Describe your overall duties/ responsibilities as a Bridge Engineer:

My responsibilities include design of bridge and culvert projects for the Ohio Department of Transportation, counties, and municipalities throughout the State of Ohio including the design and plan preparation for new and rehabilitated structures. I am also responsible for designing many Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls and other various retaining wall systems. In addition, I perform bridge hydraulic analyses which include identifying floodplain management issues and navigating projects through permitting processes.

Please explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

Communication is one of the most crucial skills required for being successful in my role. I work with a team and it essential that we not only communicate well with one another but also with other teams within our company in order to complete projects successfully and on time. Another important skill is organization. I am frequently working on multiple projects at once that are in different stages of completion or that continue for many years. It is important for me to keep these projects organized so that nothing falls through the cracks. Finally, attention to detail is essential to create a set of construction plans that are easy to read and interpret.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Civil Engineering?

Take as many different classes across disciplines as you can when you’re in school. Civil engineering is very diverse and you will likely be working with people from all different disciplines regardless of your specialty. Keep an open mind, and try to learn as much as you can from everyone you meet. I highly recommend an internship or co-op so that you can get a better idea of what civil engineers do on a day-to-day basis in your chosen discipline.