Today’s weather can be shrugged off. Cloudy, but not remarkable in any sense. It’s just any Monday, and the weather echoes that.

I often find myself opening my writing with a recounting of the weather. It’s a pretty basic element of our lives, but I don’t really believe that most people give a jot what the weather in Columbia was like when I wrote a particular piece. My reason for including the information is also basic. My description of the weather is often linked to my mood or my perception of how my life is going at the moment.

And, I think, that is important because people can find some common ground in something so simple that affects us all. Common ground is a wonderful starting point for ventures of all kinds.

The Lotvens are a charming young couple living in Korea, teaching English at a private academy. You can read more about their lives in Changwon and see photos from their travels as they’re finding their common ground in, for them, a whole new culture. Check out the article about them on Page 4.

We all have something in common with the White Rabbits — they’re a rock group (that’s not the thing most of us can identify with), several of them are A&S graduates, and they followed their dreams to get to where they are today. Read on Page 7 about their second album and the path they’ve followed to attain their success.

We have more to offer in this issue. As usual, I’d love to hear your comments. You can e-mail me at GalenM@missouri.edu. Even better, let us know what’s going on in your life: promotions, new jobs, weddings, or births. When we get enough responses, we’ll begin running a “class notes” column.

Here’s hoping we all survive the holiday season with some shred of sanity intact! Happy New Year!

—Melody Galen
The College of Arts and Science has had some things happen lately for which to be grateful. The biggest took place Oct. 29, when the Brain Imaging Center (BIC) held its grand opening. The Department of Psychological Sciences has been working for a long time to bring this center to fruition, and the research possibilities there are exciting.

The top-of-the-line imaging equipment available at BIC gives researchers who visit MU access to perform magnetic resonance imaging scans that they might not have the ability to do otherwise. The center is also expected to generate revenue through grant funding and encouraging collaboration with off-campus partners.

In November, through the generous funding of the Lloyd B. Thomas Lecture and Performance Series, we were able to present Diandra Leslie-Pelecky, a physicist from the University of Texas at Dallas who has partnered with NASCAR® in an endeavor to demonstrate to the world how accessible science really can be. At www.stockcarscience.com, you can find anything from curriculum modules that explain the physics of racing to racing blogs. For those of you lamenting the end of the racing season, visit Leslie-Pelecky’s Web site for some interesting insights into your favorite sport.

On March 4, 2010, alumni comedians Emily and Brian Wilson will visit campus under the auspices of the William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence program. They will visit with classes in the theater and English departments and will work with students to prepare them for an improv show on the evening of the fourth.

Another event you won’t want to miss is the third annual Taste of Arts and Science, March 6, 2010. We invite everyone back to MU for a day of intriguing and inspiring discussions. See Page 16 for details on that event.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

—Dean Michael J. O’Brien
Conquering the World

Two recent graduates embark upon the first of many adventures when they commit to teaching English in Korea

By Melody Galen

Charles and Mickey, two energetic young boys, stood in the middle of the table scarfing down toilet paper, of all things, managing to get about a quarter of a roll down. Stephanie Lotven tried to be angry with her two misbehaving students, but she found it all too ridiculous.

New graduates are often at a loss — what to do with their new, adult life? Not everyone waltzes across that graduation stage with a job and life plan already in place. Stephanie Lotven, BA English, French, and art ’07, and Samson Lotven, BA French ’07, didn’t have those things worked out either. At first.

They took a year off to let things settle. “I was really feeling some wanderlust,” admits Samson. They had lived in France before, so “Europe was calling,” according to Stephanie, but when her best friend, Holly Stillman, got a job in Changwon, Korea, she says that sealed the deal. The couple contacted a recruiter, and three months later they were on a plane.

Moving around the world to become English teachers in a Korean academy might...
be a daunting prospect for most people, but Stephanie and Samson welcomed the promise of adventure. Perhaps they weren’t thinking toilet-paper-eating contests, but they knew they wanted to do things and see things they’d never seen before.

