



# Where are they now?

**Megan Yoo Schneider**  
**California State Winner**  
**2004 & 2005**



Chlorination: Saving Lives Everyday, or Is It?  
A Study on the Formation of Trihalomethanes in Natural  
Water; Wanted: Safe and Healthful Water - No Strings  
Attached (Phases II and III)

## **What are you doing now?**

Since my participation in the WEF SJWP competition, I have pursued an education and career path solely devoted to the water environment, and I have a deep-rooted dedication and commitment to the industry. In 2006, I began working in the Operations & Maintenance and Planning groups at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), where I was able to familiarize myself with all of LACSD's wastewater treatment plants with hands-on experience and involvement, in addition to the regulatory and planning aspects of the industry. Following my experience in the public sector, I worked with Black & Veatch, a global engineering, consulting, and construction firm, where I expanded my knowledge of water and wastewater design and engineering, as well as marketing. I also worked with HDR Engineering, a comprehensive engineering consulting firm, and Hazen and Sawyer, where I was able to demonstrate my capabilities as both an engineer and marketing specialist, building both a strong portfolio of engineering projects and marketing pursuits. Currently, I am very happily employed with Tetra Tech in Irvine, California, where I am able to work on a variety of water and wastewater projects, ranging from design to construction.

## **How did the SJWP competition effect, or influence you?**

Yes, Throughout both my professional and educational career, I have demonstrated a strong passion for the industry, and more importantly, its future. As a result, I have been very active with professional organizations, such as the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and California Water Environment Association (CWEA), both of which I have been a member of since 2004. I have dedicated countless hours in my efforts to promote the education and success of the younger generation, and I am currently serving on the CWEA Board of Directors, Santa Ana River Basin Section (SARBS) Board of Directors as President-Elect, founder of the SARBS Students and Young Professionals Committee, Chair of the CWEA Southern Regional Committee, WEF SJWP Committee Vice-Chair, and more. Past contributions including creating the WEF Wastewater Challenge, serving on the conference steering committees for both the WEF Membrane Applications and WEF Collection Systems Specialty Conferences, Chair of the CWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee, CWEA Annual Conference Committee (for the last 6 years), and more. Thanks to the SJWP competition, I was introduced to WEF and CWEA, and with the complimentary membership that I received, I began to get involved...and I haven't stopped since!

## **Would you care to give a testimonial about the SJWP?**

My ultimate goal is to educate the next generation while ensuring the safety of their future by continuing to research and focus on pursuing regulations that not only benefit the environment, but the overall health of the people. The SJWP competition helped me to explore and further my goals through my research, and as I continued on through with my college education and began work, the SJWP competition opened hundreds of doors of opportunities in my life and career. The SJWP competition not only provided the foundation for an amazing careerpath, but the competition has provided me with lifelong friends in the water environment profession. My WEF and CWEA colleagues that I met through the SJWP competition are literally my family now, and I cannot attribute enough gratitude to the SJWP competition for the world of possibilities that it provided me (and all the other competitors) with. Thank you!