



## AU Newsmakers

September 7 – September 14, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Campaign 2012: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom



Each week in School of Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn's *Campaign 2012: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom* class, [WTTG-FOX5](#) brings a camera into the classroom as part of the station's election coverage. Each Thursday, the class is live-streamed on the station's website from 9:15–11:45 a.m. Additionally, the station's [Morning News](#) show airs a segment each week about the class. This week focused on the events in Libya and their impact on the campaign and Obama's presidency. Tune in next week to see

AU's most politically active students engage in discussions on the pressing issues of the day. (9/13)

### Additional Features

#### Music Review: Anne Midgette on the John Cage Centennial Festival



[The Washington Post](#) highlighted last weekend's John Cage-themed concerts hosted at **American University's Katzen Arts Center** as part of the John Cage Centennial Festival. "Against the backdrop of Cage's watercolors

and performances of the dance work 'Steps' (prints of bare feet on paper or fabric evoking the shapes of past live events), the performers, stationed around the gallery and playing "instruments"—large seed pods, conch shells filled with water—that looked like art objects themselves, allowed the audience direct interaction with the unexpected sounds they were making," wrote music critic Anne Midgette. (9/9)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Column: Fight the Taliban with Afghan Culture



In an op-ed for [USA Today](#), **Benjamin Jensen**, assistant professor of international affairs, discussed the blue on green attacks in Afghanistan. Jensen proposes that the Taliban narrative encouraging the attacks as honorable to evict the "foreign invaders" must be supplanted by NATO showing that turning guns on an ally is cowardly and not honorable. "The expansion of violence drives a wedge between Afghans and the people trying to help them. But weapons can't be the

main weapon against this threat. It requires words as much as it does firepower," said Jensen. (9/12)

### Expertise

#### Cheering for Charlotte; Obama Draws Tepid Reviews



Journalism professor **Jane Hall** appeared on [CNN's Reliable Resources](#) to discuss former President Bill Clinton's speech at the Democratic National Convention. "You know, obviously, you can fact-check what he said. But he went through and he presented the case. And since we're in such a spin alley, I sort of

thought it was a very good policy speech," said Hall. (9/9)

## When Heat Kills: Global Warming As Public Health Threat



**Matthew Nisbet**, associate professor of communication, spoke to [NPR's \*All Things Considered\*](#) to discuss the public's receptiveness to climate change discussions when climate change is presented as a health and not an environmental issue. "Not only does it lead to emotionally engaging responses among a broad cross section of Americans, it also helps to localize the issue for people and to view the issue as more personally relevant," Nisbet says. (9/10)

## Washington, D.C. is Popular Moving Destination



In the [Washington Post](#), **Peter Chinloy**, professor of finance and real estate, discussed the large number of professionals and young people moving to the D.C. metro region. "With the economic downturn in the whole economy and Washington being one of the largest of the 50 [Metropolitan Statistical Areas] with the lowest unemployment rate, it has just been attractive for people to come here," said Chinloy. (9/12)

## Concern grows that legal US travel to Cuba could be in jeopardy



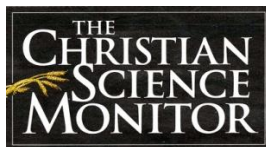
For [FoxNews.com](#), **Fulton Armstrong**, senior fellow at the Center for the Latin American and Latino Studies, discussed the failure of U.S. authorities to renew U.S. based Cuban cultural and education tour operator licenses for legal travel to Cuba. "It's just not credible that they don't have enough people to review these, especially for the renewals. A renewal is something where people have performed and you've had a chance to watch their performance." said Armstrong. (9/10)

## Ambassador's killing shines light on Muslim sensitivities around Prophet Mohammed



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, spoke to [CNN.com's \*Belief Blog\*](#) about the eruption of deadly violence resulting in the death of the U.S. Ambassador to Libya and other embassy officials after depictions of the Prophet Mohammed in human form enraged militant Islamic sects. "In Islam, the notion of God versus any depiction of God or any sacred figure is very strong," Ahmed explained. He also spoke to the [BBC's \*Radio 5 Live\*](#). Additionally, Professor **Asiya Daud** appeared on [WUSA-CBS9](#) and spoke to **Voice of America Radio** to discuss Libya. (9/11, 12, 13)

## Human Trafficking: a Misunderstood Global Scourge



**Ann Jordan**, director of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labor program in the Washington College of Law, spoke to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about the term 'sex trafficking' and its real meaning, which has been misconstrued by the public. "The hype ends up sidelining other concerns—such as the broader categories of human trafficking or even forced labor, which do not have to involve sex. You need to tailor your response to the reality. You should not tailor your response to the hype," said Jordan. (9/9)

## Phoenix Panel Decides to Continue Fluoridating Drinking Water



With [The Arizona Republic](#), **William Hirzy**, professor of chemistry, discussed the fluoridation of drinking water in Phoenix, which affects more than 1.4 million citizens. "If you dig into the facts, it always goes one way: People who were for fluoridation jump ship," said Hirzy, citing studies that indicate fluoride does not prevent cavities. (9/11)