

Faculty Notes

Don Sparlin and **Allan Pringle** supervised the 1997 Physics Day at the World's of Fun theme park near Kansas City. Their fourth annual appearance resulted in an attendance of over 1800 science students who explored the physics of theme park rides. More than 30 science teachers presented their favorite portable science demonstrations, and ten Hot Wheels Roller Coasters were entered in the "build your own coaster" competition.

In early January **Ed Hale** attended the annual winter meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in New Orleans. He enjoyed talking with two MSM/UMR physics alums, **Robert Fuller** (BS '57) and **Richard Shields** (PhD '73) who were also attending.

Ron Bieniek, a.k.a. *VectorMan* in charge of the department's Engineering Physics course, and the lovely **Louise Morgan**, Marketing Director of public radio KUMR, were married in the circle of UMR's Stonehenge on the Winter Solstice (Dec 21) 1997. The weather was evocative of that other Stonehenge in Britain – a near-freezing drizzle on the darkest day of the year. If you would like to see images of the occasion, Ron says to check out his personal Web page at <http://www.umn.edu/~bieniek>.

Bob DuBois was made a Fellow of the American Physical Society at the May, 1997, meeting of the Division of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics. He was so honored for his "contributions to heavy particle collision physics, especially the innovative use of coincidence techniques to elucidate the influence of projectile electrons on impact ionization and separate target and projectile ionization." Bob also recently co-authored a book titled *Electron Emission in Heavy Ion-Atom Collisions*, published by Springer Verlag (Berlin).

Ibrahim Adawi retired last summer after 30 years on the physics faculty. A search for his replacement is currently underway.

In May, 1997, **Ron Olson** had four of his recent *Physical Review Letters* cited in *Physics News* in 1996, a supplement to *APS News*. One of these citations was the *PRL* co-authored by UMR undergraduate **Joshua Gary**.

Gerry Wilemski, our newest faculty member, gave an invited talk on his research on neutron scattering from aerosols at the Gordon Research conference on the Physics and Chemistry of Liquids.

Ed Hale was one of three physicists on a review team set up by the Arkansas Department of Education to review all that state's college physics departments. He was also the department's representative on the Dean's Search Committee which selected **Russell Buhite** as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Science. **Buhite** came to UMR last summer after serving eight years as Head of the History Department at the University of Tennessee, before which he was Chair of the History Department at the University of Oklahoma and Interim Dean of its College of Arts and Sciences.

The Physics Department had a prominent television role when Springfield's KY3 broadcasted "Celebrate the Ozarks" live from UMR. Irrepressible **Don Sparlin** danced with the female anchor from the station as part of his performance duties with the World's Finest Rolla German Band (although he generally keeps his departmental affiliation a secret when dressed in lederhosen). **Greg Story** showed off the gee whiz aspects of his laser research lab (including laser lighting) when it was featured on the same telecast.

John Carstens retired last summer after 29 years on the physics faculty at UMR. For the last 13 years he was director of the Cloud and Aerosol Sciences Laboratory.