Vidler, Sweeney Receive Cutler Awards

Laura Vidler, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics, and Mark Sweeney, Ph.D., associate professor of earth sciences, earned the 2017 Richard and Sharon Cutler Faculty Awards in Liberal Arts presented annually to faculty who advance liberal arts education through teaching and research over a three-year span.

Vidler, the recipient in the Humanities Division of the College of Arts & Sciences, joined the faculty as a professor and chair of modern languages & linguistics in 2014. She teaches introductory and advanced classes in Spanish language and literature and organizes service-learning and outreach projects for USD students to use their Spanish in real-world situations. Her research focuses on performance theory and theoretical approaches to the staging, reconstruction and adaptation of early modern Spanish drama. In 2014, Vidler published the book “Performance Reconstruction and Spanish Golden Age Drama: Reviving and Revising the Comedia.”

Vidler earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine, and her B.A. from New York University.

The award in the Mathematics/Natural Sciences Division goes to Mark Sweeney, associate professor of earth sciences. Sweeney joined USD in 2006 and teaches earth science, global climate change, national parks and monuments and river studies. He is also a faculty member in USD’s Sustainability Program. His primary research activities center on the formation, transportation and deposition of dust. This research sheds light on dust as a health and visibility hazard and helps researchers understand past climates. Through USD’s Missouri River Institute, Sweeney also studies sediment sources, in particular the sedimentation problem in Lewis and Clark Lake.

Sweeney received his Ph.D. from Washington State University and M.S. and B.S. from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

The Cutler Awards were endowed in 2003 by Richard and Sharon Cutler of Sioux Falls to recognize distinguished faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences.
Donna Hansen, a custodial worker for facilities management in Slagle Hall, is April’s employee of the month. She was nominated by the modern languages and linguistics secretary, Danielle Heeren. “Aside from her exemplary performance of our normal custodial duties, she has gone above and beyond,” said Heeren in her nomination letter. “I cannot stress what an asset Donna has been to the function and well-being of our department.” she added, “Her positive and cooperative attitude have never faltered.”

Hansen, originally from Coleridge, Nebraska, has worked in a few different positions around the university. Hansen started at USD in North Complex cleaning the Richardson Hall floors with a nine-person team she enjoyed for six years. She then moved to the Norton dorms for two years. After that she landed at Slagle. Hansen has worked at USD for nine years in total, soon to be 10 in October. Before coming to work at USD she worked at a nursing home for 32 years. Hansen modestly describes her role at USD as “keep things clean and the floor shining.”

Heeran explained that Hansen often goes above and beyond shiny floors. “She always offers to lend a hand on other projects, even unsolicited, such as tidying up our resource lab over the summer, and helping clean out those dusty, long-forgotten closets,” she said.

It is appreciation like this that helps Hansen enjoy her job. “I really enjoy cleaning in academia,” she said. “The staff here in Slagle are so welcoming, friendly and fun to work with. We are truly one big family.”

Kelly McKay-Semmler, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies, is the 2017 recipient of the Monsignor James Doyle Humanities Teaching Award presented by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Teaching 13 different courses in her discipline since starting at USD in 2008, McKay-Semmler’s favorite courses to teach are Communication and Conflict Resolution, Intercultural Communication, and Communication and Social Identity.

“One of the reasons Communication and Conflict Resolution is one of my favorite classes to teach is that I am able to do my favorite teaching style, which is very participatory,” said McKay-Semmler. “We learn a few principles and then we put them into practice through activities.”

McKay-Semmler also involves students in her research activities which focus on the role of communication in cross-cultural adaptation. “Most recently, my research looks at host attitudes toward newcomers and how those attitudes are formed through media representations of immigrants as well as rumor and how that ultimately influences their adaptation process,” said McKay-Semmler.

The Doyle award is made possible thanks to a gift from Monsignor James Michael Doyle, former chair of religious studies at USD and a prominent theologian inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. The award is presented annually to an outstanding teacher in the Humanities Division of the College of Arts & Sciences.
Summer Maintenance Projects for Vermillion Campus

Here is a list of the improvement projects planned for USD this summer, to be complete by August 2017.

