cost-effectiveness. I also evaluate treatment data (percent pollutant removal) and make recommendations on the Best Available Technology (BAT) for the regulation. Since the federal government hires consultants to perform the actual technical work, a bulk of my day is spent on reviewing documents prepared by our contractors.

Life Outside Work  
I enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking and climbing. I'm also an aerobics instructor and a new mom :)