A Whole New World
When Samson knew they were really going, he picked up a book on the Korean language and began spending a couple hours studying in downtown Columbia coffee shops most days. “I had barely scratched the surface. My only real success at that point,” he says, “was in understanding Hangeul, the alphabet.” The Koreans, in his experience, have been quite gracious. Stephanie has found that a good, deep bow and a lot of hand gesturing go a long way.

They agree that the best thing about teaching in Korea is the kids. “I’m not sure it’s ever been quantitatively proven, but Korean kids must be the cutest in the world,” says Samson.

“I love children anyway,” Stephanie says, “but Korean children are a special kind of enthusiastic.” She is often stopped in the street by five- to nine-year-olds who simply are curious about her and want to chat.

Lesson Plans
Stephanie tries to think about how her best professors prepared their lesson plans and then follow their leads — she says that’s a shout out to Professor Devoney Looser in the English department. She also likes to throw in an art project when possible. “Students love to work with their hands, and they remember more if you break their routine,” Stephanie says.

Stephanie reveals that studying in Korea is serious business. “I know more than one eight-year-old who goes to school from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m,” she says. Parents want their children to grow up and be successful, and in the Korean culture, such success requires a rigorous education. Samson and Stephanie work for a private English academy. In general, students go to public school during the day and then go to private school in the afternoon and evening.

While visiting Little India in Malaysia, Stephanie Lotven decided to have the traditional henna painted on her hands. She said it lasted about a week.
The ash marks on Samson and Stephanie Lotvens’ heads are the remains of a blessing they received at a Hindu shrine in Kuala Lumpur.

“By high school,” Samson says, “the students are lucky if they get four hours of sleep a night. That being said, Korea is successful and productive.” He goes on to say, “The people are generally happy and friendly. Still, my money is on playing over studying. There’s only so much you can learn in a classroom.”

To illustrate the importance of a sense of playfulness, Samson tells of two of his students. “I have one little girl who jumps out of nowhere to karate chop me. When we finish the battle that ensues, she bows to me. I have another kid who writes in her journal, not about the things we’ve done in class, but about how she played a trick on me and how, in response, I tickled her. The entries usually end with, ‘It was a very great day.’” Sounds like Samson might be onto something.

My Kingdom for a Waffle

The couple maintains a Web site filled with pictures of their travels and notes about their goings on. A few months ago, one thing Stephanie claimed to miss most was waffles. When asked about her craving, it seemed to have waned a bit. She cooks breakfast every morning, and she says it’s hard to miss waffles when you have pancakes on a regular basis — but she could really go for a Good Fortune wrap from the Main Squeeze.

Stephanie thinks they scored very well with their apartment; because the twosome were a package deal, their director combined their housing allowance and found them a great place in the middle of the city. “Our apartment has a loft and high ceilings. The wallpaper is fabulously kitsch, and the view of the mountains is phenomenal,” she says. However, her favorite thing is the location. They are situated right above a bookstore. She says that since she’s a literature nut, it’s like living above a candy shop. She has made a deal with her husband not to buy any more books until after Christmas.

They both miss friends and family who are back home, but Samson says he also misses such things as going to the farmers market on Saturdays and seeing the stars at night — the lights in Changwon are too bright to see the stars there. Despite missing the familiar comforts of home, they both think that coming back to the states will be an adjustment after learning to bow instead of shaking hands, eating kimchi at most meals, and saying hello to every child they meet on the street.

A permanent return to the U.S. probably won’t happen any time soon. They are loosely planning to teach abroad for the next five to 10 years. Stephanie would like to live on each continent, with, perhaps, the exception of Antarctica, for at least six months. Her future career plans involve working with children, while Samson hopes to become a writer, although teaching wouldn’t be a hardship for him, either.
Drumming to Their Own Beat

MU Graduates Release Second Album
By Laura Lindsey

Four of the six members of the increasingly popular band White Rabbits received degrees from MU. In fact, the band was formed while they were still students here. They have come a long way since leaving Columbia for Brooklyn just three years ago: they’ve performed twice on the Late Show with David Letterman, released two CDs to rave reviews — the latest produced by Spoon lead singer, Britt Daniel — and have toured the country more than once.

