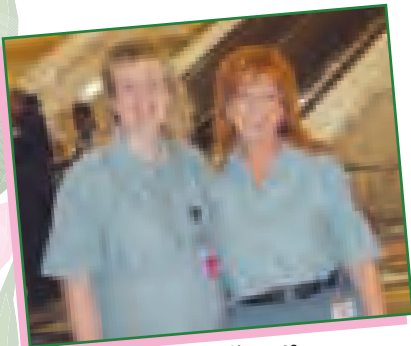


# Keeping It All in the Family

■ **For this Mother's Day, Alive!**  
focuses on mothers and their  
children who work for the City.

Story by Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance; Photos  
courtesy the subjects

We all have many reasons to thank our moms on Mother's Day. Some thank their moms every day for the career they have in the City. These City employees find that discussing their work with their moms relieves stress more with anyone else. Mom understands exactly what the trouble is because Mom works for the City, too.



Brenna Simmons and Liz Simmons.

## Liz Simmons and Brenna Simmons

Custodial Service Attendant Elizabeth (Liz) Simmons started working at the Ontario Airport just days after the terminal expansion was completed in 1998. She signed up for the graveyard shift because this was the only way she could work full-time and drop off and pick up her children from school. Little did she know that joining the custodial staff at the Ontario Airport would start a family tradition.

Her eldest child, Brenna, started as a custodial service attendant in 2005. Leaving her last job as a secretary and DMV title clerk at a used car dealership, Brenna was ready to start working for a company where there was career growth.

At first Brenna didn't request to work at the Ontario Airport but was assigned there to fulfill the need of the department. Each custodial service attendant starts out as a vocational trainee, which means that Brenna was part of a vocational program with a probation period of two years. She said the long probation period was well worth it.

Liz works at Terminal 4, and Brenna works at Terminal 2. They often have lunch together since they both work the graveyard shift.

Brenna said her job is what exactly what she expected.

"I think I would work hard everywhere because of my mother," Brenna said. "She gave me my value system and the work ethics that I take everywhere I go."

Now that she is expecting her first baby in July, Brenna feels even closer to her mother, who had four children.

"My mom is my confidant," Brenna said.



Vicky Lit and Virginia Lit.

## Virginia Lit and Vicky Lit

Virginia Lit retired in July 2006 from Public Works/Engineering after 21-and-a-half years of service as a Structural Engineer. She worked first for Rec and Parks, then for the Building and Safety, 13 years for the Rec and Parks and finally at the Bureau of Engineering.

When her daughter, Vicky, looked for a full-time position, she thought, "Mom worked with the City for over 20 years. Sure, why can't I work there, too?"

Vicky started with the City in June 2006 as Clerk Typist. She was promoted frequently and quickly, most recently to Accountant in January with Airports.

"After college, when jobs were not easy to find in the downward economy, I remember envisioning the City as a place of plentiful opportunities," Vicky said. "During this frustrating time of job searching, Mom did not focus me on a job with the City, but instead, gave me the support and encouragement to find something that I will ultimately enjoy. After all, she had my health and wellbeing at heart. Fortunately, I found a job I enjoy and at the end of each day, [a job I can] smile about. Coincidentally, it is with the City."

Although Vicky has only worked for the City for 18 months, she hopes to carry the same commitment as Mom did for 20 years.

"I feel proud of her work and strong commitment with the City. I hope that I can put forth that same energy and charisma," Vicky concluded.

## Sonia Romero-Fuentes and Erik Fuentes

Sonia Romero-Fuentes, Customer Service Representative since August 2000, works at the Valley Branch Floater, Customer Service Center, DWP.

Her son, Erik Fuentes, was 9 months old when she was hired by Community Development Department as a Clerk Typist in May 1988.

Erik's first job with the City was as a Police Student Worker in July 2005. Erik is now a Community Police Aide at Internal Affairs Group of LAPD's Administration Investigation Section in the Valley. He's been there for last four-and-a-half months.



Sonia Romero-Fuentes and Erik Fuentes.

Growing up and knowing that his mother worked for the City made Erik, now 20, look up to her, and he knew he wanted to follow in her footsteps.

