



AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

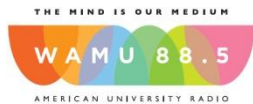
Art of the State: Collection Depicts an Israel Beyond the Conflict



A [New Jersey Jewish News](#) cover story featured The Rothfeld Collection of Contemporary Israeli Art, a recent gift to the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center** from former long-time New Jersey resident Donald Rothfeld. “The Rothfeld gift helps us build a collection that will encourage this free, continuing discussion of ideas, beliefs, and values in the region [the Middle East]—exactly what is needed today,” said **Jack Rasmussen**, American University Museum director and curator. Several images of works in the collection ran with the article. (11/09)

Additional Features

Internships Becoming Necessary for D.C. Grads



Internships “can allow students to make connections with employers and colleagues that could lead to other jobs down the road. They can also help students figure out what they don’t want to do after graduation,” said **Francine Blume**, director of experiential learning to [WAMU-88.5](#) about the importance of students completing internships before

graduation. (11/08)

Taking on Obama



CBCtelevision

To illustrate the change in attitudes among millennials toward the president since he took office, [Canada Broadcasting Company](#) suggested that the jubilant atmosphere at the Kennedy family’s endorsement of then-candidate Obama at a 2008 rally at **American University** would be much different today. “In the first election I was campaigning and knocking on doors, but now I don’t know if I have the same faith in him as I once did,” said one AU student. (11/06)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Fair Representation for All



Jamin Raskin, professor of law, wrote an op-ed for the [Baltimore Sun](#) calling for a more balanced congressional redistricting process in Maryland.

“Used in many national elections and in a growing number of American cities, methods of fair voting (also called proportional voting) allow like-minded voters to pool their votes to elect representatives in numbers mirroring their level of public support. It puts voters, rather than partisan mapmakers, in charge of their representation in every election; citizens essentially ‘district’ themselves by voting,” wrote Raskin. (11/07)

From Sarkozy to the IAEA—How Netanyahu Gets Stronger



In an op-ed for [HuffingtonPost.com](#), **Josef Olmert**, adjunct professor of international service, suggested that despite recent criticism from some allies of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s Prime Minister continues to gain his country’s support. “Any action on his part will require a large

measure of public support among his compatriots. He seems to have it now, and for the good of Israel he is expected to do his best not to lose it, as well as to win more international support,” wrote Olmert. (11/09)

New Data Show a Few Less Children, More Seniors in Poverty



Kat Aaron, project editor for *What Went Wrong* at the Investigative Reporting Workshop, wrote an article for NewAmericaMedia.org about the picture of poverty in America according to a new measure used by the U.S. Census Bureau. "At a time when many benefit programs are facing deep cuts, the data show that the social safety net is having a big impact, particularly for children," wrote Aaron. (11/08)

Expertise

Nicaragua Is Poised to Re-Elect Ortega



Robert Pastor, professor of international relations, and **Philip Brenner**, professor of foreign policy, spoke to the [New York Times](http://NewYorkTimes.com) and [Bloomberg Businessweek](http://BloombergBusinessweek.com), about Nicaragua's re-election of Daniel Ortega. For the *New York Times*, Pastor described Ortega's decision to seek re-election a "setback for democracy in Central America." Despite sidestepping the constitution, Brenner told *Bloomberg Businessweek* that "Ortega's a new man, he's transformed himself, and people believe him." (11/07)

Presidential Crystal Balls



Allan Lichtman, professor of history, spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](http://LosAngelesTimes.com) about his "13 Keys" system for predicting who will win the White House and his prediction that Obama will be reelected in 2012. "It's conceivable that Obama could lose if the economy goes into another recession or if he gets hit by a major scandal, but I don't see it," said Lichtman. More than **20** outlets, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Sacramento Bee*, republished the article. (11/06)

Ship for Carrier Classic Raises Scholarly Questions



Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, explained to [USA Today](http://USAToday.com) why there should be no controversy over playing a college basketball game on the aircraft carrier deck used to transport Osama bin Laden's body for its at-sea burial. "Osama bin Laden was not buried on that ship. He was not a religious saint or figure. His followers saw him as a religiously inspired freedom fighter but not as a saintly figure," said Ahmed. (11/07)

