

Moskowitz receives Knutson Distinguished Professor Award

By Travis Gulbrandson
travis.gulbrandson@plaintalk.net

David Moskowitz, Ph.D., has the ideal situation. As a professor of music history in the University of South Dakota's College of Fine Arts, he gets to spend every day talking about music with students both in and outside the classroom.

"One of the things I tell my more advanced students is, 'Find what you love, and then find somebody who will pay you to do it and you've got the best job in the world,'" he said. "I would be talking about music with everybody that I met anyway, so that I was able to find a job that allows me to do that ... is pretty much the ideal set-up."

11 years on the USD faculty, Moskowitz has been named the 2012 recipient of the Knutson Distinguished Professor Award presented by the College of Fine Arts.

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The biennial Knutson Award was named for Wayne Knutson, Ph.D., who was at USD for 35 years as a professor, chair of the Department of English, and served as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Moskowitz was selected as recipient following a committee review of several applicants.

"David has an outstanding record of achievement in scholarship having authored several books in the past 10 years," Larry Schou, dean of the

College of Fine Arts, said in a press release.

Receiving the award is a "great honor," Moskowitz said.

"I'm very pleased for the recognition, specifically that it's recognition that comes from my colleagues around the entire college. That makes it all that much more meaningful," he said.

Moskowitz he always was interested in music history, but never studied it in a disciplined manner until he arrived at Ohio University.

"When I got into undergraduate school, it

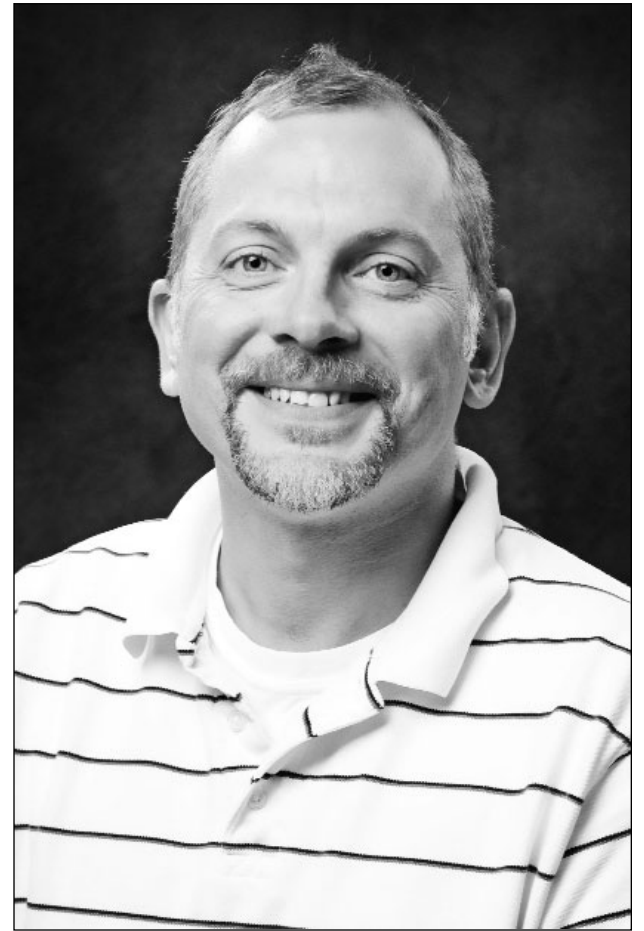
was something I felt was pretty intriguing," he said. "It's one of those disciplines where, the more I learned about it, the less I felt that I knew."

"It has led into a kind of lifelong investigation into the historical facts behind the composers and their lives," he said.

Ohio University also was the place where Moskowitz was introduced to what became one of his passions: Reggae.

"It was a style of music that I didn't know about when I was growing up, but ... I was introduced to it by some students I met there in the music department," he said. "It was kind of love at first listen."

"I have been listening to it in an ongoing capacity ever since, and it resulted in eventually writing my dissertation on the music of Bob Marley, and I've been fortunate enough to turn that into two published books



about his life and music, along with an encyclopedia of Caribbean popular music," he said.

Moscowitz earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio University in 1991 and 1994, respectively, and his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in 2001, the

same year he arrived at USD.

When he's not in the classroom, he likes to spend time with his son Jack.

"That's always a fun thing to do," he said. "He's gearing up for tee ball this summer, so we're getting ready for that."

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