

USD faculty recognized for extraordinary research

Five faculty members from The University of South Dakota will be honored for their research and creative work during President's Research Day at the Muenster University Center on Oct. 29.

President's Research Day is an annual showcase for specialized research and creative activities at USD. The program includes a 4 p.m. keynote lecture, "Bodies Caught on Film: Sudanese Slaves and the Power of Photographs," by Eve Troutt Powell, Ph.D., associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. Troutt's presentation addresses the role that imagery plays in framing public opinion and impacting world events.

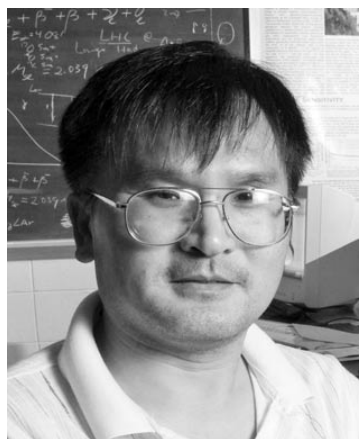
In addition to receiving President's Awards for Research Excellence and Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Gina Forster, Ph.D., assistant professor of basic biomedical sciences, Dongming Mei, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, Paula Mabee, Ph.D., professor of biology, Robert Morecraft, Ph.D., professor of basic biomedical sciences, and YuYu Sun, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical engineering, will present overviews of their research and creative activity.

"We're pleased to have such outstanding researchers to honor this year," said Laura J. Jenki, Ph.D., USD's vice president for research. "All of our recipients have established vibrant research programs that integrate student learning and involve extensive collaborations."

Forster and Mei are recipients in the Early/Mid-career category. Forster joined the university's Sanford School of Medicine faculty in 2004. Her research explores the relationships between mild traumatic brain injury and stress sensitivity, and neural sensitivity to stress during drug withdrawal. She leads a collaborative initiative with the U.S. Department of Defense to explore traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress on soldiers returning from active duty. Additionally, Forster conducts research under USD's second neuroscience Center of Biomedical Research Excellence project funded by NIH, and she co-directs the Center's Behavioral Testing Core Facility.

Mei's research achievements in underground science to date are largely embodied in detecting neutrinos and dark matter particles. Neutrinos and dark matter are believed to hold the key to physics beyond the standard model, but detecting and measuring their properties are very difficult. Of particular importance for these experiments is a deep understanding of backgrounds. As director of the Center for Underground Background Experiments at DUSEL (CUBED), Mei's research is dedicated to understanding the various sources of background and the development of techniques to produce pure materials.

Mabee and Morecraft are honorees in the Established Faculty category. Mabee's



Dongming Mei



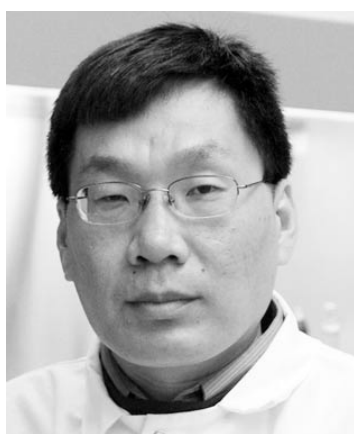
Gina Forster



Paula Mabee



Robert Morecraft



YuYu Sun

research involves understanding the relationship between the embryonic development of individual organisms and the evolution of species lineages. This synthetic work in evolutionary developmental biology has been achieved by training, research and publication in three related but different fields of biology: evolutionary biology and phylogenetic systematics; molecular developmental biology; and informatics. Morecraft, meanwhile, is a widely-acknowledged expert in structural and functional organization of the cerebral cortex of the brain and nervous system mechanisms underlying motor recovery following brain injury. A member of The U's Sanford School of Medicine faculty since 1991, he has an outstanding publication record with 50 peer reviewed publications published in the top neurology/neuroscience journals and books, and 64 abstracts presented at national and international conventions. His research has been featured in several peer-reviewed journals, including *Brain*, *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, *Journal of Experimental Neurology*, *Behavioral Brain Research*, *Cerebral Cortex*, *Journal of Neuro-ophthalmology* and many more.

