"Millennium Arch" Funded by Scott Porter

Eight years ago, British-born artist **Edwina Sandys** used sections of the Berlin Wall to create the "Breakthrough" sculpture on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. Now she will create a sculpture on the campus of UMR.

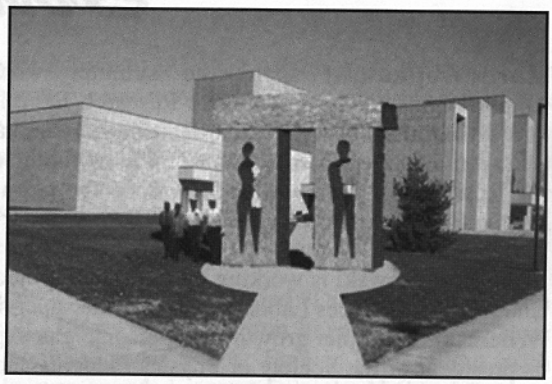
This time Sandys (pronounced "Sands"), the granddaughter of former British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill,** will create "Millennium Arch" at UMR. Campus officials announced the project Thursday, Oct. 22.

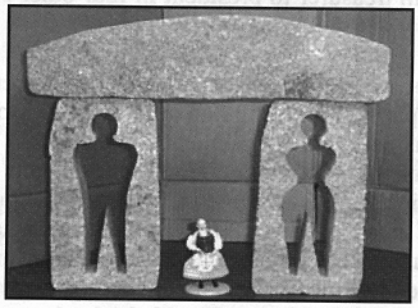
The 15-foot sculpture will weigh some 60 tons and will stand on the grounds of Castleman Hall, the home of UMR's visual and performing arts programs, on a plaza to be designed especially for this project. The project also will involve the use of waterjet technology developed at UMR's High-Pressure Waterjet Laboratory.

A gift from **Scott T. Porter** (BS '55) of Granada Hills, CA, a former Rolla resident and a 1955 graduate of the Physics Department, will fund the project. Porter is the son of the late Rev. **G. Scott Porter,** a former Presbyterian minister in Rolla, and the late **Helen L. Porter** of Rolla. Upon completion of "Millennium Arch" next spring, the sculpture will be dedicated as a memorial to Porter's parents, as well as to his late wife, **Barbara I. Porter.**

Porter, who met Sandys at Westminster College's 50th anniversary celebration of Churchill's 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech, first discussed with Sandys the possibility of creating the sculpture at UMR last spring.

Millennium Arch also will serve as a prototype for Sandys' global art project, *Millennium Circle,* a series of symbolic sculpted female figures linked together to form a circle and evoking images of Stonehenge. Sandys, whose sculptures also stand on the grounds of United Nations centers around the world, plans to build one circle on each continent to commemorate the next millennium. You can monitor the progress as the arch is constructed by visiting http://www.umr.edu/~milenium.

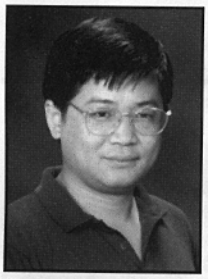




Top: Artist's conception of the Millennium Arch. Above: Model of the Arch; the doll represents a 5'7" person.

Zhang Joins Physics Department

Dr. **Shufeng Zhang** is the newest addition to the physics faculty. Zhang is a theorist in solid state physics, which is one of the three focus areas of the department. His arrival will enhance the national status of the department in condensed matter physics.



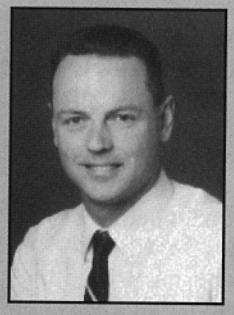
Shufeng Zhang

Zhang's primary research interest is magnetism and magnetotransport in magnetic nanostructures. This is an emerging area where fundamental new physics and potential high-technology applications come together. "Recent advances in fabricating and characterizing novel magnetic structures provide us a unique opportunity to study physics in a completely new regime — mesoscopic physics in magnetic systems," says Zhang. "It is our fortune that we are in the right place at the right time to work on this critical area."

Zhang received his Ph.D in theoretical condensed matter physics from New York University in 1991. After leaving New York, he spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Magnetic Recording Research at the University of California-San Diego and a year as a visiting faculty member with the Hewlett-Packard Laboratories at Palo Alto, CA. He also held a visiting faculty position in Johns Hopkins University before he joined UMR last fall. Zhang's research at UMR is supported by a grant from the Department of Defense.

From Alumnus Mike Muehlemann (BS '82, MS '86)

*The following note was written by **Mike Muehlemann** (BS '82, MS '86) to **Ron Bieniek** after Mike read of Ron's wedding in the 1998 edition of Matter n' Motion. Mike is President of Illumination Technologies, Inc. (http://www.illuminationtech.com). Prof. Bieniek is on sabbatical this year and is no longer the newsletter editor, so he can take neither credit nor blame for this article.*



Mike Muehlmann

Dear Ron,

Caught the blurb in the Faculty Notes section of the Alumni Newsletter. Congratulations! It was good seeing you in the pictures and it brought back some good memories of you.

I think of you often and appreciate the insight and dedication that you brought to the graduate Quantum Mechanics courses. You are definitely one of the top UMR Physics professors in my book. I also see you have donned yourself the "VectorMan" title. This adds a great touch to liven things up, I really like it!

Things are well and good here, in fact life is better than it has ever been. I have a wonderful wife and four great children. We have managed to create a very happy family culture and the kids are doing great in school. My business has really taken off and I am starting to really have sentimental, nostalgic feelings for UMR. Perhaps the "sting" is finally wearing off after almost 12 years! I guess it happens to all of us.

Hope all is well for you and your new bride. Happy St. Pats!

— Mike Muehlemann