



## AU Newsmakers

June 10–16, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

### Top Stories

#### Faculty Leaders at American U. Seek Old-School Rights for a New Work Force



In a two-page feature, [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) outlined important changes to **American University's** faculty governance and policies driven by a shared governance structure with the Faculty Senate. "What set

American University apart from many of the nation's other colleges is how aggressively it is adapting its governance structure and policies to today's academic work force," read the article. "The culture of governance has changed from deep suspicion to collective collaboration," said **Anthony H. Ahrens**, a past chair of the Faculty Senate. (6/12)

*\*\*Note: This premium content article is viewable online from an AU computer or with a subscription-based password*

### Additional Features

#### Three-Year College Degrees: A Closer Look



Following a front page *Washington Post* article about three-year bachelor's degree programs which mentioned American University, [Washington Post.com's College Inc.](#) blog featured **AU School of International Service's Global Scholar**

**Program** in a column taking a closer look at these programs. **Provost Scott Bass** said "It is learning at its best." He added, the program is filled with high-impact experiences identified by research to foster academic engagement, such as undergraduate research, collaborative work, global study and shared learning. (6/16)

### Op-Eds/Editorials

#### Why Prop 8 Must Fall: Civil Rights



**Julian Bond**, distinguished adjunct professor of government, wrote an op-ed for [USA Today](#) comparing the Prop 8 legislation banning gay marriage to laws that forbade African-Americans and Caucasians from marrying. "It denies those Americans the fundamental rights afforded their fellow citizens. Like the anti-miscegenation statutes struck down 44 years ago,

Prop 8 serves no purpose but to permit one group of Americans to degrade another," wrote Bond. (6/10)

#### Balancing D.C. Budget on Fragile Backs of Workers



**David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, argued why raising local taxes on small businesses in Washington, D.C., will hinder growth and hurt employees in an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#). "Startups and

small businesses hire the unemployed, buy new equipment and provide health insurance for their employees. Small businesses are clearly the growth engine of the economy for the country. The District is no different," wrote Kautter. (6/14)

### Quotes

#### Blacks' Role in Confederacy Remains Touchy Subject



**Ed Smith**, professor of history, discussed with the [Associated Press](#) why the debate over African-Americans' contributions to the Confederacy during the Civil War still touches a nerve 150 years later. "In today's world, it's hard to look back on slavery

with any kind of clarity," Smith said, referencing the societal, economic and other pressures that played on blacks and whites during slavery. More than 145 outlets including the *Houston Chronicle*, *Forbes* and *Washington Examiner* republished the article. (6/13)

## Obama, Boehner Golf to Get Debt Talks Out of Rough



[Reuters](#) asked **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, to explain the significance of President Obama's golf match with Speaker of the House John Boehner. "It is an important time to relax and talk—as long as you aren't hitting it into the rough all day—and do deals," said Thurber. More than 50 outlets including **New York Times**, **MSNBC.com** and **NPR.org** republished the article. (6/15)

## All-Out Media Coverage of Alaska Emails Draws Fascination, Skepticism



**Jane Hall** and **Scott Talan**, associate professors of communication, analyzed the media's reaction to the public release of Sarah Palin's email files. **Hall** told the [Wall Street Journal](#) the reaction looks like "overkill for gains that aren't clear." She said to the [New York Times](#), "This is not WikiLeaks. This is not the conduct of the war in Afghanistan or the war in Iraq." **Talan** explained to the [Canadian Press](#), "It's an easy story for the media to cover, because she's topical, and people are really interested in her—they react to what she says and does." (6/11)

## When It Comes to Scandal, Girls Won't Be Boys



**Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, discussed with the [New York Times](#) why women in Congress are less prone to scandal compared to their male counterparts. "Women hold themselves up to this hypothetical standard no candidate has ever achieved," she said. (6/12)

## A Political Wonk's 2012 Election Analysis



**Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, discussed America's political climate in advance of the 2012 elections. Lichtman explained the Senate's slow roll call process with [WashingtonPost.com's Politics](#) blog, and the redistricting movement to spread the African-American vote to more elections in South Carolina with the [Spartanburg Herald Journal](#). (6/9, 6/14)

## Has Weinergate Reporting Gone Too Far?



On [CNN's Reliable Sources](#), **Jane Hall**, associate professor of communication, analyzed political scandals and the media craze over the Congressman Weiner controversy. "I think that the media, if they're focusing on whether he lied or not, that is personal pique on the part of the media. I think the bigger story is the story that most people I know are resonating to, which is, what is with these guys?" (6/12)

## Libya, War Powers Start White House, Congress on Collision Course



**Jamin Raskin**, professor of law, provided insight on [PBS' Newshour](#) about the legal wrangling between Congress, the Supreme Court and the Obama Administration concerning the War Powers Resolution language. "Either we should be declaring a war or we will give a limited window, for the president to initiate hostilities—that the president would notify Congress of after 48 hours, and then would have to get out within 60 days unless there was an intervening authorization by Congress of the conflict," said Raskin. (6/15)

## Producer Broke Ground with 'A Raisin in the Sun'



In the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), **Caleen Jennings**, professor of theatre, discussed the significance of *A Raisin in the Sun*, and the influence of the play's late producer—and her co-collaborator—Phillip Rose. "People don't realize how groundbreaking it was and what a huge risk it was," said Jennings. "My mother came home and said, 'That was the first time I ever saw myself on stage.'" (6/12)

## For Incoming Defense Chief, No Easy Answers on Budget Cuts



**Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, discussed with the [National Journal](#) reasons for military budget cuts. "Budget constraints are a proxy for people not wanting to be there anymore," said Adams in reference to the general desire to end the war in Afghanistan. (6/13)

## Speed Journalism

**THE DAILY**

"Reading has become 'hit-and-run.' We have neither time nor patience for connected prose," **Naomi Baron**, professor of linguistics, told [TheDaily.com](http://TheDaily.com) about technology diminishing our appetite or capacity for longer, in-depth written texts—including news stories. "Think of the way most newspapers format their online editions: a headline, a couple of sentences, and you're done unless you click to read more," she said. (6/13)

## Breitbart is One in Long Line of Reviled, Revered Media Gadflies

**FIRST AMENDMENT CENTER**

The [First Amendment Center](http://FirstAmendmentCenter.com) cited research conducted by **W. Joseph Campbell**, professor of journalism, in an article comparing conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart to past sensationalist writers. " He [Campbell] notes that William Randolph Hearst shook up the relatively staid world of New York City journalism in the late 1890s by exploiting new advances in printing such as color to add zest and sensational impact to stories of political corruption as well as crime, sex and scandal," read the article. (6/10)