



AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

Professor's Artistic Work Epitomizes Scholar-Teacher Ideal



TBD.com reviewed art professor **Andy Holtin's** new exhibition, pointing out how it reflects his teaching philosophy—to get his students to experience works of art rather than obsess over artist intent or the message a particular piece communicates. The three works in the exhibition

involve video of performers doing ordinary things and elaborate mechanisms that make the videos (shown on separate screens) move and interact with each other. “It fakes a narrative. It’s about our desire to understand what’s going on,” said Holtin of his intent keep his audience guessing. (11/15)

Additional Features

Northwest Washington: Tales From West of the Park



Mark Ozer, a lecturer with AU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, talked to the Washington Examiner about *Northwest Washington: Tales From West of the Park*, his new book chronicling the transformation of northwest Washington, D.C. “It’s become

a much more sophisticated city. When I moved here I lived in Bethesda and the city had gone through a period of decay. I live in the District now and it’s an exciting place,” said Ozer. (11/11)

Sex and Identity Symposium: AU Hosts Area Universities' Joint LGBT-Issues Conference



Metro Weekly, a Washington, D.C., based LGBT magazine, featured an inter-university LGBT-issues conference that will take place at **American University** this weekend. “It’s really a great opportunity for us to make sure the community, both

locally and across the U.S., is aware of what’s going on with LGBT people here and abroad,” said **Jacob Wilson**, a graduate assistant at the GLBTA Resource Center. (11/17)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

We’re Neglecting Our North American Neighbors



Robert Pastor, professor of international relations, wrote an op-ed for the Miami Herald criticizing President Obama’s Trans-Pacific Partnership strategy presented at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. Pastor

argued that the United States should place more importance on growing the interdependent economy shared with Canada and Mexico. “The best path to freer trade in China and Asia is, paradoxically, for the United States to build on the region in which we draw our greatest strength—North America,” wrote Pastor. (11/14)

Give Students a Break—An Election Break



In a HuffingtonPost.com op-ed, **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, suggested a new kind of school break as a solution to young voters’ lack of involvement. “Many colleges already have fall breaks, but these are typically in October. Why not shift it a few weeks later and call it a civic break? Changing the dates would be an easy administrative matter,” wrote Steinhorn. (11/11)

Expertise

Right-to-Know Laws Often Ignored

AP Associated Press **Daniel Metcalf**, professor of law, explained to the [Associated Press](#) why right-to-know laws regarding government investigations are often ignored. "Having a law that's not being obeyed is almost worse than not having a law at all. The entire credibility of a government is at stake," said Metcalf. More than **340** outlets, including [NewYorkTimes.com](#), [ABCNews.com](#), and [NPR.org](#), republished the article. (11/17)

Cain's Trouble with Women Voters Threatens GOP Bid

AP Associated Press **Karen O'Connor**, distinguished professor of government, spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about Gloria Cain's efforts to help stabilize her husband's controversy-stricken presidential campaign. "Every woman who finds out her husband is a harasser has a hard time believing it. This is another 'stand by your man,'" said O'Connor. More than **300** outlets, including [WashingtonPost.com](#), [HoustonChronicle.com](#), and [MSNBC.com](#), republished the article. (11/15)

Despite Title, Supreme Court Not Always Last Word

AP Associated Press **Stephen Vladeck**, professor of law, discussed with the [Associated Press](#) how federal appellate courts found ways to undermine Supreme Court rulings. "One does not have to look hard to see fairly outright challenges to the Supreme Court's authority," Vladeck said. More than **250** outlets, including [USAToday.com](#), [SanJoseMercuryNews.com](#), and [CBSNews.com](#), republished the article. (11/13)

Lawmakers Scrutinize U.S. Foreign Aid to China

AP Associated Press Speaking to the [Associated Press](#), **Deborah Brautigam**, professor of international development, advocated for U.S. development aid to China after the House Foreign Aid Committee scrutinized such foreign aid. "The aid we have given to China is minuscule and clearly in support of our interests," said Brautigam. More than **170** outlets, including [MiamiHerald.com](#), [BostonGlobe.com](#), and [SanFranciscoExaminer.com](#), republished the article. (11/15)

Tweets Become New Spin Room in 2012 Race

AP Associated Press **Matthew Nisbet**, associate professor of communication, spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about how social networking sites give citizens a voice during presidential election debates. "It's no longer a passive audience experience, watching commentators and political strategists discussing what is being seen on the screen. Now people can hear it from a more diverse range of voices, and potentially from their peers," said Nisbet. More than **75** outlets, including [ChicagoTribune.com](#), republished the article. (11/12)

Is Cain the Anti-Women Candidate?



On [CNN's Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer](#), **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, analyzed presidential candidate Herman Cain's insensitive remarks toward women. "It's one thing to relate to people and demonstrate that you're not the average politician, but it's another thing to do that by using statements that are overtly sexist," said Lawless. Lawless also spoke to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about Gloria Cain's effort to help her husband, and to [HuffingtonPost.com](#) about why women matter in the 2012 elections. (11/14, 11/15, 11/16)

Perry's 'Oops' Moment Recalls Earlier Presidential Debate Gaffes

Bloomberg **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, discussed with [Bloomberg News](#) presidential candidate Rick Perry's debate mishap when he failed to identify the third government agency he would eliminate as president. Steinhorn compared Perry's gaffe to former governor Michael Dukakis' "cold and bloodless" answer on capital punishment in the 1988 democratic presidential debate that made him appear to be a technocrat detached from emotion. (11/10)

At Open-Access Meeting, Advocates Emphasize the Impact of Sharing Knowledge

THE CHRONICLE of Higher Education **Michael Carroll**, professor of law, spoke to the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) about the importance of unhindered access to research results. "I think it's time to get in authors' faces a little bit and say, 'When you choose to sign that agreement without amending it, you're slamming the door on some readers,'" said Carroll. (11/11)

To Win, Gingrich Needs Cash and Discipline



Candice Nelson, academic director of the Campaign Management Institute, discussed with USNews.com Newt Gingrich's comeback in the Republican presidential primary in the wake of his colleagues' recent campaign blunders. "He's got a little more political savvy than someone like Herman Cain or Michele Bachmann or Rick Perry, who haven't been on the national stage," said Nelson. (11/16)

Secure Communities Program Confusing to FBI



Alan Kraut, professor of history, spoke to the [Washington Times](http://WashingtonTimes.com) about a confusing and controversial federal initiative aimed at cracking down on illegal immigrants. "It's about local jurisdictions trying to preserve their autonomy from the federal government," said Kraut about local governments trying to opt out of the program. (11/10)

GOP Struggles to Find Frontrunner



On [WTTG-FOX5](http://WTTG-FOX5.com), **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, [analyzed](#) the lack of a Republican frontrunner in the 2012 presidential primary. "They have an economy that's sluggish right now, they have a president that has low approval ratings, there's high unemployment, and yet they can't seem to rally behind a single candidate," said Steinhorn. (11/15)

This Week's Bonus

Top 10 Plays of the Day



A half court shot at the halftime buzzer by the AU's men's basketball team earned the 8th spot on [ESPN SportsCenter's](http://ESPN.com) Top 10 Plays of the Day segment. (11/16)