Experts Analyze Herman Cain Scandal



Several media outlets asked American University political analysts to discuss the impact alleged sexual harassment charges might have on Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain's campaign. **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of public communication, spoke to ABCNews.com and [WTTG-FOX5](http://WTTG-FOX5.com), and **Dotty Lynch**, executive-in-residence in the School of Communication, appeared on [WUSA-CBS9](http://WUSA-CBS9.com). **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, and **Richard Benedetto**, professor of journalism, discussed the scandal in [separate Boston Herald](http://BostonHerald.com) articles. (11/04, 11/08, 11/09)

Anger in the Streets



On [ABC's World News with Diane Sawyer](http://ABC.com), **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, explained the backlash toward Occupy Wall Street protestors over recent violent incidents. "Even if there are small segments of what's happening, the smallest amounts of violence could be enough, ultimately, to stop a movement," said Lawless. (11/4)

GOP View of Mitt Romney's Electability May Get Him Past Rivals in End



[NPR.com's It's All Politics](http://NPR.com) blog featured research from **Jill Rickershauser Carvalho**, assistant professor of government, in a post about Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's electability factor in the upcoming election. According to Rickershauser, the candidates' issue positions and voter perceptions of their electability both factor into voters' decisions. (11/07)

Sex Harassment Prevalent



Caren Goldberg, professor of management, discussed with the [Detroit Free Press](http://DetroitFreePress.com) why workplace sexual harassment is still prevalent even though claims have been declining for more than a decade. "When the economy is doing poorly, people are much more afraid of initiating a claim of any sort," said Goldberg. (11/09)

Religion and Government Must not Mix in America



Jamin Raskin, professor of law, discussed the separation of church and state in America at a National Press Club forum covered by [McClatchy News Service](#). Raskin noted, “the Constitution allows people to follow whichever religion they desire, but that government should make its decisions based on logic and science.” More than **25** outlets, including the **MiamiHerald.com** and **SacramentoBee.com**, republished the article. (11/08)

"Getting It Wrong" Finally Gets the Story Right for William Randolph Hearst, Others



FM 88.1 Chattanooga

On Chattanooga's NPR affiliate [WUTC-FM](#), **W. Joseph Campbell**, professor of communication and author of *Getting It Wrong: Ten of the Greatest Misreported Stories in American Journalism*, discussed the myth of William Randolph Hearst instructing his photographer to paint a false picture of a non-existent Cuban insurrection against Spain to sell papers. “The story of Hearst sending this message is most certainly apocryphal,” said Campbell. (11/09)

Rookie GOP Candidates Lead to Campaign Blunders



Danny Hayes, assistant professor of government, spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the campaign errors and scandals involving current Republican presidential candidates. “Because many of the other candidates remain viable, the campaign mishaps or these scandals are more of interest to the news media and political observers than they might be in an election where there was a more clearly defined frontrunner,” said Hayes. (11/05)

Cuba's Castro Names Former Rebel Fighter as Defense Minister



Philip Brenner, professor of foreign policy, analyzed for [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) Cuban President Raul Castro's decision to name an ex-rebel fighter as his defense minister in light of potential economic unrest. “People are going to be out of jobs and have to figure out new ways to organize their daily lives, so there could be disorder,” said Brenner. (11/09)

Ex-Pelosi Aide's Turnabout Work



Patrick Griffin, academic director of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, talked to [Politico](#) about Brendan Daly's transition from aide to former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to lobbyist representing interests at odds with his former boss. “It might not look kosher to the outside, but it's not really that big of a deal,” said Griffin. (11/6)

Proposal to Cut Federal Workforce Raises Concerns



On [Federal News Radio](#), **Robert Tobias**, distinguished practitioner-in-residence in the School of Public Affairs, explained how cuts in the federal work force could do more harm than good. “The assumption is somehow, someday, that 10 percent of the workforce is mere surplus. They are sleeping on the job, and getting rid of them will have no impact on services provided.

I think that's wrong,” said Tobias. (11/07)

This Week's Bonus

AU Staff Member Wins on *The Price Is Right*



On his way to winning the Showcase Showdown on [CBS's The Price Is Right](#), **Bernard Schulz**, special assistant to the vice president of Campus Life, gave a shout out to his colleagues at **American University**. (11/09)