

## Ukrainian Election Watch

Through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Todd Becker – Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution, Political Science and Sociology departments – was one of some 600 volunteers from the 57 OSCE member states tasked with observing parliamentary elections in Ukraine.



The observations were especially important this time, following controversy surrounding the nation's 2010 presidential election, Becker said. The Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine temporarily suspended the decision in that election prior to the inauguration of winner Viktor Yanukovich. Then, as now, OSCE-appointed volunteers oversaw and made observations on the election process. Becker was part of a short-term team, together with a retired Norwegian police supervisor, assigned to the coastal city of Odessa, where he and his colleagues were asked to randomly select 20 polling places to observe throughout the day.

In all, Becker spent some 26 hours observing the election, including an Election Day stretch that lasted from 5:30 a.m. until about midnight. During that time, he was impressed by much of what he saw. For the first time, for example, entrances to polling places and areas where ballot boxes were kept were monitored by Web cameras for heightened security.

## National Research Fellowships

Two Fulton School professors earned research fellowships from leading national institutions of higher education.

Dr. Céline Carayon (left), History Department, earned the John Carter Brown Library Fellowship – one of the few long-term fellowships this year, an award co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and InterAmericas fund in coordination with The Reed Foundation. Carayon conducted research at Brown University in Rhode Island as one of 42 scholars nationwide selected for the prestigious honor during the 2012-13 academic year. She used her research to further prepare her manuscript *Beyond Words: Nonverbal Communication and Culture Change in the Early French-Indian Atlantic, c. 1500-c. 1700*. She submitted her manuscript to publishers at the end of the fellowship. In addition, she prepared several lectures and spoke as part of the John Carter Brown Library Fellows Lunch Talk Series during the spring.

Stanford University's Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment selected Dr. Jill Caviglia-Harris (right) – Economics and Finance and Environmental Studies departments – as a prestigious Leopold Leadership Fellows. From research in the Brazilian Amazon to



sustainability efforts on the Delmarva Peninsula, Caviglia-Harris has been an environmental leader for many years. Honorees are mid-career academic environmental researchers from around the world, based at North American institutions of research or higher education. They are conducting research related to the environment and sustainability in the biophysical sciences, the social sciences, or technical, medical or engineering fields, and contributing to environmental science and leadership in addressing sustainability challenges.

Caviglia-Harris was chosen for her research in deforestation and human welfare, and the role of human decisions in shaping the environment. She has intertwined teaching and research by involving students in hands-on learning through research projects, data collection and fieldwork.

## Student Actors Help With Social Work Scenario Training

Students in the Theatre and Dance Department are portraying “standardized clients” – ranging from hoarders to spinal injury victims – in practice courses taught in SU's Social Work Department.

The program, founded by Drs. Peg McGuire and Margo Kushner, Social Work Department, and Dr. T. Paul Pfeiffer, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, trains social work students to handle specific scenarios. The actors help provide experience for social work students at SU and at the University's satellite program at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills.

“This program is extremely beneficial to both sets of students,” said Pfeiffer. “Our future social workers gain by the immediacy of the interaction. Our actors hone their skills at improvisation and realistic characterization through this intense and challenging experiential learning.” Some of the acting students have parlayed the experience into paid positions beyond SU, providing similar services for medical school classes training future emergency room workers.





## Johnson Earns Distinguished Faculty Award

Known nationally for his in-depth work in film studies, Dr. David Johnson, English Department, is the 2012 SU Distinguished Faculty Award honoree.

As co-editor of the international journal *Literature/Film Quarterly* since 2005, his name is known among film scholars. His recent book on director Richard Linklater, part of the University of Illinois Press' Contemporary Directors series, has earned critical praise. In the classroom, students are enthusiastic about learning from Johnson. He also has served the Fulton School and the greater SU community, with service on committees for Fulton Scholars, long-range planning, and academic freedom and tenure, among others.

## Wright Performs at Ireland's JFK Celebration

A few months before he was assassinated, President John F. Kennedy made a historic trip to Europe, which included his ancestors' homeland in Ireland. The event left an indelible impression on the Gaelic country, which hosted the nationwide anniversary celebration "JFK 50: The Homecoming" in summer 2013. Invited guests included the Kennedy family, singer-songwriter Judy Collins, Riverdance choreographer Michael Flatley ... and SU voice instructor John Wesley Wright.

A singer with the American Spiritual Ensemble, Wright joined three other hand-selected members of the group during four days of performances for the high-profile celebration. Wright and his colleagues joined a community chorus outside Dublin for a cultural exchange concert and performed on an Irish radio show featuring a panel of Kennedy experts. They also were guests and performers at a 280-person dinner held in the Kennedy family's honor.

At a national celebration event, some 15,000 gathered at the Kennedy Monument in New Hope, where the president had spoken five decades prior. Following the lead of former Maryland Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, all in attendance stood and joined the American Spiritual Ensemble in a powerful post-slavery song used frequently during the civil rights era, "Oh, Freedom."



(Left) Singers gathered at the celebration included (from left) American Spiritual Ensemble founder and director Dr. Everett McCorvey, Irish Tenor and Wexford Ambassador Michael Londra, pianist Tedrin Blair Lindsay, tenor John Wesley Wright, soprano Karen Slack, Judy Collins, countertenor Matthew Truss and bass Kevin Thompson.