



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

## AU Newsmakers

October 4, – October 11, 2013

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### Solar Decathlon 2013: Team Capitol DC



The [Orange County Register](#) highlighted AU School of Communication's efforts to build the most energy-efficient home as a part of Team Capitol DC in the 2013 Solar Decathlon competition. The competition that ends this week is a culmination of two years of planning, designing, and building. [Renewable Energy World online](#), [Clean Energy Authority online](#), [Energy Blogs.com](#) and [PBS NewsHour](#) also highlighted the team's efforts. (10/6)

### Additional Features

#### Collector Donates Israeli Art to AU's Katzen Center



[Washington Jewish Week](#) reviewed the **Rothfeld Collection of Contemporary Art** now showing at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center** through October 20. The collection is a gift to the museum from Dr. Donald Rothfeld, and chronicles Israel's history, featuring 151 pieces

ranging from photos, sculptures, videos and paintings created by numerous prominent and emerging Israeli artists.

#### Video Game Fan Anxious to Find a Family



[WRC-NBC4's Wednesday's Child](#) featured persuasive gaming professor **Lindsay Grace** interacting with Matthew, a 15 year old foster child and fellow gaming fan. The segment focused on Grace teaching Matthew about how video games are made. The *Wednesday's Child* program aims to give foster children a chance to learn more about activities they enjoy, and share their story with the public in the hopes of finding them a loving family to call their own. (10/9)

#### The New Rankings Frontier: Mentions in the Media



[Chronicle of Higher Education](#) highlighted the inaugural *Faculty Media Impact Project*, which measures media coverage of faculty in the social sciences. American University ranked 12 out of 94

universities Last academic year, AU had more than 41,000 placements, with about half specifically quoting faculty about their scholarship or expertise related to a current newsworthy issue.

#### The 50 Best Law Schools in America



[Business Insider](#) ranked the 50 best law schools in America, highlighting **American University's Washington College of Law** at number 23. (10/7)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Salam and Salutation to Pope Francis



In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#), Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Akbar Ahmed** talked about the significance to which Pope Francis making building relationships between

Muslims and Catholics a priority so early in his tenure. (10/8)

## Shutdown Result of Many Alarming Trends



With [McClatchy News](#), international service professor **Clarence Lusane** wrote an op-ed on the continuing likelihood of confrontations with a minority of far right Republicans for the foreseeable future. The *Fresno Bee* republished this piece. (10/9)

## The Shutdown and the Case for Federal Government



In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), government professor **Chris Edelson** analyzed the House GOP piecemeal strategy for reopening the government beyond the showdown of the Affordable Care Act. (10/9)

## Expertise

### No Time Constraints for U.S. in Holding Libyan on Ship: Experts



Law professor **Stephen Vladeck** spoke to [Reuters](#) about the legal constraints of military detention and military force with Al Qaeda suspects. More than **20** outlets republished this article. (10/8)

### Rail Commuters on Phones Didn't Notice Gun



The [Associated Press](#) spoke to linguistics professor **Naomi Baron** about adults becoming so absorbed in using electronic devices that they are not aware of their surroundings in public spaces. More than **30** outlets, including [ABCNews.com](#) and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, republished this article. (10/9)

### A GOP Moderate in the Middle of a Jam



**Constance Morella**, SPA's ambassador in residence, spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the near extinction of moderate Republicans in Congress as compared to when she served in Congress. (10/7)

### Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner Undergoes Brain Surgery



With the [Washington Post](#), **Arturo Porzecanski**, director of the International Economic Relations Program, explained the worsening economic situation in Argentina in the wake of political uncertainty because of President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's brain surgery. (10/8)

### Katy Perry Comes Under Fire for Using Critters in Her Videos



The [New York Daily News](#) spoke with **Chris Palmer**, distinguished film producer in residence, about the problems with pop star Katy Perry's use of elephants in her music videos and private parties. (10/10)

### Impact of the Federal Government Shutdown on Americans



**Dante Chinni**, director of SPA's American Communities Project, spoke to [WAMU's Diane Rehm Show](#) as syndicated to NPR, about the effects of the government shutdown rippling across America and impacting the lives of American in many different ways. (10/10)

### Government Shutdown Continues



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke to [WTTG-FOX5](#) about what both political parties really want to accomplish during the government shutdown. (10/4)