

# Schools of Distinction

## Fulton School of Liberal Arts



“A liberal arts education is the foundation of not merely a good and well-ordered life, but of a just, well-governed society. The Fulton School of Liberal Arts is, thus, committed to preparing ethical, culturally literate citizens who will lead their communities and nation in the years ahead.”

### Fulton's Points of Distinction Include:

- The Fulton School is a **pioneer** in academic reform, adopting a four-credit course model—providing students with an enhanced, more focused and deeper learning experience.
- The Bobbi Biron Theatre Program is **the first** endowed theatre program or department in the University System of Maryland.
- The Fulton School's Center for Conflict Resolution provides mediation services all **around the globe**—from Bosnia to Australia.

## An Advanced And Expanding Program

From advanced new programs to highly regarded new faculty, Salisbury University's Music Department had many reasons to celebrate during the last academic year.

Perhaps the biggest reason, however, came in the form of accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). SU is one of only about 610 institutions in the nation with NASM accreditation and the only one on Maryland's Eastern Shore.



“The department is flourishing with talented students in all music ensembles (orchestra, band, jazz, choral and musical theatre) and in music majors,” said Dr. Linda Cockey, chair of the Department of Music. “The music faculty is growing and with the newest additions of

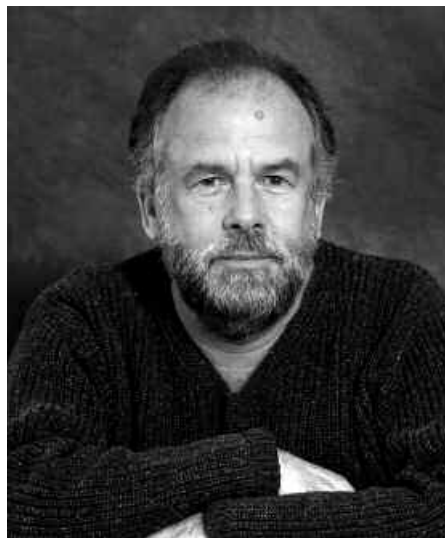


orchestra conductor and cellist Jeffrey Schoyen and John Wesley Wright, the full-time faculty will be the largest it has been in the history of the department.”

With both performance and teacher education tracks, SU is creating the next generation of accomplished musicians and educators.

## Premier Poet Receives National Notice

The work of Dr. Michael Waters, professor of English at Salisbury University, has caught the attention of literary critics from coast to coast.



Waters' most recent poetry collection, *Darling Vulgarly*, was one of five books nominated in the poetry category of the prestigious *Los Angeles Times* Book Award. In discussing Waters' accomplishments, critic Floyd Collins wrote in *The Gettysburg Review*: “I cannot call to mind anyone of Waters' generation who is currently writing better poetry.”

Waters joined the SU faculty in 1978 and has since published eight books of poetry, including *Darling Vulgarly* (2006); *Parthenopi: New and Selected Poems* (2001); and *Green Ash, Red Maple, Black Gum* (1997). He has edited several volumes, including *Contemporary American Poetry* (2006). The recipient of a Fellowship in Creative Writing from the National Endowment for the Arts, Waters chaired the Poetry Panel for the 2004 National Book Award.

Waters spent spring 2007 lecturing on American studies at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Iasi, Romania, as a Fulbright Scholar.

# Sharing Song And Spirit

A recent PBS documentary, *The Spirituals*, traces the history of the original art form of the spiritual and features award-winning tenor John Wesley Wright, of SU's Department of Music, with the contemporary group the American Spiritual Ensemble.

## Preserving An Art Form

Wright joined the 24-member ensemble last year. "Not only is he a fantastic artist but an amazing person," said Dr. Everett McCorvey, the group's founder and music director. "He has a voice that touches your soul and because of his wonderful spirit, beautiful voice and incredible musicianship, he is a valued member of the group."

*The Spirituals* spotlights Wright and the ensemble as they enchant audiences during a tour of the American South and across the Atlantic to Spain in hopes of preserving the African-American spiritual, created for deliverance and communication. It traces the painful and bitter history of this form of musical expression, distinguished by its African roots and biblical text. "The first time you watch it, it's so overwhelming to take it all in," Wright said.



"They made some of our solos into music videos, so you've got people actually walking through cotton fields while singing. My piece is in a concert setting."

The film is also interspersed with comments by experts in the field of African-American



music. According to McCorvey, a professor of voice at the University of Kentucky, one of the highlights is a visit to a South Carolina church where congregation members sing call-and-response songs. "That is a lost tradition in the black church," he said. "Their participation in the film is so authentic and I am happy we were able to document it."

## 'Note' Worthy Faculty

Wright, who is known for his artistic and soulful interpretations of music from classical to Broadway, has sung as a soloist and in ensembles throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. He also performed a nationally televised concert for the Belgian Royal Family and appeared with Switzerland's premier Baroque ensemble. Wright's live concert CD, *Wade in the Water: Songs of the River, the Lakes, and the Sea*, was released in March 2004. In 2000, he was the gold medalist and \$10,000 top prizewinner of the Savannah Music Festival American Traditions Vocal Competition and has also claimed awards from the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Metropolitan Opera National Council and the International Schubert Competition. Prior to joining the University's voice faculty last fall, Wright served as Artist-in-Residence for eight years at the University of Dayton in Ohio. He is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and his students may be found on Broadway tours and opera stages. Wright is also an active vocal consultant and leader of workshops on "Singing in the African American Tradition" in schools and churches.