Band members are Stephen Patterson, BA ’04, music, vocalist and piano; Greg Roberts, BA ’04, art, vocalist and guitar; Jaime Levinson, BA ’04, communication, drums; Matthew Clark, BS ’04, forestry, drums and percussion; Alen Even, guitar; and Brian Betancourt, bass.

During an interview with Patterson, emerging front-man for White Rabbits, he talked about their history, their favorite moments, what it is like to be on tour, and what they have learned so far. Today, Patterson plays the piano and sings but originally was the drummer. He met Roberts when they worked at the same record store in Columbia; Roberts later asked him to join his band. They played in different venues in Columbia, mostly house parties and garages, Patterson admits, before heading off to New York a year later. When drummer Levinson joined the band, Patterson moved to keyboard and vocals.

Following Their Dreams
Patterson, a natural showman, always knew he wanted a career in the music business; he never thought twice about it and has been playing music ever since he was a little kid. Majoring in music at MU, however, wasn’t always easy for him. “One subject that was really difficult for me at first was Dr. Minturn’s 20th-century music-theory class,” says Patterson. “Thankfully, because of his way of teaching, he made it easy for me to understand. “I think it takes a while for many of us to figure
Five members of the band met in Columbia, Mo., before moving to New York and adding a sixth member and second drummer, Jamie Levinson.

out what it means to be a musician,” says Neil Minturn, associate professor in the School of Music. “Though some throw in the towel, others figure out what it means to live in music, and when they do, they pursue the study with more energy, and seriousness, and

Studying to be a Musician
The biggest influence on Patterson during his time at MU was his percussion teacher, Julia Gaines. “She made me practice,” he says. “She taught me discipline, and I remember that to this day.”

Gaines remembers trying to instill in Patterson the idea that he needed to learn how to play all instruments because “you never know what you will be doing after graduation.”

“He did well on the marimba, but I could tell he didn’t love it,” says Gaines. “I bet some of the marimba playing has helped him play piano now. I was surprised to see him playing so much piano and singing instead of playing the drum set.”

In fact, the band’s unique sound stems from having two drummers and from their versatility playing several instruments — sometimes conducting an instrument

Living in the Big City
When the band first moved to Brooklyn, they shared a loft. The living space was tight, and the sleeping quarters consisted of six twin mattresses on the floor lying side by side and end to end. The arrangement wasn’t conducive to privacy or cleanliness. Patterson admits they left that first apartment in large part because of bed bugs. Being roommates during that time could contribute to their chemistry and camaraderie on stage when performing.

“Some of the guys still live together,” says Patterson. “I live alone now — it is much better.”
White Rabbits’ first CD, Fort Nightly, was released in 2007. Reviewer Dave Good from the San Diego Weekly Reader described it as a “tremendously vibrant and a creative debut record” and “it sounds like the work of men on a Red Bull-and-vodka bender.”

The band performed “The Plot” on their first appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman. The song, the stand out on the album, can be described as an easy-going, steady-beat number.

“Performing on Late Show was such a surreal experience,” says Patterson. “It was really out there; I thought it was a crazy fluke and that it would never happen again.”

Much to his surprise, when their second CD, It’s Frightening, was released earlier this spring, they were invited back for another performance. The second time around was a very different experience for the band.

Patterson admits they were all really nervous before the show. Although they didn’t show it on TV, the clapping in the song was actually performed by Paul Schaeffer’s band. Patterson discloses that it was a weird experience to direct them during rehearsal.

The song they performed, “Percussion Gun,” is a heart-thumping, addicting song that showcases the band’s two drummers. Roman Gokhman, a reviewer from Mercury News, describes the lead song as “a perfect mix of piano grandiosity, multi-part harmonies, and marching-band drum line.”

“Performed live,” he says, “it feels like a musically choreographed earthquake.”

