



## AU Newsmakers

August 5–August 12, 2011  
Prepared by University Communications

### Top Story

#### College Freshman Turn to Facebook to Find Roommates

**The Washington Post** According to a front page [Washington Post](#) article, many freshmen use Facebook and other social networks to pick their roommates and **American University's** newest online system provides incoming freshman with a list of potential matches. "In the program's first year, residence hall assistants dealt with fewer roommate conflicts and requests for room changes," said **Chris Moody**, executive director of housing and dining programs. (8/5)

### Op-Ed/Editorials

#### Super Committees to the Rescue

**Newsday** **Jordan Tama**, assistant professor of international relations, wrote an op-ed for [Newsday](#) about the bipartisan super committee created after the debt deal's passage. "Unfortunately for the new fiscal committee's prospects, independent commissions—composed at least in part of individuals who are not serving in government—tend to be more capable of forging consensus than committees composed entirely of members of Congress," wrote Tama. (8/5)

### Quotes

#### August Brings Multiple Jolts for Obama Presidency

**AP** **Associated Press** **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, discussed with the [Associated Press](#) the criticism President Obama received after the debt deal and whether the president's chances for reelection are dead. "You absolutely cannot judge a president's prospects by events of the moment," Lichtman said. More than **225** outlets, including **CNBC.com**, **Huffingtonpost.com**, and **Forbes.com**, republished the article. (8/11)

#### Pentagon Grocery Stores, Troops May Lose in \$825 Billion Cuts

**Bloomberg** **Gordon Adams**, professor of U.S. foreign policy, talked to [Bloomberg](#) about the largest cut in military spending since the end of the Cold War. "Still, as the Defense Department is forced to excise programs, it has a menu of options that several studies have identified over the years," said Adams. More than **10** outlets republished the article. (8/5)

#### New NASA Moon Rocket Could Cost \$38 Billion

 **Howard McCurdy**, professor of public administration, spoke to [McClatchy News Service](#) about the debate surrounding the cost of a new moon rocket NASA will develop. "That's what is going to get [NASA officials] in trouble, if they come back hat in hand asking for money," said McCurdy. More than **20** outlets, including **SanJoseMercuryNews.com**, **PittsburghTribuneReview.com**, and **OrlandoSentinel.com**, republished the article. (8/6)

#### S Corporations, Other Small Firms Need to Join Corporate Tax Debate

**The Washington Post** **Don Williamson**, executive director of the Kogod Tax Center, pointed out to the [Washington Post](#) the effect the corporate tax debate will have on S corporations. "Business in America is generally conducted through partnerships and S corporations," said Williamson. (8/7)

#### Newsweek's Michele Bachmann cover: Latest in a Forgettable Line of Mini-Scandals

**The Washington Post** **W. Joseph Campbell**, professor of communication, explained controversial magazine covers of public figures to [WashingtonPost.com](#). "The shelf life of outrage for these covers tend to be brief. Most media consumers are not going to remember these," said Campbell. (8/9)

## Mitt: Obama Can't Mind His Business



**Richard Benedetto**, adjunct professor of communication, spoke to the [Boston Herald](#) about GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney's opinion on President Obama's economic leadership. Benedetto said of Romney, "The key will be if he can articulate policies and proposals that are credible to people in terms of being able to shape jobs." (8/9)

## Renovations at Chautauqua's Strohl Art Center Bring About New Life, Abstract Art



**Don Kimes**, professor of studio art, explained abstract art to the [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#). "The reaction that we have to artists making abstract work is often negative. It's the same reaction Parisian society

had to the Impressionists," said Kimes, curator of *Abstraction in America: the 1940s to the 1960s*, an exhibition showing at the Chautauqua Institution. (8/7)

## Economic Recovery in America



On [CNN.com](#), **Robert Lerman**, professor of economics, discussed how apprenticeships can be a path to fulfilling careers for young people who are not college bound immediately after high school. "An apprentice who completes a program—they have genuine expertise. That gives people a sense that, 'If I mastered this field, I can continue learning,'" Lerman said. (8/5)

## Ex-Clinton Aides: Obama Lacked Clear Message During Debt-Ceiling Talks



**Patrick Griffin**, adjunct professor of government, discussed with [The Hill](#) President Obama's potential advantage as the debt debate moves forward.

"The narrative is shifting. It has gone from simply who can cut more to who has a better world view in terms of building the economy and creating jobs and that narrative works to the president's advantage," Griffin said. (8/6)

## Escalating Race Riots in London



On [WTTG-FOX5's Morning News](#), **Laura Beers**, assistant professor of history, discussed the youth riots in London. "It is related to a sense of helplessness. They [the youths] think there are no consequences to their actions," Beers said, referencing the fact rioters will not likely go to jail because of severe prison overcrowding. (8/10)