Top Story
American University Experts Weigh-In on Elections
During the midterm elections, news media relied on American University professors for expertise and analysis on the issues, individual races, trends and results. Professors from several of AU’s schools provided pre and post-election analysis.

Pre-Election
Government professor Jan Leighley spoke to PBS NewsHour and WAMU’s Metro Connection about the importance of voter turnout in the midterm elections. Leighley specifically discussed millennials and “habitual voters.” (11/4)

For CNN Newsource, journalism professor Jane Hall discussed women in Congress and important topics to women voters. The story syndicated to more than 40 outlets. (11/2)

In an interview with CBS Radio News Radio, public communication professor Leonard Steinhorn commented on voter turnout and what it will take for Republicans to take control of the U.S. Senate. (11/1)

For McClatchy DC, Public Affairs & Advocacy Institute director Patrick Griffin explained that President Obama would have to be willing to accept less on his legislative agenda from a Republican majority in the Senate. The article also appeared in the Dallas Morning News (11/3)

For Sinclair Broadcast Group television news affiliates, history professor Allan Lichtman commented on the purpose of government and Congress’ approval ratings. (11/4)

Election Night
Foreign policy professor Gordon Adams spoke to Stars and Stripes about the potential of Senator John McCain on becoming chair of the Armed Services Committee. (11/3)

Government professor David Lublin analyzed Maryland election results with Montgomery Community Media on election night. Lublin discussed the Maryland governor’s race, state office races, and local elections. For a separate Montgomery Community Media story, Lublin explained that the Purple Line is dead. (11/4)
Post-Election

Thurber spoke about the “clean sweep for Republicans.” Thurber said that gridlock would be difficult to overcome and Democrats could threaten the GOP majority with filibuster. The article was republished more than 250 times. (11/5)

For TIME magazine online, Jennifer Lawless explained why the 2014 midterm elections hardly amounted to a “Year of the Woman.” Lawless also spoke to Politico Magazine about how men and women perceive themselves as candidates for elected office. (11/5)

For NPR’s Marketplace, history professor Allan Lichtman discussed that the Republican-controlled Senate could help spur free-trade deals because of widespread support for such deals by the GOP. Lichtman’s commentary in TheHill.com discussed low Democratic turnout at the polls. He also explained to U.S. News & World Report how Republicans want to overturn aspects of the Affordable Care Act. (11/5, 11/7, 11/6)

Public communication professor Leonard Steinhorn explained to CBS News Radio that he thinks Republicans will focus on issues where they have common ground with the President, such as corporate tax reform, trade or immigration. (11/5)

Department of Government ambassador-in-residence Connie Morella spoke to WRC-NBC4 Washington about how the women elected to Congress in 2014 is a good start but more work needs to be done. Morella also reflected on her own time in Congress and the crucial role women play in Congress. (11/5)

Foreign policy professor Guy Ziv spoke to Voice of America TV about the difficulty President Obama will face in the U.S. Senate for any deal brokered with Iran. (11/5)

Additional Features

“Some Uses of Photography”: A Too-Modest Title for a Mesmerizing Exhibit

Washington City Paper featured a current American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center exhibit “Some Uses of Photography: Four Washington Artists.” The reviewer praised the works exhibited by four distinct area photographers. (11/4)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

2016 Presidential Hopefuls, Beware: Column

In a USA Today op-ed, politics and journalism professor Richard Benedetto argued that 2016 presidential hopefuls with executive experience, such as governors, trumps those aspiring U.S. Senators who lack management experience. Benedetto cites President Obama’s lack of management skills and having come from the U.S. Senate as partially to blame for the administration’s record. (11/5)

Addressing a Climate of Repression

In a Houston Chronicle op-ed, international service professor Jonathan Fox argues that the Mexican government needs to try harder to protect its citizens who stand up for human rights, pointing to the killing of six and disappearance of 43 citizens. Fox also questions whether U.S. Merida Initiative funds are going toward improving human rights conditions in Mexico. (11/6)
**Expertise**

Can the U.S. Space Industry Survive 2 Explosions in 4 Days?

For Associated Press, public affairs professor Howard McCurdy expressed his skepticism on the Silicon Valley whiz kid approach to privatizing the space program predicated on quick roll-outs and debugging along the way. McCurdy explained that recent private space flight disasters demonstrate that there is "no margin for error." The story syndicated more than 550 times. (11/1)

‘Alex From Target,’ Rises to Star on Twitter and Talk Shows

In a New York Times article, journalism professor Andrew Lih discussed the recent "Alex from Target" viral photo and discussed possible reasons behind the Internet sensation. Lih also spoke to WBUR’s NPR nationally syndicated program Here & Now. (11/5, 11/6)

If Will McAvoy Were Real, Would He Get Fired for His Tweets?

Communication professor Scott Talan spoke to the Washington Post’s Style blog about @WillMcAvoyACN, a Twitter account of a fictional character in HBO’s “The Newsroom.” Talan explained that real newscasters inform audiences rather than engage in debates like the popular Twitter handle does on a regular basis. (11/06)

Brazil Begins Laying Its Own Internet Cables to Avoid U.S. Surveillance

For Washington Post’s The Switch blog, international service professor Matt Taylor discussed the 3,500-mile fiber-optic cable that Brazil plans to construct to avert U.S. surveillance. Taylor explained that Brazil’s decision to exclude U.S. companies from serving as contractors for the project might be irreversible if Brazil finds itself in need of help. (11/3)

Lost for Words

For the cover story of November’s New Scientist about how digital technology is changing the way we read, linguistics professor Naomi Baron discussed these changes in the context of her forthcoming book, Words on Screen: The Fate of Reading in a Digital World, that explores students’ choices to read on screens or in print. (11/1) *Link not available*

Senator Kerry Meets with Anti-IS Coalition Ambassadors

For Voice of America TV, international service professor Akbar Ahmed commented on the fight against the Islamic State. Ahmed stated that he believes the key in the fight against the Islamic State lies in the ability to discredit its secretive leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. (11/3)

Midterm Elections Likely to Have Influence on Supreme Court

Department of Justice, Law and Criminology professor Jessica Waters appeared on Sinclair Broadcast Group television news affiliates throughout the country to discuss the impact of the midterm elections on how a vacancy on the Supreme Court would be filled in the next two years. Waters also spoke to Scripps Howard News Service about the North Dakota personhood ballot and how the issue could make its way all the way up to the Supreme Court. (11/4, 11/6)

Is Child Poverty Inevitable?

For CNN online, economics professor Mary Hansen commented on the issue of child poverty in the U.S., saying there are many policies that could be enacted to lift children out of poverty. (11/4)