Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Senior Engineer:

I work for DNV GL, an international company that focuses on risk management and quality assurance across many industries. I support the oil and gas industry with a focus on welding consulting and management systems for onshore oil and gas pipelines and facilities, including both new construction and repair of existing pipelines. I am also currently serving my second term as the Secretary of the API/AGA Joint Committee on Pipeline Welding Practices, which is responsible for API Standard 1104, Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities.

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

To be successful in this role, I need to pay attention to the details of my work and understand the needs of the clients. I also need to be aware of initiatives in the oil and gas industry which are driving change and improvement, to ensure my clients remain at the forefront of industry best practice. Finally, I need to be aware of the applicable codes and standards and how upcoming changes may influence welding programs, qualification of welding procedures and welders, and other welding activities.

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

I fell in love with the idea of Welding Engineering when I realized that it would introduce me to a whole range of other engineering types, while still giving me a specialized purpose. My advice is to pursue Welding Engineering if you find the topics interesting and you want to be part of a small, connected, international community. A Welding Engineering degree can be your entry into that community, where you can then shape how involved you are, and which industries interest you (oil and gas, automotive, research, consulting, medical, heavy equipment, robotics, welding consumables and equipment, plastics, etc.).