As Lisa and I celebrate our 9th year of marriage, we pause a look back at what we have accomplished while looking forward to all of the opportunities that lie ahead.

The Winter Recap

Enos’ life as a university faculty member is made up of three things: Research (first and foremost), Teaching (as part of the university mission, a distant second), and some Service (if there is time and it somehow serves the other two priorities). Each month I try to do a little on each with most of my emphasis on the Research side of things. Following is a highlight of my activities during each month this winter.

- **JANUARY:** Lots of traveling in order to get a better feel for the pulse of this area. My trips included visits to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Headquarters for Region 7 in Kansas City, to the Anheiser Busch Brewery in St. Louis to tour their Energy Recovery Process, to the wastewater treatment plants in St. Charles, Missouri (located in the area between the Mississippi River and the Missouri River just before they meet and join up to increase the size of the Mississippi River), and to the wastewater treatment plant in Quincy, Illinois. I also had my wisdom teeth removed and Lisa and I attended ‘Jesus Christ Superstar.’

- **FEBRUARY:** By February classes were in full swing so my travels were minimized quite a bit. So I concentrated on writing research proposals and trying to get my research laboratory setup. So I got two proposals submitted and Lisa and I attended a performance of the Count Basie Orchestra.

- **MARCH:** March seemed to be a rather long month. Lisa and I got out a lot and saw Hairspray on stage, the Aeros (Romanian gymnasts), and the funny uncle from Full House at the DejaVu comedy club. I used the Spring Break (that is break from classes) to work on another research proposal to do water analysis for the City of Columbia to look at their disinfection by-products. At the end of the month I attended a regional water industry professional meeting to discuss with the professionals starting a chapter at the University of Missouri.

- **APRIL:** So now you ask, so what did you do in April? Well I worked on a 4th research proposal, this time a joint partnership with some of the other environmental engineering faculty. I also started working with some students who are interested in doing research. As we approach the end of April we also approach the end of the semester. I have learned a lot from my efforts to prepare for my class (Introduction to Water Quality), but I am not so sure the students learned as much as I did.
Winter 2008 – A Brand New Year

One Woman’s View of Columbia

After ten years of teaching Shakespeare, I shouldn’t be surprised by the “You want us to wear a costume?” “We have to perform in front of the whole class” But after a month and a half of studying William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, I was still shocked.

Overall, though, the students gave wonderful performances. Their hard work paid off. Those parents who attended were quite happy as well. Some really put a lot of effort and time into making their performance memorable.

Figure 1: At the City Museum in St. Louis, Kathleen, her friend Carole, Maggie, my friend Dara, and I enjoyed a day of climbing and exploring.

During spring break I went to St. Louis to the City Museum. Made from recycled products, the museum was a ton of fun. One slide was made from the backs of old auditorium chairs. Then, Dara and I climbed about five or six stories high to go down a slide made out of what looked like old laundry chutes. Eventually this slide will go all the way from the top of the building down. We also went to Red Robin to eat dinner, the mall to visit Build-a-Bear Workshop (to get Maggie’s bear repaired), and Jack-in-the-Box for lunch on the way home (you would be surprised what you miss once you’ve moved away from it).

A big stress from the spring came from my school district needed to get a bond issue passed. Unfortunately the voters voted against the bond and cuts were put into place for the next academic year.

Figure 2: Maggie takes a break on her climb through a tube across the ceiling at the City Museum. With a slide that starts on the fourth floor and goes to the entrance, this is definitely some place I would like to go back to and visit again.

Starting to Come into My Own

One of the more interesting aspects of this Missouri experience is trying to meet my own expectations. I come here from 6 years of experience at another university, but all of the rules are different here. I wanted to hit the ground running and felt as if maybe I was going too fast and expecting too much. This semester I decided to spend more time concentrating on my research and less time worrying about my class. With that decision came a very subtle guilt of giving my students less than my best. That feeling lingers, but my research productivity has increased somewhat.

I have not yet found a comfortable balance and will continue to seek that. This summer I will have to be very disciplined. Every summer in San Antonio I imagined great things would happen and every summer I was disappointed with my effort. This summer I want to be more realistic and to prepare myself for a smoother second year at MU. My goals are two more proposals, lots of data collection, and lots of writing. I will also set aside 3 days each month to concentrate on preparing course material. I think it that is all doable. I will keep everyone posed on my progress. – enos

Luckily, I have been assured by my principal that I have a place to work next year. I am really enjoying it there, especially collaborating with Dara, the other reading teacher. – lisa