



# AU Newsmakers

April 1–April 8, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

## Top Stories

### President Obama to Run Again in 2012



AU's presidential politics wonks provided insight into President Obama's re-election campaign announcement. "Barack Obama became president because of this remarkable grassroots campaign driven by the Internet, driven by social media, and driven by people going door-to-door, and he has to energize people again," said **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, on [WTTG-FOX5](#). **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, used his "13 Keys" to analyze Obama's re-election chances for the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#). Also, **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies and editor of *Obama in Office*, spoke to the [San Francisco Chronicle](#). (4/4-5)

### Preventing Anti-Muslim Sentiment



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic Studies, appeared on [CNN International](#) and talked to [CNN.com's Belief](#) blog in defense of the Muslim religion after a Florida pastor followed through on his fall 2010 promise to burn a Quran. Ahmed also coauthored an opinion piece for the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) about "Islamophobia." Ahmed wrote, "Fear of Muslims has been exacerbated by professors in the booming field of terrorism and security studies, who not infrequently characterize Islam as an inherently violent religion." (4/1-4)

## Additional Features

### AU: One of Nation's Greenest Campuses, Thanks to Cooking Oil, Tap Water, Sun



With a plan for carbon neutrality by 2020, **American University** is a leader in sustainability initiatives according to [SmartPlanet.com](#), which recently spoke to **Chris O'Brien**, director of sustainability. O'Brien discussed the university's use of green power, green roof installations, and previewed the upcoming installation of the largest solar photovoltaic arrays in the Washington area. (4/6)

### AU Museum Exhibit Focuses on the Past's Impact on the Present



[Washington Jewish Week](#) featured *A Cultural History of My Neighborhood: Photo Collages by Gail S. Rebhan*—an exhibit of photo collages at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**—chronicling the evolution of the Tenleytown-Friendship Heights neighborhoods. "The collages combine historic and new photographs, newspaper articles, telephone books and other artifacts," read the article. [Georgetown Dish](#) reviewed *Sam Gilliam: Close to Trees*, and [FOXNews Latino](#) and [TBD.com](#) reviewed *BRAVOS: Groundbreaking Spanish Design*, both also showing at the museum. (4/6)

### Girl Scout Cookie College at Kogod



[TLC's DC Cupcakes](#)—a primetime reality show about the owners of Georgetown Cupcake—featured **American University's Kogod School of Business** in an episode about Cookie College, a program that teaches girl scouts entrepreneurship skills to prepare them to sell cookies. Kogod has a relationship with the Girl Scouts' National Capital Chapter. The Georgetown Cupcake owners were guest speakers for Cookie College participants. (4/1)

## Op-Ed/Editorial

### FiveTasks for Next SECDEF



"The next secretary will have to ride the rapids of an inevitable decline in defense resources, driven by pressures for deficit reduction and flagging public interest in being the world's police officer," wrote **Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, in an editorial for [Defense News](#) about the duties for the next Secretary of Defense. (4/4)

## Quotes

### Company Planning Biggest Rocket since Man on Moon



**Associated Press** **Howard McCurdy**, professor of public administration, spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about Space Exploration Technology president Elon Musk's aspiration to build the most powerful rocket since the first space mission to the moon. "If he's not in the lead, he's well positioned for the finish," said McCurdy. More than 240 outlets including the **Boston Globe**, **Forbes**, and **Washington Times** republished the article. (4/6)

### Google Wades into Global Warming Debate



**Matthew Nisbet**, associate professor of communication, discussed Google's creation of a "21-Club" of handpicked global warming experts with [FOXNews.com](#). As one of the chosen experts, Nisbet said it is meant to drive investment in climate change research. "If Google included people who challenged that debate, they would be wrong to do so," he said. (4/5)

### Can House Finance Chief Paul Ryan Sell His Budget to Americans?



**Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, discussed Republican Representative Paul Ryan's attempt to persuade Americans to support his budget cut proposal with [WashingtonPost.com's Post Politics](#).

"Nobody knows who Ryan is, outside his home area," said Lichtman. "I don't think he has the clout, the charisma, the political power to do this." (4/5)

### Stepping Up



"What will be interesting is what happens in the primaries," said **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, to the [National Journal](#) about female candidates in the 2012 special elections. "In 2010, people expected greater increase in the [number of] women serving. When you look at the raw numbers and the highest profile candidate, it's easy to think that women are playing a much bigger role than they may be." (4/1)

### Nobel Panel: Give War a Chance



In [Politico](#), **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, disputed critics' demands for President Obama to give up his Nobel Peace Prize after sending troops into Libya. Thurber compared the military coalition in Libya to

former President George W. Bush's American-led invasion of Iraq, and said "that's better for peace when you do that than when you do things all alone." (4/5)

### Librarians Put Increasing Value on Their Role in Support of Student Learning



**Bill Mayer**, university librarian, participated in a national survey of top librarians at four-year colleges and universities about the library's role in supporting undergraduate education. Mayer told the [Chronicle of](#)

[Higher Education](#) that part of a librarian's job is to give scholars "that bridging comfort to know they can carry on with their lives and always have access to the material they need when they need it." (4/4)

### Guantanamo Trial for 9/11 Mastermind



"It's alarmingly premature for the government to decide on military commission trials for these defendants when substantial questions remain as to the legality and legitimacy of these tribunals," said

**Stephen Vladeck**, professor of law, to the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) about the prosecution of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed at Guantanamo Bay. More than 40 additional outlets republished this article. (4/5)

### Red-Shouldered Soap Berry Bug



[The Encyclopedia of Life's Learning + Education](#) podcast talked to **David Angelini**, professor of biology, about the presence of *Jadera haematoloma*—also known as the red-shouldered soap berry bug—in a Goldenrod tree on American University's campus. "We started getting tips and drove all over creation looking for them, and then we discovered this one right on

our doorstep." (4/7)