



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AU Newsmakers

October 12 – October 19, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

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

Top Stories

Political Analysts Discuss Second Presidential Debate



In pre-and post-debate analysis, professors **Jennifer Lawless**, Women and Politics Institute director, **Dotty Lynch** public communication professor, **James Thurber**, Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director, **Eric Hershberg**, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies director, **Robert Durant**, public policy professor, and **Robert Lehrman**, communication professor, spoke about the second Presidential debate.

With [Reuters](#), **Lawless** examined Obama's appeal to women, "Any ground that Mitt Romney gained over the last week or week and a half; he lost tonight," said Lawless. She also spoke to [Agence France Press](#), [Washington Times](#), [Time Warner TV News](#), and [CTV News](#). Prior to the debate, **Thurber** talked to [Reuters](#), "I think (Obama is) still under the gun. He seems to be better with an audience of thousands when he's giving a speech than he is in the debate format," he said. **Lynch** provided pre-debate insight for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#). Post debate, **Lehrman** spoke to [Reuters](#) about Obama's debate improvements; **Durant** talked to [The State](#) about the female vote; and with [BBC Mundo](#), **Hershberg** discussed the contrasts between the two debates. (10/15, 10/16, 10/17, 10/18)

Cuban Missile Crisis Remembered



International relations professors **Phillip Brenner** and **Robert Pastor** provided historical and contemporary analysis of the Cuban Missile Crisis' 50th anniversary, and how the crisis shaped U.S. foreign policy. With the [Christian Science Monitor](#), **Brenner** discussed fears at the time and how some of those fears remain. "We [The United States] were concerned about our sphere of influence that we had taken for granted. [Today] we cannot dominate this region anymore. They do not look to us for leadership. Countries look within the region, and to some extent to Cuba still," said Brenner. [Agence France Presse TV](#), [BBC TV](#), [WTOP](#), and [La Pagina](#) (El Salvador) also interviewed **Brenner**. [Associated Press](#) talked to **Pastor** about what the United States learned from the crisis. "The major lesson is the necessity of compromise even when faced with a crisis like that," said Pastor. [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Christian Science Monitor](#) also interviewed **Pastor**. (10/13, 10/14, 10/17)

Additional Features

For Next Year's College Graduates, a Better Prospect of Getting a Job



In a trend story about employment opportunities, [Washington Post's Capital Business](#) highlighted as an example of a positive outlook for spring graduates, American University's 30 percent increase in the number of employers who participated in this fall's career fair. (10/14)

Revelation: Major Paintings by Jules Olitski



The [Washington Post](#) reviewed *Revelation: Major Paintings by Jules Olitski*, one of the exhibitions at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. “The nuance in Olitski’s surfaces cannot be reproduced. His paintings must be viewed both up close—with your face as few inches away from the canvas as gallery minders will permit—and from afar,” read the review. (10/12)

CampaignU: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom



Each week in School of Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn’s** *Campaign 2012: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom* class, [WTTG-FOX5](#) brings a camera into the classroom as part of the station’s election coverage. Each Thursday, the class is live-streamed on the station’s website from 9:15–11:45 a.m. Additionally, the station’s [Morning News](#) show airs a segment each week about the class. This week focused on the second presidential debate. The class will be televised each week throughout the election season. Tune in next week to see AU’s most politically active students engage in discussions on the pressing issues of the day. (10/18)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Don’t Forget NATO

The New York Times

In an op-ed for the [New York Times’ Global Edition](#), School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** highlighted NATO’s contribution to the European Union’s Nobel Peace Prize win. “The Nobel committee quite rightly noted the E.U.’s critical role in Europe’s transformation ‘from a Continent of war to a Continent of peace.’ But as Europeans celebrate what they have accomplished since World War II, they should not forget that without the United States and NATO, they could not have been successful,” wrote Goldgeier. The *International Herald Tribune* also published the op-ed. (10/16, 10/17)

Expertise

A Chemist Comes Very Close to a Midas Touch

The New York Times

The [New York Times](#) spoke to chemistry professor **Matthew Hartings** about new research that uncovered a chemical process that makes iron, an affordable element, function like platinum, a much more scarce and valuable element that, in spite of its cost, is required for producing everything from cosmetics to denim. “There’s less of an argument to do crazy mining [environmentally or geopolitically risky mining] when you’ve got something else that works just as well,” said Hartings. (10/15)

In Fight for a Mexican Company, a Peek into a Tycoon’s World

The New York Times

Arturo Porzecanski, director of the international economic relations program, spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the Vitro bankruptcy case and billionaire investor David Martinez. “This is a precedent-setting case, no matter how it turns out, it has highlighted apparent loopholes in the bankruptcy law of Mexico, through which Vitro ran an 18-wheel truck,” said Porzecanski. (10/12)

Defense Cuts, Though Unlikely, Have Both Parties Pointing Fingers



Gordon Adams, U.S. foreign policy professor, discussed with [McClatchy Newspapers](#) looming defense cuts and the likelihood that Congress will restore spending during its lame duck session after the election. There's about a 90 percent chance it will never happen.

Having the flexibility to target the cuts would make a huge difference," said Adams. More than **10** outlets, including *Los Angeles Times*, *Florida Sun Sentinel*, and *Baltimore Sun*, republished the article. (10/15)

Electoral College Changes Over Time



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** appeared on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) to discuss how non-citizens can affect the vote through the Electoral College. "Basically people who have no right to vote are essentially determining the election of our president. When you do the calculations—you do it more based on citizens—you would actually have a president Romney and not a President Obama," said Steinhorn. (10/15)

Obama vs. Romney Everyone's Taxes Up in the Air



[McClatchy Newspapers](#) interviewed **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, about the lack of detail in the presidential candidates' tax plans. "The details are so sparse, it is impossible to figure out whether they can achieve their goals,

especially Romney," said Kautter. More than **20** outlets, including *Sacramento Bee*, *Charlotte Observer*, and the *Fort Worth Star* republished this article. (10/14)

Warren's \$12M Haul Could Pay off at the Polls



With the [Boston Herald](#), communication professor **Richard Benedetto** discussed the Massachusetts Senate race between Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown. "She's a liberal poster child for this campaign, (and) they want to make a statement with this victory. The key for Brown is, is he spending his money strategically or not? Is he spending money reaching out to people who are going to swing the election?" said Benedetto. (10/16)

Hashtags Seep into Everyday Speech



[The Star-Tribune](#) (Minneapolis) spoke to linguistics professor **Naomi Baron** about hashtags and other social media lingo seeping into everyday speech. "This is the kind of thing we do with language. We take things from one context and put it in another. We do this because

we're social animals, as well as being people who should act our age, you hear these things, why not use them?" said Baron. (10/13)

The Insidious Rise of Rudeness



History professor **Peter Kuznick** talked with the [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) about the perceived increase in uncivil behavior in modern American society. "Abrasive behavior is a common thread in American history, particularly in politics and government," said

Kuznick, pointing out that vitriolic rhetoric is not a new thing. (10/14)