



AU Newsmakers

August 31– September 7, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

AU Wonks Analyze Democratic National Convention



National and regional media outlets turned to AU's political wonks for expert analysis of the Democratic National Convention. **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women and Politics Institute, talked to [CBS News online](#) about the Democrats' focus on LGBT rights and to the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) about why female voters should prefer President Obama. History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke to the [Charlotte Observer](#) about which issues voters find most important. Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** talked to the [Associated Press](#) about the drawbacks of President Obama delivering his speech outside even if it rains and to [WJLA-ABC7](#) about how the president can refute criticism about his economic policies. Journalism professor **Jane Hall** spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the key topics President Obama should address in his convention speech. (8/31-9/6)

Additional Features

Campaign U 2012



Each week from now until election day, [WTTG-FOX5](#) will be live in AU's **Campaign U classroom** on campus and will provide live steaming coverage of the discussions, which are taught every four years in the fall before a presidential election. In this week's Campaign U discussions, **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of public communication, involved his students in a discussion about the Republican and Democratic national conventions. Topics included the importance of female voters, the most impactful speeches, and first steps the candidates should take if they are elected. (9/6)

Thanks to Scholarship, Saudi Students Return to U.S. in Droves

The Washington

Diplomat

For a trend story about the increase of Saudi students studying in the United States, [Washington Diplomat](#) talked to **Fanta Aw**, assistant vice president of Campus Life and director of International Student and Scholar Services, about the influence the country's King Abdullah Scholarship Program has had on students enrolling at American University. "With the exception of one or two students, all of the 62 Saudi students enrolled at the university this fall are recipients of the scholarship and a third of those students are female," said Aw. (8/31)

Celebrating an Avant-Garde Influencer

The Washington Post

The [Washington Post](#) and [Washington Post's Express](#) highlighted **American University's** participation in the **John Cage Centennial Festival**. The university will host a series of Cage-focused events Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8. (8/31, 9/6)

Expertise

Where'd the Time Go? Obama Girls Now Young Women

AP Associated Press

In an interview with the [Associated Press](#), executive in residence **Anita McBride** discussed the lives of first children Sasha and Malia Obama and the first family's efforts to keep the girls happy and grounded. "Whether you support this president or not, you want to know that it's healthy and grounding and going well at home. They clearly are a family that's got it together," said McBride. More than **200** outlets republished McBride's comments, including the [Wall Street Journal](#), [Charlotte Observer](#), and [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#). McBride also talked to [USA Today](#) about the influential role of the first lady as the guardian of the first family's lives. (9/7)

35 Years Later, Voyager 1 is Heading for the Stars



Speaking to the [Associated Press](#), **Howard McCurdy**, professor of public affairs, discussed the longevity of the Voyager 1 spacecraft, and its value entering the uncharted territory of interstellar space. “They took the funds and built

spacecraft robust enough to visit all four gas giants and keep communicating beyond the solar system,” said McCurdy. (9/4)

Women Failing to Get Hired in U.S. Seen in Childcare Woes



Barbara Bergmann, professor emerita of economics, discussed with [Bloomberg News](#) the current lack of demand for childcare and its direct link to women not being able to find jobs. “Every time a child is

withdrawn and childcare workers get laid off, that obviously impedes the recovery. The recovery depends on increasing the demand for goods and services, and the industry’s decline has a particularly negative impact because childcare is extremely expensive,” said Bergmann. (9/6)

Time Zones and the International Workforce



Erran Carmel, information technology professor, spoke to [Inside Higher Ed’s Academic Minute](#) about his research on the impact of time zones on the global work force. “We human beings still need to interact in real time; in fact, research shows that making progress on complex tasks requires high interactions between individuals – to generate ideas, to resolve disagreements, to clarify differences,” said Carmel. (9/4)

Record-Setting Partisan Divide



In an interview with [PolitiFact.com](#), **James Thurber**, director for the Center for Presidential and Congressional Studies, discussed the limited accomplishments on Capitol Hill during President Obama’s presidency because of Congressional gridlock. “The parties have found common ground on small bore things, such as reforming the Food and Drug Administration

and reaching a free-trade agreement with South Korea, Colombia and Panama,” said Thurber. (8/31)

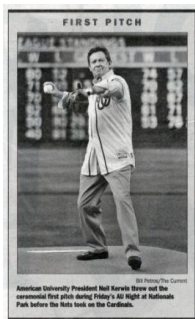
U.S. Pressures Pakistan on Terror Group



In a [Salon.com](#) article about the United States’ recent designation of the Pakistan based Lashkar organization as a terrorist group, **Stephen Tankel**, Department of Justice, Law and Society assistant professor, explained the intent of the increased pressure on Pakistan to enforce a crack down on Lashkar. “This is part of an ongoing strategy. It is intended to make Lashkar’s domestic and international operating environment just a bit more difficult and to put additional pressure on Pakistan to take serious action,” said Tankel. (9/2)

Bonus Clip:

President Kerwin’s Nationals Appearance



The front page of [The Northwest Current](#) featured a photo of **President Kerwin** throwing out the first pitch at AU Night at Nationals Park on Friday, August 31. (9/5)