



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Stories

#### AU Political Wonks Analyze the RNC Convention



At the Republican National Convention, **Anita McBride**, executive in residence in the School of Public Affairs, shared her campaigns and elections knowledge with several national, international, and regional news outlets. In a live interview on **C-SPAN** from the convention floor, McBride discussed the importance of the candidates' spouses' convention speeches. "I think more and more they [the spouse] are becoming important, it's a unique opportunity from the perch of the spouse of the candidate to tell the story of the character of the man running for President of the United States through their eyes," said McBride. McBride spoke to

**Bloomberg News**, **Reuters**, **U.S. News and World Report**, and **USA Today** about Ann Romney's speech preparations. Additionally, with **Agence France Presse**, **Women's Wear Daily**, **WRC-NBC4**, and **WAMU 88.5**, McBride discussed whether or not the Romney campaign's message had been delivered successfully, and the importance of Ann Romney's role of humanizing Mitt Romney. (8/27 – 8/30)



Political wonks **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women and Politics Institute; **Jane Hall**, associate professor of journalism; and **Jan Leighley**, professor of government; discussed the Republican National Convention. **Associated Press** interviewed **Lawless**

about [the importance of women's votes](#), and **Hall** about the significance of Fox News Channel co-anchor **Megyn Kelly's convention coverage**. **U.S. News and World Report online** interviewed **Leighley** about why Romney appeals to different economic classes. Combined, more than **600** outlets, including **Chicago Tribune**, **Miami Herald**, and **Sacramento Bee** republished their comments. (8/27)

### Additional Features

#### American University Finds Perfect Targets at Nationals Park



**Washington Business Journal** previewed *AU night at National's Ballpark* where **President Neil Kerwin** will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. The article also discussed the unique season-long partnership between the university and

the Nationals that has enabled AU to "communicate to an audience who's likely to be receptive—fans who are more likely to be politically active, volunteer and to be considering an advanced degree," said Terry Flannery, vice president of communication. (8/29)

#### Doing Well in College, Demystified



**USA Today** talked to **Jon Gould**, director of the Washington Institute for Public and International Affairs Research, about his new book that shines a light on the challenges students face as they transition into college. "My experience with students is that they find college to be a very different animal from high school. So I thought a book to help demystify college would be useful," said Gould. (8/24)

## AU's NASA Wonk Discusses the First Man on the Moon & Mars Landing



Howard McCurdy, public administration professor, spoke to the Associated Press about this week's big changes in the space exploration world—the [death of astronaut Neil Armstrong](#) and the Mars Rover landing. "He took something that 20 years earlier was pure fantasy

and turned it into reality and if we could do that for space we could do it for anything," said McCurdy about Neil Armstrong. And, of the [Mars Rover](#), he said, "today's generation of explorers was raised on technology and tends to get more jazzed about delivering a car-size rover to Mars." More than **750** outlets including **Fort Worth Star Telegram**, **Charlotte News Observer**, and **San Francisco Chronicle** republished McCurdy's comments. (8/27, 8/29)

## Organizing a Movement



[Washington Post Express](#) reviewed *Occupy This!*, one of the new exhibitions at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. While the exhibition focuses on photos of the Occupy Movement as it unfolded in cities across the country, it also explores how, throughout history, protests have been depicted in photographs. The [Washington City Paper online](#)

also highlighted *Occupy This!* (8/30)

## Op-Eds/AU Authors

### Why Conventions Still Matter



In [Christian Science Monitor](#) **Robert Lehrman**, public communication professor, discussed the history and impact that conventions have had in presidential campaigns, and why these highly scripted speeches are relevant. "At the upcoming conventions, some speeches will offer clichés and distortions. Some will bring insight to issues. Some will show us a politician articulate enough to become memorable even when speaking from a teleprompter. Some will offer us only a single memorable phrase. But, then again, we might hear something that will stay with us for a lifetime – even if it isn't in the script," Lehrman wrote. (8/24)

## Regulating the Resource Curse



In an op-ed for [Foreign Policy](#), **Jeff Colgan**, international service professor, discussed the SEC's enactment that publicly listed oil companies report all taxes and payments they make to foreign governments where they operate. "Making this kind of financial information available to the public is an important step toward reducing corruption and increasing political accountability in developing countries where oil is extracted," Colgan wrote. (8/27)

## How Obama's Foreign Policy Success Will Win Him Re-election



In an op-ed for [U.S. News and World Report online](#), Allan Lichtman, history professor, explained why foreign policy has been noticeably absent from this year's presidential race. "With President Obama earning consistently high marks for his handling of national security, it is no surprise that the Republicans are avoiding the topic," Lichtman wrote. (8/30)

## Expertise

### Apple Victory Shifts Power Balance



The [Wall Street Journal online](#) interviewed **Jorge Contreras** about Apple's courtroom victory to protect their patents from competitors Android

and Samsung. "Apple's patents will not be that hard to design around. I don't see this verdict as an Android killer," said Contreras. (8/27)

## Mitt Romney Reaped Huge Tax Benefits Based On 'Active' Role at Bain Capital



Referring to Mitt Romney's role at Bain Capital, **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, discussed with [Huffington Post](#) the different meanings of the concept of active investment. "When you say you're actively involved in all these businesses, people do think, OK, you're actively involved. But the tax law has its own definition," said Kautter. (8/27)

## 'Keys' Forecasting Model Predicts an Obama Victory



[Marketplace Radio](#) interviewed **Allan Lichtman**, distinguished professor of history, about his "13 Keys" system for predicting who will win the presidential election "The American electorate is, above all, pragmatic. And my model indicates, based on history and predictive success, that elections are basically referenda on how well the party in power in the White House has governed," said Lichtman. (8/24)

## Often Isolated, Iran Hosts Huge International Summit



In an interview with [NPR's All Things Considered](#), **David Bosco**, assistant professor of international politics, discussed the politics of Iran hosting a five-day summit with 120 non-aligned nations. "There's a diversity of viewpoints about Iran's particular program, but when Iran tries to frame this confrontation as this is unfair, this is powerful countries telling less powerful countries we can't have nuclear programs, that's something that resonates with a lot of nonaligned members," said Bosco. (8/29)