



# AU Newsmakers

## December 2–9, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Renewed Political Interest for Newt Gingrich

##### The Boston Globe

Two American University political wonks analyzed the resurgence of Newt Gingrich in the Republican presidential primary race. **Danny Hayes**, assistant professor of government, spoke to the [Boston Globe](#) about Gingrich's ongoing political feud with Congressman Barney Frank. **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed with [NPR's All Things Considered](#) Gingrich's health care consultancy. He also spoke to [HuffingtonPost.com](#). (12/5, 12/6)

### Additional Features

#### Use it, or Lose it



[Publishers Weekly](#) featured **Patricia Aufderheide**, University Professor of communication, and **Peter Jaszi**, professor of law, and their book, *In Reclaiming Fair Use: How to Put Balance Back in Copyright*. "The book, brimming with highly readable, real world examples, is a true interdisciplinary effort," read the article. (12/2)

#### American History On-Site in Washington, DC



In an article for [Smithsonian Magazine's Around the Mall](#) blog, **Amy Henderson**, professor of history, discussed her class in which students experience American history by visiting museums and historical sites in the District of Columbia. "At each place, the central question—who are we?—is consistent, but the ways history can be transmitted to 21st century audiences varies enormously," wrote Henderson. (12/6)

#### AU Exhibit Spotlights Unsung Photographer

*AU exhibit spotlights unsung photographer*  
by KATHY FRANKS  
Laura Rosskam was one of the first women to work as a professional photographer in the United States. Her work, which includes portraits of prominent figures and historical events, is on display at the American University Museum. The exhibit, "The Photographic Life of Laura Rosskam," is on display through the end of the year.



Laura Rosskam has a lot of photos to show for her work. In the early 1900s, Rosskam was one of the first women to work as a professional photographer in the United States. Her work, which includes portraits of prominent figures and historical events, is on display at the American University Museum. The exhibit, "The Photographic Life of Laura Rosskam," is on display through the end of the year.

A *Northwest Current* front page feature highlighted *Re-viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam*, an exhibit at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. In the article, exhibit co-curator Laura Katzman described her working relationship with the late Rosskam and her effort to create an exhibition to celebrate Rosskam's work. (12/7)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### A Cuban Conundrum

##### Los Angeles Times

In an op-ed he co-authored for the [Los Angeles Times](#), **William LeoGrande**, dean of the School of Public Affairs, explained the negotiations between the United States and Cuba for the release of Alan Gross, an American held for espionage in Cuba. "Republicans are already referring to Gross as a 'hostage' and excoriating Obama for not forcing Cuba (somehow) to release him. From a strictly political calculus, Obama would be better off securing Gross' release and getting the issue off the electoral agenda," wrote LeoGrande. (12/6)

## What Influences Public Views on Iran Action?

**The Washington Post**

For the [WashingtonPost.com's Behind the Numbers](#) blog, **Danny Hayes**, assistant professor of government, wrote about America's renewed interest in government action in Iran. "While many Americans see Iran as an 'enemy,' recent polling data shows little public support for an attack," wrote Hayes. (12/1)

## Analyzing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's ABC Interview

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

In an op-ed for [HuffingtonPost.com](#), **Josef Olmert**, adjunct professor of international relations, discussed ABC News correspondent Barbara Walters' interview with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad during which he skirted the issue of political upheaval in his country. "Bashar Assad used ABC in order to talk to the Hague International Court, starting his defense case. It is not me, it is my generals," wrote Olmert. (12/7)

## Expertise

### Obama Invokes Theodore Roosevelt Against GOP

**The Washington Post**

**Allan Lichtman**, distinguished professor of history, spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about how President Obama is attempting to rise above his Republican rivals by aligning himself with past Republican presidents. Lichtman said Obama was "trying to show how far the Republican Party has strayed, trying to draw a contrast between a narrow, cramped, corporate Republican party and the party of Lincoln and Roosevelt that sought liberty and represented ordinary people." (12/5)

### In 2011, Fewer Bills, Fewer Laws and Plenty of Blame

**The Washington Post**

**James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed with the [Washington Post](#) what little progress Congress accomplished this past year. Thurber described the small number of bills passed into law as, "Exhibit A in showing how dysfunctional the Congress has become." (12/5)

### Latin and Caribbean Leaders Challenge US Role in Region

**The Miami Herald**

**Sally Shelton-Colby**, ambassador-in-residence in the School of International Service, spoke to the [Miami Herald](#) about the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, or CELAC, which held its inaugural meeting without inviting Canada or the United States to participate. "People have been predicting the demise of the OAS [Organization of American States] for a very long time. Has it disappointed? Yes. But it's still there," said Shelton-Colby. (12/1)

### A German Tea Party with a French Pastry

**AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA**  
**Marketplace**

On [American Public Media's Marketplace](#) radio, **Matthias Matthijs**, assistant professor of international service, analyzed German Chancellor Angela Merkel's and French President Nicolas Sarkozy's proposal to solve the European economic crisis. "It's what I would like to call a 'German tea party' with a French pastry. But the German tea is the substance and the pastry is the French sweetener. It's all austerity again," said Matthijs. (12/7)

### Conflict, Theology and History Make Muslims More Religious than Others, Experts Say

**CNN**

**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic Studies, spoke to [CNN.com's Belief](#) blog about what makes the Muslim religion seem more devout than others, suggesting many Muslims feel a deep personal connection to the founder of their faith. "Muhammad isn't simply a historical figure to them, but rather a personal inspiration to hundreds of millions of people around the world today," he said. (12/3)

### DoD Could Slash 150K Jobs

**FEDERAL TIMES**

**Gordon Adams**, professor of foreign policy, explained to the [Federal Times](#) how employment cuts at the Department of Defense may be part of future budget plans. "I think it's inevitable that we will see a defense build-down accompanied by a corresponding drop in ranks of civilian employees," said Adams, who also spoke to [Defense Daily](#) and the [Fiscal Times](#) about changes in defense spending. (12/4, 12/6, 12/7)

## Ethics and Money in Local Politics



On [WAMU 88.5's \*The Kojo Nnamdi Show\*](#), **Jamin Raskin**, professor of law, talked about a rise in ethical violations among local government officials. "There is a kind of structure to these waves of political corruption that takes place. They tend to follow financial bubbles—like real estate bubbles or bubbles in the stock market—where there's lots of money to be made," said Raskin. (12/7)

## Tax Hike Countdown



On [WUSA-CBS9](#), **Dave Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, discussed competing Democratic and Republican proposals to extend the payroll tax cut. "What the Democrats are proposing is to reduce both the employer and the employee tax in half. Republicans would only continue the current two percent reduction for employees," said Kautter. (12/1)

## Indefinite Detention without Trial for U.S. Citizens? Ask the President, Senate Says

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES** **Stephen Vladeck**, professor of law, spoke to the [International Business Times](#) about a Congressional impasse on proposed legislation that would allow the government to hold without trial any American citizens captured on U.S. soil. "Even as Congress passed lots of other legislation related to the war on terror they left the really central question untouched, and now they seem on the verge of saying the war on terror is really a global war, one doesn't really need to be directly related to the 9/11 attacks to be the subject of military force," said Vladeck. (12/5)

## US Missile Shield Program



On [China Radio International English](#), **James Goldgeier**, dean of the School of International Service, described the differences between the U.S. missile shield programs under former President Bush and President Obama. "Although both the Bush and Obama administrations have both been pursuing missile defense, they are two very different systems," said Goldgeier. (12/6)