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AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

AU Campaign Wonks Analyze Romney’s VP Choice



AU’s campaign and election experts in the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Public Affairs and School of Communication provided analysis of and reaction to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s choice of Congressman Paul Ryan as his running mate. [NPR’s It’s All Politics](#) turned to professors **James Thurber** and **Allan Lichtman**. “It’s bold in the sense that he’s [Romney] selecting somebody who’s really on the right who can solidify the right for him and make sure that they turn out and vote,” said Thurber.

“Instead he [Romney] goes for a much more risky, controversial pick, one that will obviously shore up his conservative base but greatly sharpen the debate over taxes and budgets,” said Lichtman. [The Hill Newspaper](#) also quoted Thurber. Lichtman talked to [The National \(United Arab Emirates\)](#), and appeared on [CTV-AM \(Canada\)](#). Additionally, [CNN Headline News online](#) published **Anita McBride’s** op-ed, **Jennifer Lawless** talked to [Huffington Post.com](#) and [Washington Times](#), and **Leonard Steinhorn** and **Richard Benedetto** talked to [Boston Herald](#) and [CBS Radio New York](#), respectively. (8/11-8/13)

Additional Features

Freshman Challenge: a Virtually Decorated Dorm Room

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Two incoming AU freshmen agreed to share their back-to-school purchases with the [Wall Street Journal](#) to demonstrate how social media, design apps, and shopping sites are driving a new trend of virtually decorating residence hall rooms. But, when choosing décor are there disagreements? According to **Chris Moody**, assistant vice president for housing and dining programs, “resident assistants sometimes have to mediate design or layout disputes between students and parents but, most commonly, students and parents disagree on how closet and drawer space is best utilized.” (8/15)

Number Crunchers



A trend story in [Washington Post Express](#) about masters of public policy programs spotlighted **Marcelo Paiva**, a recent School of Public Affairs MPP alumnus, who appreciates the value of quantitative analysis in his studies. “People won’t hire you because you know their organizational culture; they really want to know where their dollar is going and if it’s having the impact intended,” said Paiva. (8/13)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

As the White Protestant Vote Recedes, the GOP Turns to ‘Voter Fraud’



In an op-ed for [The Daily Beast.com](#), **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, wrote that Republicans have pushed for voter ID laws to improve their chances of winning elections. “Republicans are not responding to a newly discovered crisis in voter impersonation at the polls, but to a partisan crisis brought on by their party’s declining base of white Protestant voters. If the GOP can’t grow its own voter base, it can at least hope to shrink the Democrats’ base,” he wrote. (8/16)

Expertise

Why the Jobs Recovery Favors Single Workers



[CNN Money](#) interviewed **Robert Lerman**, professor of economics, about why single people are seemingly finding jobs faster than married people. “At first glance, it looks like singles are doing much better. They are getting more jobs. But on closer inspection, the real issue is there simply are a lot more single people,” said Lerman, referring to recent statistics that show the single population is growing at more than double the speed of the married population. (8/16)

Shark Week at 25: Discovery Seeks to Keep Fest Relevant



[The Washington Post](#) interviewed **Christopher Palmer**, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, to discuss Discovery Channel's *Shark Week* and his hopes for less sensationalism this year. “In the past, Shark Week has been entirely rational. They’ve wanted to go after ratings, and they’ve been hugely successful at that, but it’s come at a price,” said Palmer. (8/9)

Obama’s Costly Investment Not Yielding New Voters



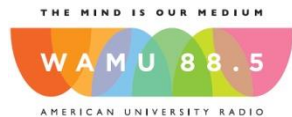
[The Boston Globe](#) interviewed **Jan Leighley**, professor of government, about the Obama campaign’s failure to increase momentum in voter registration. “To say ‘We did a lot in 2008 and we’re not going to repeat those numbers in terms of a percentage increase’ is a legitimate point. Registration is not the endgame; the endgame for the campaign is to get people to the polls,” said Leighley. (8/16)

NBC's Coverage of Games Draws Both Cheers and Jeers



Jane Hall, associate professor of journalism, spoke to the [The Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#) about the NBC’s Olympic coverage, and how it compares to previous years. “I think it would be hard to argue that coverage hasn’t looked good, but it has been somewhat of a cheat. As a person who likes live coverage, and as a journalist, it does seem somewhat forced, to pretend, in a way, that you don’t already know the outcome. But it’s a business decision,” said Hall. (8/13)

A Coming Diplomatic Showdown Over WikiLeaks



[WAMU's Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) spoke to **Robert Pastor**, professor of international relations, about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange taking refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London and the possibility of British authorities breaching Ecuador’s diplomatic rights to remove him. “It would surprise me if the British Government would enter the Ecuadorian embassy by force. I think far more likely is the Ecuadorian Ambassador and Julian Assange are going to be roommates for a fair period of time,” said Pastor.

Travelers Affect Coral Reefs: From Biodegradable Sunscreen to Overfishing.



[TravelersToday.com](#) quoted **Kiho Kim**, associate professor of environmental science, about the validity of a new study that claims UV filters in sunscreen harm corals. “The issue with sunscreen is probably not even on the radar of things people ought to be thinking about,” said Kim. (8/14)

BP sells Mexican Oil Fields



[CCTV](#) interviewed **Jeff Colgan**, assistant professor of international service, about BP’s divestment of \$38 billion in assets to cover settlement and clean-up costs plus losses from the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill. “One of the reasons why BP might be interested in raising extra cash right now is to give it some more strategic flexibility,” said Colgan. (8/15)

Bonus Clip

Stephen Lumpkins Back to American



[ESPN](#) reported that after taking a year off to play minor league baseball, men's basketball player **Stephen Lumpkins**, will return to AU for his final year of eligibility. (8/14)