“Our performance was special and really different than what that audience usually sees,” says Patterson. “When we went back and looked at the performance, we were proud of each other; it was a great moment for us as a band.”

Summer Tour ’09

Fans across the country have had a chance to hear the new music live during the band’s 29 performances on their summer tour, and the response has been positive.

“Our audiences have been better than ever,” says Patterson. “We have had great turnouts, and the enthusiasm is intense.”

Billboard columnist Caitlin Berens says, “In concert, the members of White Rabbits click well together, with a lively and energized performance. While Patterson’s raw voice projects well-written lyrics suitable for the band’s powerful melodies, Roberts’ vocals offer a rich and smooth sound to complement the intensely passionate drums of multi-instrumentalist Clark. Clark also plays a maraca, guitar, and sometimes even the piano, stretching one arm to aid Patterson and shaking a tambourine in the other.”

One of band’s biggest learning experiences on the tour

White Rabbits in concert — the ability of the band members to play multiple instruments and their heart-thumping beat make for an entertaining show.
came from their performance at Bonaroo in Manchester, Tenn., on June 11. While playing to their largest live audience ever, the electricity went out during their third song.

“We didn’t know what to do,” says Patterson. “The amps weren’t working — nothing. That is when you are thankful you have two drummers, because we just kept playing. The audience began clapping, and after a while the electricity came back on, and we finished our song. That taught us a lesson in showmanship; we did the right thing in that situation, but it could have been a disaster.”

Britt Daniel, the front-man in the band Spoon produced It’s Frightening. The two bands met while touring together. When White Rabbits approached Daniel to produce the album, his first thought was, “No way.” In an interview for Portland’s Music Journal, Daniel says “Slowly and surely they talked me into it, and it was a great experience.”

Daniel says this project helped him with his own production ideas. “It helped me feel even more like I know what I’m doing,” he says. “To have done it on someone else’s record and have it turn out to be, what I feel is, a great record, gave me a totally different perspective than producing my own. It was a little bit more a test this time.”

Patterson says Daniel also taught them a lot about the music business. “He has been around a long time, and when Spoon got dropped from their record label, Britt kept doing his own thing even though no one was listening,” says Patterson. “That is inspiring to all of us. We never worry about being the next best thing, we just love what we are doing, and that keeps us going.”

Coming Home
From Portland, Ore., to Cambridge, England, from Austin, Texas, to Salt Lake City, White Rabbits has performed all over, but the members really look forward to coming back to their roots in Columbia, where it all started.

“We love to come back to see our friends and family and people we haven’t seen in years,” says Patterson. “There is just a different vibe in the air. We love to come home in the middle of the tour because it is rejuvenating to us to see all of the support we get.”

White Rabbits came home to Columbia on Oct. 29 and performed at The Blue Note. The crowd — consisting of childhood friends, family, and long-time fans of the Missouri natives — danced and sang along to every song.

“It is so great to see Alex doing so well,” says Chris Wendell, who grew up with Even and was at the concert. “The band has worked so hard, and they really deserve to be successful.”
MU Alumnus Honored at the Oval Office

Don Flora supports our country’s citizen warriors

By Laura Lindsey

Don Flora, BA ’66 engineering, is the co-developer of Neighborhood Family Care, Inc. — a primary care physician’s clinic located in a medically underserved area of Kansas City, Mo. He is a member of the local chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association, he serves on the board of trustees for the Jefferson Club, and he is a proud, original member of Marching Mizzou. Recently, Flora was recognized for his non-traditional service to his country.

Flora and the company he manages, Mid America Kidney Stone Association, were recently awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This honor is the highest recognition given by the United States government to employers for their support of employees who serve in the National Guard or Army Reserve. When reserve troops are called away for their military duties, it can create hardship for their civilian employers to pick up the slack. This is especially true for Mid America Kidney Stone Association, a research group of only 10 employees in Kansas City — the smallest company to ever receive the freedom award.

When the company started 20 years ago, Harold DeLaughder was its first employee. At the time, he was a second lieutenant with the Army Reserve without a college degree. With encouragement from his employer, DeLaughder now has a master’s degree in nursing and is a colonel with the Army Reserve.

