The month of July was spent primarily in the State of Florida. The idea behind the trip was that both Lisa and I would have the opportunity to visit with our parents. This was also a good opportunity for us to take a much needed vacation before gearing up for the 2007-2008 academic year.

So what has happened during this last month:

- Participated in discussions with one of the geotech professors on water quality impacts of timber harvesting in the Ozarks.
- Toured a brackish water desalination facility in the town of Jupiter, FL (if you can believe it, Lisa, her dad, her mom, and her dad’s brother’s wife came with me! Her dad’s brother as the only holdout)
- Submitted, through the San Antonio Water System, the AwwaRF Desalination Proposal.
- Moved half of the still packed office items boxes (~9) to my office at school, but have not yet unpacked any
- Toured the Soils Characterization laboratory spaces and talked with them some about their equipment
- Submitted a grant pre-proposal (whitepaper) on a mobile wastewater system to the Army’s Leonard Wood Institute
- Visited Kennedy Space Center and actually saw the shuttle on the launch pad
- Shopped at Ron Jon’s in Cocoa Beach after midnight (what? It’s open 24 hours a day!) – bought a winter jacket
- Went to Borders bookstore the evening that Harry Potter’s latest book opened (I think I was the only one that has not read any of the books)
- Saw the new Harry Potter movie, the Transformers movie
- Met with a wastewater engineer from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about collaboration with MU
- Set up course notes on Blackboard (no more WebCT)
- Learned about the video conference capability at MU
- Looked for and was unable to find my Fall semester classroom which is supposedly located in the Medical Science Building (I believe that the room no longer exists, now I just have to convince the scheduling folks of that)
- Signed up for membership to the campus Rec Center (check out the website: http://www.mizzourec.com/)

Oh and we had good visits with Lisa’s parents in Jupiter, FL and with my mother in Tallahassee, FL.

New faculty orientation is scheduled for August 17th and classes begin on August 20th. This semester I will be teaching CV_ENG 3200 Introduction to Environmental Engineering. There is no Water and Wastewater course which means that this is the only required environmental engineering course for the CE undergraduate students and this is where they get their enviro lab experience. My TA for the class will be defending her dissertation proposal on Monday, August 6th. Soon after then we will talk about the lab.
Inniss in Missouri

Time Spent in Florida

Strangely enough, most of July was not Inniss in Missouri.

The Trip to Florida

Most of July (10-24) was our trip to Florida, which was two weeks of relaxation and travel. The first week was spent in the town of Jupiter and highlighted by our visit to the water treatment facility (desalination of brackish groundwater). The start of week 2 involved a visit to Cape Canaveral Air Force Base and the Kennedy Space Center, highlighted by going on the KSC shuttle launch simulator. During the end of week 2 we were in Tallahassee, highlighted by the festivities associated with the new Harry Potter book and lots of movie watching (Harry Potter #5, Déjà Vu, and Premonition).

Layover in Charlotte

The return trip to Columbia had its share of events. We were scheduled to fly from Palm Beach, FL to Charlotte, NC, and then to St. Louis, MO. From St. Louis we still had to get my car out of long term parking and drive 1.5 hours to Columbia, MO. All in all we headed to the airport from Jupiter about noon and arrived back in Columbia at almost 9:00 PM.

The short layover in Charlotte, NC made the whole return trip memorable. We arrived in Charlotte 5 minutes early. Great! No, we sat on the tarmac for 20 minutes waiting for our gate to open. Lisa and I only had 40 minutes for get from our first flight to our second assuming everything had worked according to schedule. As expected, Lisa stressed about making the connection and therefore treated the layover as an opportunity to see how quickly one can get across the airport.

I have a new found appreciation for the moving sidewalks in the airport. I thought she was overreacting about our time needed to get to the next flight so I walked next to the moving sidewalk and was just slightly ahead of her. When she got to the sidewalk it looked as if she had been shot out of a canon! At first she was next to me. And then, in a blink of an eye, she was 50 feet ahead. All of a sudden things got serious. I had visions of Lisa getting on the plane and leaving me while thinking about how much faster people move when walking quickly on a moving surface. At that point it was a race to see if I would catch up with her before she got on the plane. My singular focus was to make up that 50-foot difference. It seems that everything was against me. My carry-on bag was heavier. I did not share her determination. The transition from the sidewalk to the non-moving floor was dizzying. We made it to the connecting flight. Once we got on the plane the stewardess closed and locked the door.

And yes, our bags did not make the flight. The airline had to ship them to us the next day. Waiting to learn that our bags did not make it is why we did not get to Columbia until 9:00 PM.

Lost on Campus

With heat indices nearing 100 degrees I am wandering around campus first trying to find the Medical Science Building (although listed this way in the course schedule the building is labeled School of Medicine) and then the assigned classroom itself. This structure, built around a courtyard, like buildings at UTSA, has each side of the rectangle numbered differently. Once I found the correct hall I found room M122 not to exist. There was M120, M121-123, and M125. So I looked in M121-123 only to find a 100-seat physiology lab and still only markings for M121 and M123. What?! If I can’t find the room I doubt that the students will either.