At this point in the semester I am starting to feel as if I am starting to adjust to the new environment. Although I expected the temperatures to be cooler here in Missouri, I was surprisingly unprepared for it to get cold. So I am still adjusting to that. Oh, the biggest thing to report in this newsletter is that I finished reading a fiction book, a first in 5 years!

An Eventful October

One of my biggest goals during this first semester at the University of Missouri – Columbia is to get to know people and understand opportunities locally. Several activities during the month of October helped me with that goal tremendously. These include:

- The **Water Seminar** (10th and 11th) that discussed water regulations in the State and what those in the water industry should anticipate.

- The **Mid-American Environmental Engineering Conference** (13th) hosted by MU that showcased environmental research at MU, Rolla, and Washington University.

- Meeting with Steve Hunt (15th) who is the Public Works Engineer for the City of Columbia in charge of the proposed wastewater treatment plant expansion.

- Colleague Circle (17th) which is a once-a-month gathering that partners a group of new faculty with tenured faculty who want to share their experiences and facilitate discussions about the new faculty’s experiences. Lex Akers, the same person that hired me at UTSA, is one of my group’s tenured faculty facilitators.

- Civil Engineering Distinguished Alumni Presentation and Dinner (26th) where I discussed the research interests of the environmental faculty with one of the department’s advisory boards.

- Trips to the Boonville Water Treatment Plant (12th and 23rd) to learn about their process and help mentor an undergraduate researcher looking at issues of short-circuiting.

Other events for this month include Lisa and I attending the performance INCOGNITO (10th; a true story about a man growing up thinking he is White and later finding out his biological father is Black); attending my 2nd MU soccer game (12th); attending the dedication of the first MU building named after a Black faculty member (19th); and attending my first MU football game (27th).

The students here are still trying to figure me out, but I think they are warming up to Enos’ style.
Inniss in Missouri

October 2007 – Starting to get settled?

There has been a high demand to hear from Lisa in these newsletters, so I was able to convince her to write one of the articles for me this month. Funny, I am starting to feel like the “Missouri Inniss Newsletter Editor.” Anyway, what follows is the piece that Lisa put together after much prodding and promising.

One Woman’s View of Columbia

Since our first day here, things have been going well in Columbia. It’s strange being away from family and friends, but there is definitely a lot Columbia has to offer. From our trip to the Art Festival, the Pub Crawl with jazz music, and faculty functions to our soon to see performance of Gypsy on campus, we have been keeping busy.

Days are spent at my home away from home, West Junior High where I teach reading to 8th and 9th graders. After finishing what I need to do in my classroom or working in the computer lab or attending meetings, I head to the gym most days. With the gym now under new management, I find myself going more for a good workout and no socialization, which is o-kay, I guess.

My adventures are small… finding a dry cleaners, learning to live with Barnes and Nobles (there isn’t a Borders here), framing unframed artwork myself (with the guidance of the workers at Frame It Right: a do-it-yourself framing place), and falling in love with Jimmy John’s subs.

Although I am still getting to know Columbia and am still meeting people, I can’t say that I regret our move. With no immediate neighbors, I can say that sometimes I am lonely (you know Enos, he falls asleep a LOT). So, with that said, if you are ever wondering where most of the grain used in E-85 fuel comes from or you just want to visit one of the 3 colleges here or, even better, you want to see your old friends Enos and Lisa, then feel free to come visit.

Formative Evaluation of Enos’ Class

The average on both of my exams was a 70. The students yawn when I lecture. When asked by my evaluator how the class is going, they like it. What?! How?! Why?! It’s me, of course! No, be modest. I like environmental engineering and I try to explain to them why. I tell them exactly what I want them to get out of each lesson. And I like them. And that seems to work.

Take home advice: Be honest with your students

Figure 1: A tribute to Lisa’s dedication to going to the gym was provided by her becoming the Biggest Loser.

Figure 2: Field trip #3 to the landfill. The students got to walk through the brand new cell to be operated as a bioreactor.