“It’s important to me and our company that our employees continue to be current in their field,” says Flora. “I want them to complete all the continuing education possible. From my standpoint, anything we can do for our employees to increase their education will help us in the long run.”

This philosophy of taking care of his employees — even when the employees aren’t there — is the reason Mid America Kidney Stone Association was one of 15 companies recognized.

President Barack Obama congratulates Don Flora on his recognition in the Oval Office. Official White House photo by Lawrence Jackson.
“Despite its small staff, Mid American supervisors have always encouraged me to seek required and advanced military training to enhance my military career,” says DeLaughder, who nominated his employer for the award.

It’s not just the monetary benefits that help a family when their loved one is away fulfilling his or her military duties. Flora has sent care packages to the DeLaughder family when Harold was away and has even picked up a child from school when Mrs. DeLaughder was unable to. Those things may not sound like much, but they really make a difference to a family during those times.

DeLaughder has been called for active duty four times in 20 years, and all of the deployments took place on short notice without complaint or resentment from his employer, according to DeLaughder.

“I have no doubt that I work for the best employer in the country,” says DeLaughder. “This type of reassurance from an employer is welcomed and crucial to my continued service.”

The United States military forces number 700,000 to 750,000, half of whom are citizen warriors — those who are part of the Army Reserve and National Guard.

“Without people like Harold, our military strength would be half as strong,” says Flora. “Our country’s military readiness depends on the strength of citizen warriors and their company’s ability to let them do their jobs.”

During the award ceremony, Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, said of Flora, “In this era, when so much is being asked of our Guard and Reserve, you have been a source of strength, relieving some of the burdens of stress of the loved ones left behind.”

Each recipient was honored with recognition and a trophy. The biggest thrill for Flora was meeting President Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Flora says as he stood in the Oval Office and looked around, he was in awe.

“It was such an honor to be recognized for doing the right thing,” says Flora. “Besides my family, this was the biggest deal I have ever had.”

The recognition continues for Flora, who is married with one daughter and two grandsons. He and four other Missouri employers who have received the freedom award in previous years christened the USS Missouri — a $2-billion nuclear-powered attack submarine on Dec. 5 in Groton, Conn. Hermann-based Stone Hill Winery, which made the sparkling wine used to christen the 1901 USS Missouri, offered to do so for the new submarine. Becky Gates, the wife of Defense Secretary Gates, is scheduled to do the traditional breaking of the bottle over its bow.

“For a Missourian and avid Mizzou alumnus, it was an honor to attend the commissioning of the USS Missouri,” says Flora. “But that honor pales in comparison to the honor it has been to work with citizen soldier Col. Harold DeLaughder and our excellent physician, clinical, and support staff for the last 20 years.”
Beginning this fall, Switzler and Tate Halls are receiving long-overdue makeovers. Both buildings are scheduled to be completely renovated; the current inhabitants will be relocated for the next two years during construction. This will be the first time each building has received major renovations since their original construction.

Switzler Hall, completed in 1872 and originally named Scientific Hall, is the only standing academic building that dates before the fire of 1892 that completely destroyed Academic Hall. The building, sometimes referred to as the grandfather of the campus academic buildings, eventually was re-named for Col. William Franklin Switzler, a Columbia editor and member of the Board of Curators. Switzler’s persuasive writing defended the university in 1875 at a state conference when critics wanted to move MU from Columbia.
During its history, the building has housed the College of Agriculture, the School of Journalism, and civil engineering offices. Today, the building houses the Department of Communication and the Special Degrees Program.

Switzler Hall has two unique features — a bell tower and a mysterious silo. The original bell for the tower was given to the university by then-Mayor James S. Rollins, known as the father of the university because he secured funding for the university in the Missouri Legislature and led the effort to get it located in Boone County. The bell was made in Troy, N.Y., cost $800, and was inscribed with the words “Nunc occasion est et tempus,” or “Now is the occasion and the time.”

