



AU Newsmakers

January 6-13, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

For prior weeks, go to <http://www.american.edu/media/inthemediacfm>

Top Stories

Fresh Eyes on the Primaries



In two articles, the **Concord Monitor** highlighted 34 **American University undergraduate and graduate students** who traveled to cover the New Hampshire primary as part of the joint School of Communication and School of Public Affairs *Communicating the 2012 Election* class. The [first](#) article described how students used Twitter to document their coverage from moment to moment, and the [second](#) highlighted exit polling the students conducted for the Concord Monitor on primary day. (1/10)

Gender Imbalance on the Campaign Trail



Dotty Lynch, executive-in-residence in the School of Communication, discussed with the [Columbia Journalism Review](#) online the gender imbalance that exists in the reporters covering the primary elections. Lynch said that women are intrigued by the political field, but attributed the smaller number of female journalists to the fact that “the people at the top doing the hiring are still mostly white men.” (1/12)

Additional Features

Predicting the Presidential Election: 2012



[HuffingtonPost.com](#) featured distinguished professor of history **Allan Lichtman's** 13 keys to the presidency in an article about the 2012 presidential elections. “According to Lichtman, if the incumbent party (that is, the political party that is currently in the White House) can claim eight of the ‘13 Keys,’ then they can be assured of victory in the next election. If, on the other hand, they hold seven or less, they are headed for defeat,” the article explained. (1/7)

Piecing it together: to create exhibitions, museum curators round up the artists—and the funding.



[Washington Post Express](#) (linked PDF/pg. 24) included **American University's** fine arts degree program as part of the *Continuing Education and Career Advancement Guide*. The article highlights American University as an institution where people can earn a degree as a museum curator and have a job like the successful curator featured in the article. (1/9)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Face it, Romney is Way Out in Front



In an op-ed for [CNN.com](#), **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, critiques the media's downplaying Romney's victories in Iowa and New Hampshire to rather focus on his vulnerabilities and candidates who could potentially upset him in upcoming primaries. “As someone genuinely concerned with the consequences of the 24-hour news cycle, I am struck and disappointed by the disconnect between what the voters have said and how the media have covered their sentiments,” wrote Lawless. (1/10)

Drama Lighting Up Iraqi Lives



Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, wrote an op-ed for Al-Jazeera.com about the contemporary play he authored, *Noor*, which is now being performed in Iraq by Iraqi students under the direction of their American professor. "The staging of the play itself has become a test of the young American's character and that of his students. It has become a drama within a drama. They even have ambitious plans to stage *Noor* in the Green Zone in Baghdad, perhaps even in Washington D.C.," wrote Ahmed in his reaction to his plays staging. (1/9)

Expertise

Against Business? GOP Split on Romney's Practices



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, spoke to the Associated Press about GOP attacks on frontrunner Mitt Romney's business practices. "It's strange for Republicans to go after a colleague who's successful in business. The arguments by Newt Gingrich could be made by the far left of the Democratic Party," said Thurber. More than **225** outlets, including the online versions of the *Boston Globe*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *Seattle Times*, republished the article. Thurber also spoke to the Boston Globe about the GOP field in the primaries. (1/11)

New Pentagon Strategy Stresses Asia, Cyber, Drones



Gordon Adams, professor of U.S. foreign policy, spoke to Reuters about President Obama's new defense strategy that will expand the U.S. military presence in Asia while attempting to slash a half a trillion dollars from the defense budget to combat the deficit. "This is a classic resource-driven strategy document," said Adams. More than **20** outlets republished the article. (1/6)

"Electability" Gives Romney a Boost



WashingtonPost.com's Post Politics blog featured an **Associated Press Television** interview with **Danny Hayes**, assistant professor of government, where he discussed GOP candidate Mitt Romney's electability in the primaries. "I think it's going to be difficult for any candidate to stop the momentum he's been able to put together after New Hampshire and Iowa," said Hayes. He also spoke to U.S. News & World Report online about the GOP primaries. (1/11)

Michelle Obama Rejects 'Angry Black Woman' Label



Anita McBride, executive-in-residence in the School of Public Affairs, explained for the Chicago Tribune Michelle Obama's response to being labeled an "angry Black woman." According to McBride, the First Lady is taking the issue head on. "I don't know if it's wise or unwise, but she's trying to dispute it," said McBride. (1/12)

Analyzing the GOP Primaries



Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, spoke to several media outlets providing analysis on the GOP primary campaigns and results. On NPR's Morning Edition, Lawless discussed how wives of candidates support their husbands on the campaign trail. She also explained Congressman Ron Paul's effect to the Christian Science Monitor and the Washington Times online, defined the difference between a primary and a caucus for WRC-NBC4, and analyzed the GOP's views of Mitt Romney on Canada's Sun News Network. (1/6, 1/10, 1/12)

Cybersecurity: Playing it Safe



Brian Forst, professor of justice, law and society, spoke to the Washington Post Express (linked PDF/page 20), about growing career opportunities in counterterrorism and homeland security. "Having an undergraduate or even advanced degree with applied skills is important, but there's more to homeland security than getting your ticked punched," said Forst. (1/9)

Ball in Islamists' Court



Clovis Maksoud, director of the Center for Global South, spoke to Gulf News about the rise of genuine Islamic political parties in Egypt after the Arab Spring in 2011 and the role of youth in toppling authoritarian regimes but failure to seize power. "It might seem paradoxical that those who organized the pressure to remove the [Arab] dictatorships were not able to advance the clarity of their policies considering that they are 'allergic to excessive dogmas,'" said Maksoud. (1/12)