

## Fulton School of Liberal Arts

### Wenke Debuts in Salinger Documentary

The high-profile documentary *Salinger* by Shane Salerno included interviews with some of the nation's most prominent literati and J.D. Salinger fans: novelist Tom Wolfe, actors John Cusack and Danny DeVito – and Dr. John Wenke, an SU English professor. A recognized scholar on Salinger's work, Wenke wrote the first book-length study of Salinger's uncollected and collected short fiction. In addition, Wenke's scholarship, literary non-fiction and short stories have been published in journals and publications including *The Gettysburg Review*, *Resources in American Literary Studies*, *Cimarron Review*, among others. Unknown to many, Salinger served in Army intelligence in World War II, which obviously shaded him and his stories, a theme of the documentary, according to the *New York Times*. Another early theme of the stories and more fully developed in *The Catcher in the Rye* was his preoccupation with reclusiveness. After 1965, Salinger refused to publish or be interviewed, living in seclusion in Cornish, NH. The movie solves many of the mysteries regarding Salinger's life and work, especially the mystery of whether he continued to write. The film's PBS premiere was the 200th episode of the acclaimed *American Masters* series.

### Pereboom Named to Maryland Humanities Council Board

Dr. Maarten Pereboom, dean of the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, was elected to the Maryland Humanities Council Board of Directors. With an academic portfolio including history, conflict analysis and dispute resolution, environmental studies, the fine and performing arts, languages, communications, philosophy, and sociology, Pereboom was an ideal candidate for the board, according to his nominator, Dr. Karen Olmstead, dean of SU's Henson School of Science and Technology. As a Maryland Humanities Council board member, Pereboom will be involved in strategic planning, fundraising for and promoting the organization and its programs and services.

### American Women Writers of Color Conference Returns

For more than a decade, SU hosted the American Women Writers of Color conference. Following a hiatus, the conference, chaired by Dr. April Logan of SU's English Department, returned in 2013. Professors and graduate students from the United States and abroad presented talks on the writings of American women writers of color. In response to new developments in the English discipline, the conference's scope expanded to cover not only North American women writers of color, but also those of South and Central America, including the Caribbean.

Daphne Brooks, a distinguished professor of English and African-American studies at Princeton University, delivered the keynote. She is the author of *Bodies in Dissent: Spectacular Performances of Race and Freedom, 1850-1910*, *Jeff Buckley's Grace* and the forthcoming *Subterranean Blues: Black Women Sound Modernity*. Brooks also has written numerous articles on race, gender, performance and popular culture. In addition, she is the editor of books including *Great Escapes: The Narratives of William Wells Brown, Henry Box Brown and William Craft* and *The Performing Arts* volume of *The Black Experience in the Western Hemisphere* series.

Readers at the conference included Michelle Myers and Merle Collins. Myers, a spoken-word poet, community activist and educator, is a founding member of the Philadelphia-based Asian-American female poetry group Yellow Rage. Internationally known poetry and fiction writer Collins is a professor of Caribbean literature at the University of Maryland College Park and her published works include the novels *Angel* and *The Colour of Forgetting* and several short story collections.



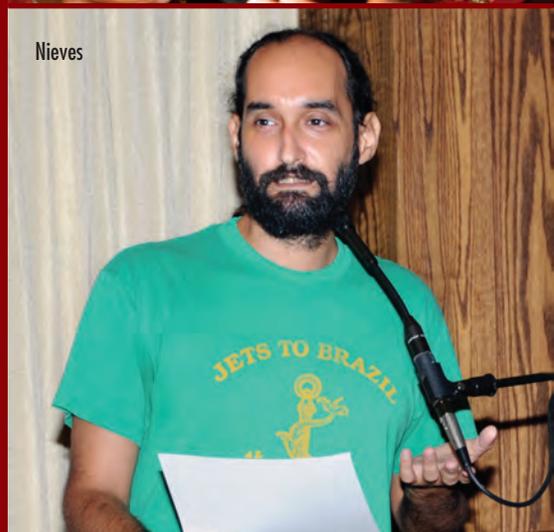
Wenke



Pereboom



Author Daphne Brooks



Nieves



## Nieves Earns Poetry Praise

Dr. John A. Nieves' debut poetry collection *Curio* was the winner of the 13th annual Elixir Press Poetry Award. According to the English professor, the title of the collection comes from his desire to create "a curio cabinet of 'whens' and 'wheres' and some of the things that make them distinctive." The "curios" contained within have drawn the attention and critical praise of the poetry community. "To enter the world of *Curio* ... is to enter a world shaped by a curious and ravenous intellect," said award-winning poet and Elixir Press judge Jane Satterfield. A 2012 Pushcart Prize nominee, Nieves has published in journals including *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Southern Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Ninth Letter* and *Cincinnati Review*, among others. He won the 2011 *Indiana Review Poetry Prize*.

## Boroughs Leads SU Archaeology Team at Dorchester County Dig

When Dr. Jason Boroughs, History Department, met with colleagues from the University System of Maryland at an archaeological dig at "The Hill," a prominent African-American community in Easton, he learned that the Friends of Stanley Institute, Inc. had put out a request for proposals for an archaeology team to assist with their Christ Rock Church renovation project.

Seizing the opportunity to give his students hands-on experience in how archaeology can be put to practical use, he outbid two commercial firms, offering to conduct the dig for free. In summer 2013, seven students joined him in what became SU's first archaeological field school since 2002. Boroughs said his team was happy to be working on a project that meant so much to many who still reside in the community.

Opened in 1865, the Rock School — later renamed in memory of its co-founder, the Rev. Ezekiel Stanley — initially served as both church and school for the small African-American community known as Christ Rock. The church that was later built and the schoolhouse served as the center of the Christ Rock community until 1966, when the Stanley Institute closed. If the Friends group was going to meet its goal of an authentic recreation of the church's fellowship hall, it was going to need some help locating the hall's actual footprint. That is where SU came in.

After four weeks, Boroughs and his students not only had determined the probable footprint of the fellowship hall; they also had uncovered more than 4,000 artifacts, including marbles and small toys, 19th- and 20th-century coins, and decades-old soda bottles that likely were the remnants of community socials and church picnics.

Many of these items will be placed inside the rebuilt hall, which is slated to include a small museum focusing on the neighborhood's history, he said. Relics from the schoolhouse, stored away for many years, also will be on display.

Once renovations are complete — anticipated for early 2015 — the Friends will be able to double their historical tour offerings to include both the school and the church, helping to draw more visitors interested in learning about Dorchester County's African-American heritage.