Top Story
Experts Weigh-in on Foreign Policy Debate

Political and foreign policy experts Jordan Tama, Robert Pastor, Gordon Adams, Dotty Lynch, and David Mislan provided pre- and post-debate analysis for the final presidential debate spotlighting foreign policy. Tama spoke to the Associated Press about what the candidates must say in the debate to swing undecided voters. “The difficult trick for Romney in the debate will be to challenge Obama on foreign policy without looking like he's criticizing the commander in chief, which can be off-putting to voters. Obama, for his part, must make the case that his policies are sound and his leadership strong despite ongoing challenges around the world,” said Tama. More than 400 outlets published the article. Tama also spoke to Newsday, the Washington Examiner, and EuroNews. With PBS Newshour, foreign policy professor Mislan discussed Romney’s and Obama’s views on the United States’ relationship with Israel. “One of the striking moments of the debate was when Romney highlighted President Obama’s relationship with Israel, saying he would have a much stronger relationship. Obama responded by saying he does have a strong relationship with Israel, but it's definitely been rocky under his administration than previous ones,” said Mislan. Adams and Lynch spoke to Agence France Presse, and Pastor spoke to CNN.com. In addition, the New York Times online highlighted a picture of AU students watching the debate in their residence hall lounge. (10/21, 10/22, 10/23)

Additional Features
Teaching the ABCs of College Costs

A Wall Street Journal feature story about universities teaching students the specifics behind the costs of attending college cited American University’s college affordability website. The site provides links to AU's budget and statistics and shows how they compare to the national average of student loan default rates.(10/19) *password required

DOD's Wennergren Named ‘Chief Change Maker’

FCW and ExecutiveGov highlighted the 2012 winners of the School of Public Affairs’ Roger Jones Award, Department of Defense CIO David Wennergren and Thomas Mesenbourg, Jr., acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau. “The two men have led to the improved quality of government services to Americans, and in addition, influenced the careers of the next generation of federal employees. They epitomize dedication to public service, and we challenge our students to strive to emulate these two outstanding individuals as they embark on their future careers,” said Barbara Romzek, dean of the School of Public Affairs. (10/22)

King Abdullah Scholarship Program Continues to Expand

With KSA-2, Saudi-Arabian English Television, Fanta Aw, vice president of campus life and director of the International Student and Scholar Services office, discussed the growing number of Saudi students attending AU, thanks to the Saudi scholarship program. “There is about a 10-15 percent growth each year in terms of getting Saudi students. We are always interested in getting students from all over the world, so from that perspective the number of Saudi students is probably the right size,” said Aw. (10/19)
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The Opiate of Exceptionalism

The New York Times interviewed history professor Allan Lichtman about presidential candidates avoiding serious issues that can be candidly described and debated. "I think there's more of a tendency now than in the past to avoid discussion of serious problems. It has a pernicious effect on our politics and on governing, because to govern, you need a mandate. And you don't get a mandate if you don't say what you're going to do," said Lichtman. (10/19)

Neil deGrasse Tyson Tweets for Science Literacy

Journalism professor Declan Fahy talked to USA Today about scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson's influence. "Tyson is probably the most high-profile public scientist in the U.S. today and in almost every interview and profile you read about him, the comparison with (Carl) Sagan comes up. They have both argued that persuading people of the value of rational thinking will have real benefits for economic growth and civic culture," said Fahy. The Detroit Free Press, Cincinnati Enquirer and Indianapolis Star also republished this article. (10/20)

Political Humor Makes an Impact

Communication professor Lauren Feldman appeared on CNN to discuss the role that late-night political humor plays in educating some voters. "Just like traditional news, news analysis, the debates, the conventions, and political advertisements all shape how people make sense of politics and of the candidates, so to do the Daily Show, Colbert Report, and Saturday Night Live. People gain factual knowledge from The Daily Show particularly when they approach the show as news instead of considering it purely entertainment," said Feldman. (10/24)

Electoral College Voting Options

Law professor Jamie Raskin spoke to CBS' Sunday Morning about new Electoral College voting options being adopted in many states, including Maryland. "A very creative plan has emerged called the National Popular Vote plan, which says let's create a compacted state, in which the states commit to cast the electors for the national vote, rather than the winner in their state," said Raskin. (10/21)

Polls Show Romney Gaining Support among Women Voters

School of Public Affairs executive in residence Anita McBride appeared on MSNBC to discuss Mitt Romney closing the gender gap and the different types of female voters in swing states. "Women are not single issue voters and they are voting on lots of things. Women care about the economy, and he [Romney] is talking about that first and foremost," said McBride. (10/20)

Bonus Clip

AU Alum Becomes First Pakistani NASCAR Driver

School of International Service alumnus Nur Ali made his debut as NASCAR’s first Pakistani driver at the Kansas Lottery 300, broadcast live on ESPN 2. (10/21)