Sun is the recipient of the President's Award for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, which recognizes accomplishments related to the commercialization of innovative research. Sun's pioneering work in the development of anti-microbial tech-

nologies is being brought to market through a licensing agreement with Anti-microbial Technologies Group, a South Dakota-based start-up company that provides commercial finishes and additives for infection protection, odor control, biofilm remediation and therapeutic textiles.

"We are pleased that Dr. Sun is receiving this recognition for his significant work in creating a safe, rechargeable antimicrobial function in materials to kill harmful bacteria, viruses and fungi," said Simon Johnston, CEO of Antimicrobial Technologies Group. "His recent research provided significant breakthroughs that now allow for the ready commercialization of specific formulations that are not only extremely cost effective but can be applied in typical manufacturing processes. We intend to provide finishes and additives based on Dr. Sun's research for products ranging from diabetic socks and protective face masks to wall paint that safely kill germs and ulti-

mately improve people's lives."

A reception will follow at 5 p.m. to honor the presenters and award recipients, and to celebrate the breadth and diversity of active research and creative activity at USD. For more information about President's Research Day 2009, or to view more about the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs visit www.usd.edu/research/research-and-sponsored-programs. You can contact the office by calling (605) 677-5370 or e-mail: orsp@usd.edu.

English professor authors third collection of poetry

Lee Ann Roripaugh, associate professor of English at The University of South Dakota, has released her third collection of poetry, "On the Cusp of a Dangerous Year," an "Editor's Selection" in the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry (Southern Illinois University Press).

Roripaugh's third collection of poetry is a provocative, humorous, and bitter-sweet book for the 21st century, providing a candid and whimsical look into the often tumultuous universe of the modern woman. Her poems chronicle the joys and dangers of a range of issues facing contemporary women. Her second volume of poetry, "Year of the Snake," was published in 2004 and won the Association of Asian American Studies Book Award in Poetry/Prose for 2004. Her first book, "Beyond Heart Mountain," was a 1998 winner of the National Poetry Series, and was selected as a finalist for the 2000 Asian American Literary Awards.

A native of Laramie, Wyo., Roripaugh received an M.F.A. in creative writing from Indiana University. She also has master's degree in music history from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Indiana University. More information about "On the Cusp of a Dangerous Year" is available at www.siu.press.com/S4ggk4pubfht-mgmkzhas4545/product/On-the-Cusp-of-a-Dangerous-Year;2870.aspx.



Lee Ann Roripaugh

USD Foundation faring well, despite tough times

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Officials say despite tough economic times, the University of South Dakota Foundation has remained strong.

According to a report issued Tuesday, the foundation reported gift income of \$12 million and assets of \$154 million for the year ending June 30. The endowment totaled \$115 million, despite a nearly 13 percent investment loss for the fiscal year.

Officials say new gifts to the endowment helped offset investment losses and distributions from the portfolio used by the university.

The foundation provided \$18.9 million to the university in fiscal year 2009. That includes \$5.8 million for scholarships.

Over the past 10 years the foundation has provided \$80 million to the university for scholarships, buildings, faculty and other support.

Go Purple With CorChecking



No ATM Fees At Any Bank
Free I.D. Theft Insurance
Unlimited Free Checks
Free Online Banking
And Much More!

Purple Has Never Been So Useful

Think Pink



CorTrust Bank
Is Proud To Support
Breast Cancer
Awareness Month



Vermillion, We Are Your

CorTrust Bank

Certain Restrictions Apply Member FDIC www.cortrustbank.com

Excellence in Dentistry



Dr. Richard Knutson
Dr. Matthew Knutson
Caring Professional Staff

605.624.6291
1714 E. Cherry, Vermillion, SD

Paint Vermillion Pink & help find a cure!



HERREN • SCHEMP
BUILDING SUPPLY
"Headquarters for the Builder/Handyman"

Breast Cancer Awareness

1000 West Cherry, Vermillion
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
1-888-624-2058 or 605-624-2058

PLAIN TALK

Have An Event?
Want To Sell
Something?
Call Us To Get
the Word Out.
605-624-2695