"My mother always had a big influence in my life. I still remember when my mom took me to work on 'Bring Your [Child] to Work Day.' I had a blast and ever since I decided I want to work there like my mom!" he said.

Erik's mom has always taught him what sort of things he should do to get ahead in life; joining the City was the first thing.

"I extremely appreciate my mother and still look up to her and always will. She is my inspiration and I love her with all of my heart. I work harder every day and will work harder anywhere I am, that is one thing that my mother always told me, [which] is one of the most valuable advice I've received from my mother," Erik said.

## Aida Quon and Irene Gudino

Irene Gudino serves the Administrative Services Division of the DWP as a Senior Clerk Typist. She started with the City at Building and Safety in 2002, fresh out of college.

Her parents, Wilken Quon and Aida Quon, who both work for the City, encouraged her to seek a career with the City. She was attending Pasadena City College and had not figured out what career path to take.

"There were so many things I was interested in doing, but I was sure that it had to be something with good benefits and allow me to have a family, just like my parents," Irene remembered.

Wilken Quon is a Senior Accountant II at Public Works. Aida Quon retired after 30 years of City service at the LAPD. She was a Management Analyst I during the last five years. Prior to that, she worked at Airports for about 20 years as a Senior Accountant I.

Now that Irene works for the City, has a family of her own with three little boys to support, she appreciate her parents even more. She realized how much thought they put into making their career with the City so that they can support her and her brothers by sending them to private schools. Irene finds herself wanting the same for her children.

"Mom's ability to juggle work and family life has encouraged me to work hard and find the balance for myself, my family, and for my career," Irene said.



Wilken, Irene and Aida Quon.

## Lupe Garcia and Michael Anthony Carrillo

Some City employees found their employment with the City following their mothers' footsteps. For Michael Carrillo, he led the way to his mother's employment with the City.

In March 2000, Michael Carrillo started with the City on a part-time basis working as a proctor for Personnel. On the weekends, he would give various City exams to new and promotional candidates including Detention Officer, Systems Analyst and Police Captain.

Before coming to the City at age 22, he worked many odd jobs that he didn't enjoy such as retail and security.

"Once I became employed by the City in 2000, I was exposed to more opportunities in life and was able to work my schedule around my evening classes for college," Michael said.

Last year, he graduated from California State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor's degree in television and film.

In 2002, he transferred to ITA to work in the then-newly established 3-1-1 Call Center. The Call Center operates on a 24-hour basis, answering non-emergency calls from City residents.

Michael thought his mother Lupe Garcia, who is always on time, has good verbal and communication skill and is a well-rounded people person, would be an asset to the City workforce. Her pleasant personality is contagious and can light up any workplace. He recommended her to apply to the City.

"[My mother] is an ideal employee for any City department," Michael said.

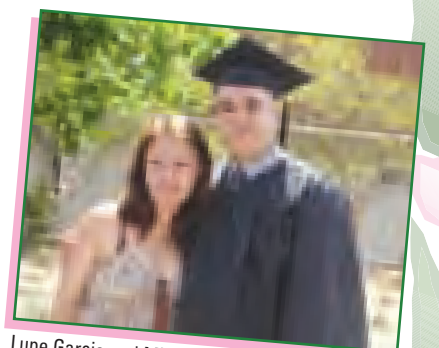
Nearly three years now, Lupe has worked as a Clerk Typist in the Call Center for the Bureau of Sanitation.

"Working in call centers brings lots of interaction between my mother and me," Michael said. "Since the 3-1-1 [Call Center] assists the Bureau of Sanitation with many of their services after hours, we now have something in common to bring home."

"During the day, my mom processed requests for bulky item pickup, while I would take over at night and handle the dead animal [pickup] requests. It may seem like we just answer the phone, but the experience on a daily basis will provide years of great conversation."

In fact, call centers in the City answer tens and thousands of resident inquiries, process requests for work, document complaints, and receive payments. One operator may answer anywhere from 50 to 80 calls per shift in this fast paced environment.

"The ability to interact with my mother here in the City has helped me create a tighter bond with her," he concluded.



Lupe Garcia and Michael Anthony Carrillo.