**Academic Facilities**

- Neuharth - Replace existing roof.
- South Dakota Union - Finish roof replacement, new windows at upper dormers, and new siding and trim at upper dormers.
- ID Weeks - Replace 3rd floor carpet.
- OT/PT - Finish build-out of OT/PT space at Sanford Coyote Sports Center. This includes audio/visual technology in classrooms, conference rooms, and small group rooms. Department will occupy space in the fall.
- Softball Field - Renovate infiel of softball field and add new concrete pads and bleachers.
- Tennis Courts - Resurfacing of six existing tennis courts near DakotaDome.
- DakotaDome - New drinking fountains, new starting blocks at pool, new wall and door at Den area.
- Fine Arts - New fire alarm system and IT upgrades – design in summer of 2017 and completion in summer 2018.
- North Commons Renovation - Renovation of existing space to house USD Stores, U-Copy, Postal, Student Life offices, Veteran’s Affairs, Trio and IT Desktop Team. Completion in summer 2018.
- Delzell - Renovate rooms 107, 113 and 114.
- Lee Medical - New water softeners.
- Sidewalk Repairs - Annual repairs to damaged sidewalks on campus.
- Parking Lot Re-striping - Annual re-striping of lines within the parking lots.
- Churchill-Haines/Pardee - Study on HVAC system and changes to HVAC system.
- Noteboom - Completed mechanical upgrades, flooring in various rooms on 1st floor, and new windows in basement and 1st floor.
- Beacom School of Business - Twelve smart classroom refreshes
- MUC Ballroom - New audio/visual items and projection screens.
- Old Main Farber Hall – New audio/visual items.

**Residential Life Facilities**

- Coyote Village - Flooring replacement for C Wing with carpet tiles, water heater replacement for C Wing.
- McFadden Interior - Replace light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, countertops, vanities in restrooms, new flooring at entrances and stairwells. New signage in interior.
- Burges Hall - Install new electrical transformer.

**Various Residence Life Painting Projects**

- Summer Maintenance - Sioux Falls
- Wegner Health Science Center (HSC) - Carpet replacement in all offices/hallways/classrooms and conference rooms; fire alarm, LED lighting, and controls upgrade.
USD CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE INSTITUTE presents a Professional Development Workshop June 7 – 9, 2017 featuring Christine Sleeter, Ph.D. Author, speaker, teacher and activist in multicultural/culturally responsive teaching

Wednesday, June 7 KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Open to all) 6 p.m. Welcome and dinner served 7 p.m. Changing Demographics and the Case for Relational and Community-based Teacher Education Keynote speaker: Christine Sleeter, Ph.D. Christine Sleeter will show why, as student populations diversify, teacher education and teacher professional development must link teachers with the communities students come from. She will also show examples of how programs in different parts of the country are doing this work.

Thursday, June 8 FACULTY WORKSHOP | 9 a.m.– 5 p.m. (Open to higher education faculty and staff only) Neoliberalism, Critical Race Theory, and the Preparation of Teachers: Critical Race Theory suggests directions for transforming teacher education. Neoliberalism, on the other hand, suggests reducing or eliminating teacher education. In this workshop, Christine Sleeter will engage faculty in considering directions for transforming teacher education.

Friday, June 9 University Center, Sioux Falls K–12 WORKSHOP | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (Open to K–12 educators and staff only) After showing an example of culturally-responsive teaching in an elementary classroom, Christine Sleeter will engage teachers in figuring out what things, and how, the teacher learned about her students. Sleeter will then engage teachers in identifying strategies they might use to learn about their own students. *CEU and graduate credit available.

Register at http://conta.cc/2kn4wf3

For more information contact: Sydney @ Sydney.Bartunek@usd.edu School of Education 414 E. Clark St. | Vermillion, SD 57069 605-677-5437 | www.usd.edu/ed

Girls State May 29-June 3

The American Legion Auxiliary will host the 71st Annual South Dakota Girls State May 29-June 3 on campus. South Dakota Girls State is a chance for girls all over South Dakota to come together and take part in an intensive multi-day program featuring exercises on citizenship, leadership and government.

