



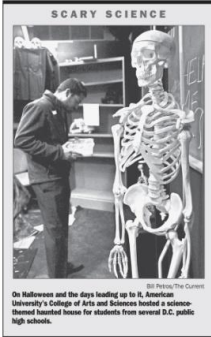
AU Newsmakers October 28–November 4, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

Turning Halloween into a Science



[Education Week's Beyond School](#) online column featured AU's first **Science Spooktacular**, a science-themed haunted house for high school students and the community. "This event was part of a broader effort to recruit and retain science students at American University. We hope students from local schools are encouraged by having science-based fun at the college level," said **Nathan Harshman**, associate professor of physics. The **Northwest Current** also ran a front-page photo of a spooky learning station. (10/31)

WAMU 88.5 Celebrates 50th Anniversary



On **WAMU 88.5's** 50th anniversary, NPR.org reflected on the station's history. Current NPR staff members and reporters, including Susan Stamberg and Jean Cochran, whose careers began at WAMU, reminisced about the station's early days. [Washington Life](#) and [Georgetown](#)

[Dish](#) published a photo gallery and article about the anniversary gala. (10/28, 11/1)

Additional Features

AU Students Raise Money, Awareness for Southeast Children's Fund



[Washingtonpost.com's The Root DC Live](#) column featured a project spearheaded by students in professor **Gemma Puglisi's** public communication class. The students, whose goal was to raise money and

awareness for a nonprofit that assists D.C. residents in Wards 7 and 8, planned an event at which First Lady Michelle Obama's hairstylist and a WRC-NBC4 traffic reporter read to Anacostia community center preschoolers. (10/28)

AU among Universities Attractive to Nontraditional Grad Students



In a trend story focused on nontraditional graduate psychology students, doctoral student **David Neale-Lorello** talked to [gradPSYCH](#) magazine (American Psychological Association's graduate student publication) about pursuing his PhD in clinical psychology at AU. "I decided to do something I was passionate about,"

Neale-Lorello said. (11/1)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Is What's Good for MetLife Good for Us All?



In a commentary for [AmericanBanker.com's Big Think](#) section, **Robin Lumsdaine**, professor of international finance, discussed MetLife's quarterly earnings and regulation as a bank holding company by the Federal Reserve.

"For insurance providers like MetLife that are also bank holding companies, the regulatory capital requirements associated with derivatives-based hedging could create challenges that will likely drive them to exit or curtail involvement in a number of important markets," she wrote. (10/28)

No Saif Harbor



In an opinion piece in [Foreign Policy](#), **David Bosco**, assistant professor of international politics, discussed the difficulty the International Criminal Court may have in prosecuting Saif Qaddafi. “Though he was widely seen as heir to his father's power, Saif held no formal leadership position, no military rank, and no government title,” wrote Bosco. (10/31)

How the Government Can Solve the Housing Crisis



In a coauthored [CNN.com](#) op-ed, **Robert Lerman**, professor of economics, explained how homeownership vouchers or turnkey programs could help the government solve the housing crisis while simultaneously jumpstarting the economy. “Scaling up either homeownership initiative would be a move in the right direction, and either approach would help millions of middle income and near-poor families limit their housing costs,” he wrote. (10/28)

The Halloween Myth of the War of the Worlds Panic



In his piece for [BBC News Magazine](#) online, **W. Joseph Campbell**, professor of journalism, debunked the media myth that Orson Welles' 1938 Halloween eve CBS Radio broadcast of 'War of the Worlds' caused mass hysteria. “Sure, some Americans were frightened or disturbed by what they heard. But most listeners, overwhelmingly, were not. They recognized it for what it was—a clever and entertaining radio play,” Campbell wrote. (10/29)

Expertise

Senators Say United States Losing Sway in Africa as China Rises



For the [Associated Press](#), **Deborah Brautigam**, professor of international development, countered the arguments of some U.S. Senators about China's growing investment in Africa threatening human rights and democracy efforts. “Chinese investment was often perceived to have a negative impact on human rights and democracy, principally because of Beijing's support of Zimbabwe and Sudan,” said Brautigam. The article syndicated to more than **200** outlets, including [msnbc.com](#), [CBSNews.com](#), and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. (11/2)