From 1881 to 1936, the Switzler bell would chime on the hour to signify the beginning of classes. At one time, the bell was operated by a one-armed janitor named Turner, who tolled the bell for years by wrapping the rope around the hook of his arm (Missouri Alumni, March 1945). It was an ongoing campus gag to steal the bell’s clapper so the signal for classes to begin would be silenced. In the winter of 1880, one gag went so far as to tie one end of a rope to the bell and the other end to a goat. The constant clanging of the bell caught then-President Read’s attention, and he freed the goat to silence the bell.

The Switzler Hall bell was retired after the installation of the Baird chimes in Memorial Tower. Today, it is rung only to mark important campus or national events, to honor members of the MU family, and on Tap Day. At Homecoming in 1926, the bell rang 117 times, once for each MU student lost in the war. More recently it chimed three times during a memorial service to honor those lost on September 11, 2001.

The Mysterious Silo
The silo is a structure built behind interior walls in the center of Switzler; it is eight feet in diameter and runs from the basement to the third floor. Part of the original construction, no one knows what the silo’s purpose is because the original building plans are lost — possibly destroyed in the 1892 Academic Hall fire. Some theories for its existence are that it provides access to the roof, it was used as a real silo to store feed for the agriculture school’s livestock, it assisted with the heating and cooling system, or it was an elaborate means of venting chemical work on the lower floors. The mystery remains.

Tate Hall — The Original Law School
Built in 1927, the Lee H. Tate Hall Memorial Law Building was formally dedicated to the law school. Ironically, the law building was named for a graduate who never actually practiced law. Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Tate of St.
Louis donated half of the cost of the building as a memorial to their son who graduated law school in 1913. Tate was killed in an automobile accident in St. Louis on October 20, 1921, when he deliberately drove his car into an approaching streetcar to avoid running over a woman who had stepped in front of his car.

Tate had told his parents he felt indebted to the university for the advantages it provided him. He joined the Navy in WWI. When he returned home, he worked in the family’s theatrical business only a few days before he was killed. The Tates agreed to donate $75,000 for the construction of the building on the assumption that the state would pay the remaining amount. The building was almost not built because the state would not release its portion of the money because of a state revenue shortage. Two years later, the money was released and construction began. The building was fire-proofed in order to protect the law library, and an addition was built in 1960 to accommodate that growing library. In 1988, the law school moved to its current location, John K. Hulston Hall, and the English department took up residence.
Third Annual Taste of Arts and Science
Saturday, March 6, 2010

Join us at Memorial Union for an enjoyable and educational day of discussions on topics that span the breadth of the college itself.

Admission will be $20 per person, and that includes lunch and dinner. Not a bad price for a day of camaraderie and food, too!

The schedule is still being firmed up, but the event will begin around 11 a.m. with lunch and will wrap up around 7:30 p.m. with dinner.

Professor Jim Miller, of the theater department, will talk about the drawing and painting that, for him, go into theater costume design and how it led to his recent sabbatical in his Woodville, Miss., hometown. That sabbatical resulted in a character study of the town’s residents in over 100 pencil and watercolor portraits, some of which will be displayed.

Professors Devoney Looser and George Justice, both of the English department, will engage in a “he said/she said” dialogue over the destruction by Cassandra Austen of much of Jane Austen’s personal correspondence. Looser and Justice will also examine the rise in popularity of publishing the correspondence of the famous.

The Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe, the only puppet troupe in the United States that performs the traditional puppetry known as Bunraku, will perform at dinner. The members of the troupe have trained in Japan under masters of the tradition, and their performance promises to be a real treat.

Details on the rest of the speakers will be available by late January.

Upcoming Arts and Science Events

➤ An Evening with Branford Marsalis
“We Always Swing” Jazz Series
Saturday, February 13, 2010

➤ Arts and Science Week, Feb. 15–19, 2010

➤ William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence
Emily & Brian Wilson
Thursday, March 4, 2010

Visit the A&S events Web page for more details on any of the above events or to check for new additions.