Participants are young women who have just completed their junior year and have at least one semester of high school remaining. South Dakota Girls State was founded in 1947 in Mitchell, South Dakota with an enrollment of 117 girls; present enrollment has grown to more than 400 girls.

President James W. Abbott has appointed Laura Vidler, professor and chair of the Department of Modern Language & Linguistics, as the new Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). The president extends his thanks to Tina Keller, associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, who has served in the position for the past 11 years.

The FAR is appointed by the president to represent the university and its faculty in the institution’s relationship with the NCAA and the athletic conferences. The FAR is a non-voting member of the university’s Athletics Board of Control. Together, the FAR and the Athletics Board of Control work to strike a balance for student-athletes among athletics, academics and social life, so athletes can enjoy the full range of collegiate experiences available to all students.

The FAR participates in the hiring searches for the head coaches of revenue sports. She also has a role in oversight of NCAA and conference compliance, and plays a role in encouraging communication among the faculty, administration and the Department of Athletics.

Vidler’s appointment is for three years, with no limit on the number of successive terms she may serve.
School of Health Sciences Announces Awards

Angela MacCabe, PT, DPT, assistant professor in the Physical Therapy department, was selected as the recipient for the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence for her contributions to Health Sciences education. She has been a faculty member at USD since 2015.

Julie Johnson, M.D., associate professor and academic coordinator in the Physician Assistant Studies department, is the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award for Distinguished Service for her leadership and significant contributions to the department, school, university and profession. She started at USD in 2015.

Kory Zimney, PT, DPT, assistant professor in the Physical Therapy department, is the recipient of the Faculty Research Achievement Award. Zimney was recognized for research and scholarly contributions related to health sciences education. He has been at USD since 2013.

Tamara Olson, assistant to the dean of the School of Health Sciences, is the recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award for Performance Excellence for her service to the school. She has been at USD since 2006.

USD Seeks 'Tree Campus USA' Designation

As part of a plan to become recertified as a Tree Campus USA member, the University of South Dakota announced its intention to pursue certification at a tree-planting ceremony honoring Arbor Day.

“USD has a beautiful campus and invests the necessary time and money into its upkeep,” said Nate Steele, manager of grounds and landscaping. “Many of the items addressed in the Tree Campus USA standards are in place, it is now time for those efforts to be recognized.”

During the 2017 calendar year, USD Facilities Management will work through the Campus Tree Advisory Committee established in March to complete the application for Tree Campus USA status. The Campus Tree Advisory Committee is comprised of USD students, faculty, facilities management, a representative from the Vermillion community and a representative from the City of Vermillion Parks and Recreation Department.

USD needs to complete five requirements to gain membership including the formation of the advisory committee, holding annual Arbor Day observances, documenting a formal tree care plan for campus, documenting a dedicated annual expenditure for the care of the campus trees and conducting a service learning project that gets students involved with the Tree Campus USA program.

Students from the School of Law’s environmental law club helped grounds and landscaping plant a new horizon Japanese elm tree to replace several trees damaged near Danforth Chapel in an ice storm last winter. When it reaches maturity, it should fill the area with rusty red foliage every fall.
Mariappan Receives Outstanding A&S Instructor Award

Kadal Mariappan, Ph.D., a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry at the University of South Dakota, is the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Instructor Award presented by the College of Arts & Sciences.

After joining the chemistry department as a post-doctoral fellow in 2002, Mariappan began teaching laboratory courses as an instructor in 2005 and then became a lecturer and chemistry teaching laboratory coordinator in 2007. He teaches large lecture courses for students who are not majoring in chemistry and may have limited background in math and science. “How do I make chemistry interesting for those students? The very first meeting of class I go over the importance of chemistry concepts,” he said. “For example, I show them how the water molecule exists in liquid form because of one simple chemical interaction.”