Tax Breaks for Students

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, explained to the [Wall Street Journal](#) why some working professionals with established careers are interested in taking advantage of education tax incentives. “Many of our students are older and already working, but have gone as far as they can with existing skills,” said Kautter. (10/29)

Fight over Argentina's Inflation Rate Pits Government against Private Economists



Arturo Porzecanski, distinguished economist in residence, explained to the [Washington Post](#) the ramifications of Argentina under-reporting its inflation figures during the last several years. “The controversy over the inflation numbers is part of larger problems in Argentina: a lack of transparency in handling the economy and an unwillingness to abide by international obligations,” he said. In a second [Washington Post](#) article, Porzecanski compared Greece's financial crisis to that of Uruguay's and Argentina's handling of their respective debt crises a decade ago. (10/31, 11/3)

The Art of the Flip Flop



Allan Lichtman, professor of history, explained on [MSNBC's Daily Rundown](#) why “flip-flopping,” though a pejorative term often used to describe politicians who seem to change their minds on specific issues, can be pulled off with success, as evidenced by presidents Lincoln, Kennedy, and FDR. “Being flexible as a president is absolutely essential to success,” Lichtman said. (10/28)

Private Meetings and Back-Room Deals Can Pay Off



Jordan Tama, assistant professor of international relations, talked to [NPR's Talk of the Nation](#) about why the super committee's private meetings are critical to finding a deficit reduction compromise. "The people who are criticizing this congressional super committee are generally people who are on the liberal or conservative end of the spectrum who don't want to see a kind of centrist grand bargain," said Tama. (11/1)

Sexual Harassment Settlements: Cost of Doing Business



Speaking to [CNN.com](#) about the sexual harassment scandal surrounding presidential hopeful Herman Cain, **Caren Goldberg**, assistant professor of management, explained why companies may prefer to settle allegations rather than fight them. "It doesn't take many attorney hours to incur five digits' worth of fees. That could be a low-cost settlement right there that makes the problem go away and swears everyone to secrecy," she said. [WTTG-FOX5's NewsEdge at 6 p.m.](#) also talked to Goldberg. (11/1, 11/3)

Statue of Liberty Turns 125; Old Immigration Attitudes Alive as Well



In an article about the Statue of Liberty's 125th anniversary, **Alan Kraut**, University Professor of History, talked to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the United States' mixed response to immigrants throughout history. "There's an old immigrant saying: America beckons, but Americans repel," said Kraut, also chair of Ellis Island Foundation's History Advisory Committee. (10/28)

SPOOKY: U.S. Debt to Surpass GDP on Halloween



Mark Waldman, executive in residence in Kogod, spoke to [TheDailyCaller.com](#) about the ramifications of U.S. debt exceeding its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). "The reason that's important [debt exceeding GDP] is if we try to sell new debt and roll the old debt over at higher interest rates, then the cost of carrying the debt gets higher and higher and starts squeezing out other spending," explained Waldman. (10/28)

Herman Cain's 'Spin' Turns Accusations into Campaign Dough



Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain experienced a financial windfall in the wake of allegations that he sexually harassed women while head of the National Restaurant Association, but **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of public communication, told the [Boston Herald](#) that the Cain campaign should not count on donor sympathy and dollars. "If other stories come out, then things begin to cascade. If I were in the Cain campaign, I'd be worried about what's next," he said. (11/2)

Defense Spending Cuts Small in Context of History



In an interview with [Federal News Radio](#), **Gordon Adams**, professor of U.S. foreign policy, explained the impact of proposed defense spending cuts and how they fit into an historical context. "Defense budgets go up and they go down, and they have gone up and gone down every 20 years or so ever since the second World War," said Adams. (11/1)

G20 Could Mark Shift in Economic Power



Daniel Bradlow, professor of law professor, told [Agence France Press](#) that China, Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa's would be contributions to the ailing European Union would be "a first in modern history that developing countries would be directly bailing out their advanced counterparts." More than **20** outlets including, [Bangkok Post](#) and [Yahoo! News](#), republished the article. (10/31)