



This Week's Newsmakers Sept. 25 – Oct. 1, 2010

Top Story

Wildlife Films Far From Wild



Chris Palmer, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, was the focus of an [ABC's Nightline](#) story for drawing back the curtain on the dark side of wildlife filmmaking in his book *Shooting in the Wild*. During the segment, he explained why he wrote the book and discussed the reason for coming clean about the staged aspects of wildlife documentaries. The story re-aired on [ABC's Good Morning America](#), then on ABC news affiliates across the country, and [Canada Television](#), Canada's largest TV news outlet. [NPR's Weekend Edition](#) also interviewed Palmer.

Additional Features

Midterm Elections



Curtis Gans, director of the Center for the Study of the American Electorate, appeared on [NBC's Nightly News](#) to discuss the American people's disappointment with their government stemming from comedian Stephen Colbert's testimony to Congress on immigration. "People are angry, some people are scared about the economic condition, some people are disillusioned," Gans said. His segment re-aired on [NBC's Weekend Today Show](#). He was also quoted by the [Wall Street Journal](#) about developments in the midterm election campaign period, and [U.S. News](#) about candidate's use of PACs.

Democrats in the Line of Fire



"They're worried, they're frustrated, and they're taking it out on incumbents, primarily Democrats," said **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, to [NBC's Nightly News](#) about what American dissatisfaction with the government could mean for the Democratic Party in the midterm elections. The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) also featured Thurber in the "5 Minutes With" column addressing why politicians embellish their accomplishments to look better to the voters during election periods.

Tennessee Mosque Controversy



"The notion of Sharia being implemented in America with about 2 percent of the population, to me, is mathematically absurd," said **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) about the controversy surrounding the construction of an Islamic community center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. (9/26)

Kennedy-Nixon Debates after 50 Years



"They [Kennedy-Nixon] didn't debate on television, they didn't debate on the radio, they didn't debate out in the streets," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, on [ABC's Topline](#) about the history of political debate in America. Lichtman discussed what televised debates have brought to the political arena over the past fifty years since the Kennedy-Nixon debates in 1960. (9/24)

Quotes

China on the Rise



Deborah Brautigam, professor of international relations, discussed China's economic progress with the [Associated Press](#). She cited how China receives a large amount of government aid, but spends lots of money on events like the Olympics and military

expenditures. This article was published by more than 225 news outlets including the ***New York Times***, ***Los Angeles Times***, and ***Washington Post***.

Justice William J. Brennan's Legacy



Stephen Wermiel, professor of law, said the late Justice Brennan "believed that government needed to be accountable to the people in the courts, and not just the ballot box," to the [Wall Street Journal](#) in an interview about a book he is co-authoring called *Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion*. (9/26)

Mixing Business and Government



"Every time you get a new president, there are vast changes in tax interpretation, so what we're really finding is the industry is looking for true experts in very specific areas," **Richard Durand**, dean of the Kogod School of

Business, said to the [Washington Post's Capital Business](#) in a story about D.C. area business schools offering more programs that examine the intersection of business and government. (9/27)

Saving Spain's Economic Future



Robin Lumsdaine, professor of finance, told [Global Finance Magazine](#) that Spain's officials and its citizens need to take a cue from the country's World Cup winning soccer team and work together to solve its economic woes. "There needs to be a commitment to work together to overcome the crisis, recognizing that viable long-term solutions will likely

involve near-term challenges, sacrifices and difficult decisions," she said. The news section of [NASDAQ's](#) Website also published the article.

Plastic Bottles Environmentally Unfriendly



Chris O'Brien, director of sustainability, discussed the cost of recycling plastic bottles on college campuses with [Chronicle of Higher Education](#). He said "we have been working for 10,000 years in human

civilization to create great, safe drinking water for the public, and we have succeeded, and now we are throwing it out."

Defining Rich and Poor in America



Michelle Newton-Francis, professor of sociology, discussed what it means to be rich or poor in America in an interview with [FOXNews.com](#). She said "we used to have a class hierarchy and most people wanted to be middle class," she said. "Being labeled rich or poor carried a stigma. Now it appears we are either rich or poor."

Businesswomen Becoming Politicians



"Business and law are the overwhelming majority of backgrounds for people who go into politics, regardless of whether they're men or women," said

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, to [Politics Daily](#) about successful businesswomen such as Meg Whitman, Linda McMahon and Carly Fiorina who have made an impact for the GOP in the primary races.

NASA Stops Shuttle Missions



Howard McCurdy, professor of public administration, said "the most significant changes we are going to see is that the United States and its international partners for the first time in some 35 years are going to get out of low-earth orbit and get back to the business exploring the inner solar system," in an interview with [Voice of America](#) about NASA's research into newer and

more extensive missions.