



AU Newsmakers January 13-20, 2012

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Top Story

Women's Underrepresentation in Politics



The media turned to **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute for expert analysis after the release of her report, *Men Rule: The Continued Under-Representation of Women in U.S. Politics*, which identifies seven factors discouraging women from seeking elected office. On [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#), Lawless discussed what can be done to counteract the trend. With [Agence France Presse](#), she explained a woman's role in supporting her candidate husband and family during a presidential campaign. Lawless also spoke to [Elect Women Magazine](#) online and [Asia News International](#) about the reasons why women defer running in elections. (1/14, 1/16)

Additional Features

Death of Poetry? Not in D.C.



In an online video on [WashingtonPost.com](#), **Kyle Dargan**, assistant professor of literature, discussed Washington's poetry community and the connection between poetry and government. "In some ways they're very similar in a sense that poetry and government, when operating at optimum capacity, are entities that really hold the world together quietly," said Dargan. (1/12)

Readers' Review: "The Day of the Jackal"



On [WAMU 88.5's The Diane Rehm Show](#), **Peter Starr**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, discussed Frederick Forsyth's *The Day of the Jackal*, a book about a hitman out to assassinate French President Charles de Gaulle. "I'm a literature professor. I teach literature. I teach people to understand and appreciate literature.

One of the things that's remarkable about this novel is how true it is," said Starr. (1/18)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Obama Mirror's Bush in Signing Statements



In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#), **Jeffrey Crouch**, assistant professor of American politics discussed President Obama's failure to follow through on a campaign promise to change policies past presidents enacted to expand executive powers. "Whether the initiation of military engagement in Libya without Congressional consent or a variety of secrecy practices, the president has acted on a number of occasions in ways that enable him to direct policy without engaging in the deliberative process with lawmakers," wrote Crouch. (1/19)

Expertise

Obama Bid to Cut the Government Tests Congress

The New York Times

Beryl Radin, scholar-in-residence in the School of Public Affairs, spoke to the [New York Times](#) about President Obama's decision to shrink the size of the federal government. "Just because it's one fish doesn't mean it needs

to be regulated by one agency," said Radin in regards to Obama's often cited multiple agencies salmon regulation example. (1/13)

Agreement Nears on a Chicago Ward Remap



After being brought in by city council leaders as a national expert to consult on Chicago's redistricting process, **Allan Lichtman**, distinguished professor of history, told the [Chicago Tribune](#) that the dueling groups of aldermen need to show that population variances among wards were designed to protect African-American and Latino voters and preserve racial harmony. (1/17)

Mitt Romney Tax Returns Unlikely To Change Race



Danny Hayes, assistant professor of government, spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) online about whether the controversy surrounding GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney's tax returns would affect his campaign. "It's a little bit concerning because it provides the Obama campaign another piece of information they can point to as they can try to paint Romney as out-of-step with ordinary Americans, but I don't think in the long run that matters that much," said Hayes. (1/17)

What the Internet Could be Like if SOPA Passes



Two AU experts discussed the potential Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). **David Johnson**, assistant professor of communication, talked to [U.S. News & World Report](#) online about the effects the act may have on public websites such as Wikipedia. **Andrew Yarrow**, professor of history, suggested to [Forbes Magazine](#) that Washington needs to focus on more on the national debt than SOPA. (1/18)

Political Unrest in Pakistan and Afghanistan



Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic studies, analyzed the tumultuous situations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. On [BBC World News](#), he discussed the recent conflict between the legislative, military, and judicial branches of the Pakistani government. For [China Radio International](#), Ahmed explained why the U.S. military is turning to talks with the Taliban for help to end military violence throughout the country. (1/13, 1/18)

Race Raised in U.S. Election Year



On [Australian Broadcasting Corporation's AM with Tom Eastley](#), **Jan Leighley**, professor of government, talked about whether race is a focus of GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich's campaign. "I don't think his focus is on race as much as it is hooking these voters. He knows what those voters are like and what motivates them," said Leighley. (1/18)

This Week's Bonus

AU Eagles Serve Community on MLK Day



[Comcast Sportsnet](#) highlighted the **AU men's basketball team** for their volunteer work on Martin Luther King Day to support Samaritan's Feet, a non-profit that provides shoes for the poor. (1/19)