Mariappan says his approach to teaching the chemistry survey course for non-majors has spurred a greater interest in further study for some in his class. “There are usually a few students who change their majors to chemistry after the class,” he said. “That means somebody listened.

“I tell students that education is not about grades, but about training themselves to think.”

The Outstanding Instructor Award is given annually to a faculty member in the College of Arts & Sciences who demonstrates outstanding classroom teaching and mentoring of students. The winner receives a cash prize, made possible through an annual gift of the Johnson family.

Tremere Faculty Award Goes to Audiology Professor

Marni Johnson Martin, Au.D., associate professor of communication sciences & disorders, is the 2017 recipient of the Blair and Linda Tremere Faculty Service Award, which is presented annually to a member of the College of Arts & Sciences faculty who has demonstrated outstanding public service to the local community or to the state of South Dakota.

Johnson Martin joined the faculty at USD in 2005. She had previously received her bachelor’s (2000) and master’s (2002) degrees from the department. In addition to teaching and serving as the audiology clinic coordinator for the department, Johnson Martin has participated in service projects in her community and South Dakota, and plays an active role in encouraging her students to do likewise.

“Clinical audiologists are in the helping profession,” says Johnson Martin. “We have a passion and commitment to serving above what we are expected to do.”

South Dakota Special Olympics receives the services of Johnson Martin and her audiology students during the organization’s annual competition. The USD group travels to the Olympic Summer Games in Spearfish and performs hearing screenings on the athletes in attendance through the organization’s Healthy Hearing program. She also works with SESDAC, a local Vermillion organization that serves disabled individuals, to perform annual hearing screenings and repair hearing aids.

Johnson Martin doesn’t limit her volunteer activities to South Dakota. She has traveled to Tanzania, Africa, to train local physicians, medical students and nurses to evaluate hearing and treat hearing disorders. She hopes to bring a group of USD audiology graduate students to a medical facility in that country next year.

The Blair and Linda (Schuller) Tremere Faculty Service Award was established in 2011 by Blair and Linda Tremere of Golden Valley, Minnesota, to encourage and recognize the valuable role that Arts & Sciences faculty play in the lives of their communities and state. All tenure-track and tenured faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences are eligible to receive the award.
USD Medical School Campus in Rapid City Moves

The Rapid City campus of the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine has moved to a downtown location. The official address is 520 Kansas City Street. The University of South Dakota’s School of Medicine was founded in Vermillion, South Dakota in 1907, and a program to assist in the education of USD medical students in the Black Hills region began in 1948. In 1975 the medical school opened a formal campus in Rapid City. Before relocating to downtown in late February, the Rapid City campus was housed in southern Rapid City.

“The new Rapid City Campus of the USD Sanford School of Medicine provides an updated facility to meet the curriculum needs of the USD Medical students who are receiving clinical training in Rapid City,” said Dr. Matt Simmons, Dean of the Rapid City campus of USD’s medical school. “This new campus is centrally located in Rapid City and is nicely positioned to support the medical education community while also engaging with the Rapid City community at large.”

Dr. Simmons, who has served as dean since 2011, added that USD’s medical school has prepared and educated nearly 200 of the physicians either practicing or retired in the Rapid City area. The school’s faculty includes about 260 Rapid City-area physicians serving as teachers to medical students, including 59 physicians who serve as core faculty.

“The impact of the medical school in Rapid City and the Black Hills is profound,” said Dr. Simmons. “Our new campus will allow us to better serve our students, Rapid City and western South Dakota.”

USD Nursing BSN Degree Recognized

The Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offered by the University of South Dakota has received full status approval by the South Dakota Board of Nursing.

USD Nursing’s BSN degree has two tracks, including a 4-year pre-licensure track, and the post-licensure RN – BSN track. The nursing board had awarded interim status for USD’s BSN program in 2011.

National Council Licensure Examination pass rates in 2017 for USD graduates in the pre-licensure track exceeded 92 percent for first-time testers. That surpassed national and South Dakota averages.

The University of South Dakota offers nursing programs at five locations across South Dakota, including Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Vermillion, Pierre and Watertown.