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tax planning and IRS examinations. When she packs up for the day, she's off to a dance class or training for a race.

Taija Sparkman • Aug. 14, 2013

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[This is part of our ongoing blog series, “Behind the Numbers,” during which I talk to various individuals in the profession and shine a little light on what they are like when they sign out of the accounting cloud.]

In this [Behind the Numbers profile](#), I spoke with Jeanette Marchant, a 29 year-old

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class or training for a race.

How did you become an accountant?

When I was in high school, the Army came and administered an aptitude test. My score said that I should be an accountant or librarian. Since my high school offered an accounting class, I decided to take it. I liked the class so I majored in accounting in college. I always thought it was funny that the Army told me what I would be and 10 years later, I tried to join the Army.

I wanted to try something new, so I left work for a short time to join the Army in Feb. 2007. I was discharged because I fractured my pelvic bone twice during basic training. It was a great experience, but apparently my body was not cut out for it. I pushed myself to the limits and I can do a lot of pushups now. The short experience I had changed my life and my mind sight, though. Basic training is rough and it's probably why I do so much now. I was there and trapped in this place where I couldn't do anything. Now I just want to go out and experience everything. I get bored sitting at home. I can't sit around and do nothing because I'm always wishing I had more time to do more things.

How do you like to spend your time away from work?

When I'm not at work, I'm working out a lot, usually at a dance studio or gym. I signed up for 10 races this year, including the Tough Mudder. I flew out to Detroit for a 5k obstacle course with foam, mud and an inflatable slide. I think it's fun that they have all these themed 5k's. It keeps me going to the gym because I have to prepare for all these races I sign up for. I also take adult dance classes 4-5 days a week. I bought a LivingSocial deal for a studio and ended up continuing to take classes. It's fun to learn these new styles and I'm really proud of my progression. I never took a dance class until last year and I didn't know any of the steps or terminology used. It's been a good challenge outside of work and I've made a lot of friends.

If you can believe I have time for anything else, I also take a spinning class on

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get online for anything. I try not to get absorbed in it or bring work home. If I have a lot to do or it's tax season, I just stay late at the office or go in on weekends. I live like three miles from the office, so it's not a big deal. I can walk to work if I wanted to and the weather's nice. Maybe I'll try walking or buying a bike and biking to work.

Do you have children? If so, how many, and what ages?

No. I'm single and I live by myself. That's another reason why I do so much. My parents and sister live two hours away and they're the closest family to me. I usually visit about once or twice a month and my parents come to visit me, but I don't really get homesick. I probably would if I didn't have all this other stuff going on.

What's your favorite spot to vacation?

I don't travel a lot. I just got my passport earlier this year and I've only been out of the country to go to Canada. I did go to Vegas as a post tax-season trip. I went with one of my college buddies that I haven't seen in a while. I also went to a Detroit Tigers game when I went for the race. I have a friend from high school that lives there and ran the race.

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