



## AU Newsmakers

### August 26–September 2, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

### Top Story

#### Never-Wrong Pundit Picks Obama to Win in 2012



[U.S. News & World Report](#) featured history professor **Allan Lichtman's** prediction that President Obama will win again in 2012. "Even if I am being conservative, I don't see how Obama can lose," said Lichtman, whose renowned "13 Keys" system has allowed him to correctly predict every presidential election since 1984. [NewYorkTimes.com](#), [MotherJones.com](#), and [Slate.com](#) also published articles. In addition, Lichtman discussed his prediction on [MSNBC's Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell](#) and [FOX News Channel's Big Five](#) mentioned the prediction. (8/30, 8/31)

### Additional Features

#### Escape to the Great Dismal Swamp



A six-page [Archaeology](#) magazine story featured the historic importance of anthropology professor **Dan Sayers'** on-site archaeological dig to uncover evidence of maroons (runaway slaves) and other disenfranchised peoples who lived in the Great Dismal Swamp between the 1600s and 1860s. "There were hardships. But working in the brutal cotton fields with overseers, not to mention life after the day's labors—compared to this? You may have to work for five hours to grow food, but there was really a self-reliant ethos," Sayers said. (9/1)

#### Move-In Day at American University



As **American University's class of 2015** moved into their residence halls, [TBD.com](#) captured the exciting first moments of the academic year. An online photo gallery chronicled three students settling into their new home. (8/31)

### Op-Ed/Editorials

#### Why Don't Scholars Have Access to Rosa Parks' Archives?

**The Washington Post** **Julian Bond**, distinguished adjunct professor of government, coauthored an op-ed for [Washington Post](#) about the ownership of Rosa Parks' papers and scholars' limited access. "In four years, [Guernsey's Auctioneers] has not found an individual or institution that can afford the likely cost of the Rosa Parks archive: reputedly \$8 million to \$10 million. During that time, Guernsey's has shown selected materials to prospective buyers but has refused scholars even controlled access to what it advertises as one of the most important historical collections of the civil rights era," wrote Bond. (8/29)

#### Are Candidates Religious Beliefs Fair Game?

**POLITICO** **David Johnson**, assistant professor of communication, wrote for [Politico.com's The Arena](#) about the role of religion in political campaigns. "If candidates didn't use their religious beliefs in their campaigns, this might be a more arguable point. But since all candidates do make some reference to their moral and religious beliefs as they appeal to potential voters, they are certainly open to reporting and discussion in the news media as far as their role is a conduit of public information," wrote Johnson. (8/31)

## The Biology of Jargon by Gender

**NewScientist**

In [NewScientist.com](#), Naomi Baron, professor of linguistics, pointed out the flaws in biolinguist John L. Locke's forthcoming book *Duels and Duets*, which attempts to explain communication and language differences among men and women. "Time and again, Locke declares that males do this and females do that, as if all humanity can be neatly divided this way," Baron wrote, pointing out Locke's reliance on gender stereotypes instead of recognizing "the messiness that is human reality." (8/29)

## Quotes

### Hurricane Irene: Why Hurricane Hyperbole Never Goes Out of Style



Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, talked to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about media coverage of Hurricane Irene. "There's really nothing negative about the media erring on the side of public safety, but on the other hand, the media love these sort of dramatic, exciting stories, they love the visuals of reporters sitting out there rain-drenched with wind blowing through his or her hair—it's excellent visuals, and it's a visual medium," said Steinhorn. (8/27)

### Fair Use Face-Off, Canadian Edition



Patricia Aufderheide, director of the Center for Social Media, discussed the Canadian copyright and fair use debate with [Inside Higher Ed](#), specifically the confusion created by publishers and copyright clearinghouses. "I think that vendors in general, and their associations, would like to represent the situation as: anything but full licensing, all the time, for every new use, is infringing. Nobody who works for a large institution wants to see that institution at risk." said Aufderheide. (8/29)

### Gloria Steinem to Headline Obama Fundraiser in New York City



A fundraiser to be headlined by the First Lady and Gloria Steinem, prompted the [Huffington Post](#) to speak to Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, about the importance of the women's vote for President Obama in 2012. "He needs the women's vote. There's no question. What's up for grabs right now is the extent to which women are energized and ready to mobilize for him," said Lawless. (8/30)

### Q&A: The Black History of the White House



In a 1-hour broadcast on [C-SPAN's Q&A](#), Clarence Lusane, associate professor of international service, discussed his book *The Black History of the White House*. "I began to discover just fascinating individuals, whose mark on the presidency, whose mark on the White House, was virtually unknown," said Lusane. (8/28)

### Telecommunication Freedom and Public Safety



On [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#), Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, explained the legal issues surrounding San Francisco's BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) cell phone shutdown. "As more and more services are available via our telephones, I think that one of the questions the BART episode raises is whether these laws that protect access to telephone service must necessarily also protect access to social media and all the applications we have on our phones," said Vladeck. (8/26)

### History of Race Relations in the U.S.



On [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#), Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, discussed the history and current conditions of race relations in America. "Things are far better in so many fundamental ways. This new generation coming through, it's the most inclusive generation in our nation's history," said Steinhorn. (8/28)

## Obama's Jobs Plan and the Payroll Tax



On [WUSA-CBS9](#), David Kautter, director of the Kogod Tax Center, discussed how a possible payroll tax cut for employers would impact hiring if it is part of President Obama's jobs plan. "It reduces the cost of hiring someone, so right now it costs you 7.65 percent to hire someone in addition to the wages you pay them. After a tax reduction of 2 percent it will only cost you 5.6 percent, so it's like anything if you reduce the cost, people tend to engage in more of that behavior," said Kautter. (8/30)

## NCAA Violations Common in College Athletics



On [Comcast Sportsnet's On The Edge](#), athletics director Keith Gill, explained why NCAA violations happen in college athletics. "When you look at college athletics, the complexity of the rule book and all of the rules your coaches have to keep up with, there are going to be violations, which is why there are secondary violations in the majors," said Gill. (8/28)