



# AU Newsmakers

## October 19 – October 26, 2012

Prepared by University Communications  
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### Top Story

#### Experts Weigh-in on Foreign Policy Debate



Political and foreign policy experts **Jordan Tama, Robert Pastor, Gordon Adams, Dotty Lynch, and David Mislan** provided pre- and post-debate analysis for the final presidential debate spotlighting foreign policy. **Tama** spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about what the candidates must say in the debate to swing undecided voters. “The difficult trick for Romney in the debate will be to challenge Obama on foreign policy without looking like he’s criticizing the commander in chief, which can be off-putting to voters. Obama, for his part, must

make the case that his policies are sound and his leadership strong despite ongoing challenges around the world,” said Tama. More than **400** outlets published the article. Tama [also spoke](#) to [Newsday](#), the [Washington Examiner](#), and [EuroNews](#). With [PBS Newshour](#), foreign policy professor **Mislan** discussed Romney’s and Obama’s views on the United States’ relationship with Israel. “One of the striking moments of the debate was when Romney highlighted President Obama’s relationship with Israel, saying he would have a much stronger relationship. Obama responded by saying he does have a strong relationship with Israel, but it’s definitely been rocky under his administration than previous ones,” said Mislan. **Adams** and **Lynch** spoke to [Agence France Presse](#), and **Pastor** spoke to [CNN.com](#). In addition, the **New York Times** online highlighted a picture of AU students watching the debate in their residence hall lounge. (10/21, 10/22, 10/23)

### Additional Features

#### Teaching the ABCs of College Costs

#### THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) feature story about universities teaching students the specifics behind the costs of attending college cited American

University’s college affordability website. The site provides links to AU’s budget and statistics and shows how they compare to the national average of student loan default rates. (10/19) *\*password required*

#### DOD's Wennergren Named 'Chief Change Maker'



[FCW](#) and [Executive.Gov](#) highlighted the 2012 winners of the School of Public Affairs’ Roger Jones Award, Department of Defense CIO David Wennergren and Thomas Mesenbourg, Jr., acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau. “The two men have led to the improved quality of government services to Americans, and in addition, influenced the careers of the next generation of federal employees. They epitomize dedication to public service, and we challenge our students to strive to emulate these two outstanding individuals as they embark on their future careers,” said **Barbara Romzek**, dean of the School of Public Affairs. (10/22)

#### King Abdullah Scholarship Program Continues to Expand



With [KSA-2](#), Saudi-Arabian English Television, **Fanta Aw**, vice president of campus life and director of the International Student and Scholar Services office, discussed the growing number of Saudi students attending AU, thanks to the Saudi scholarship program. “There is about a 10-15 percent growth each year in terms of getting Saudi students. We are always interested in getting students from all over the world, so from that perspective the number of Saudi students is probably the

right size,” said Aw. (10/19)

## CampaignU: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom



Each week in School of Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn's** *Campaign 2012: Inside the War Room and the Newsroom* class, [WTTG-FOX5](#) brings a camera into the classroom as part of the station's election coverage. Each Thursday, the class is live-streamed on the station's website from 9:15–11:45 a.m. Additionally, the station's [Morning News](#) show airs a segment each week about the class. This week focused on the presidential debate on foreign policy. The class will be televised each week throughout the election season. Tune in next week to see AU's most politically active students engage in discussions on the pressing issues of the day. (10/25)

## 'Guys and Dolls' at American University



[DC Metro Theater Arts online](#) reviewed AU's **Department of Performing Arts'** production of *Guys and Dolls*. "Every moment of the play it feels like a dance, from the frenetic opening number in the chaos of this hyper New York of the 1950s to a quiet moment as two characters just walk across the stage in rhythm. Perhaps the highlight of the piece is the Cuban nightclub where an amazing dance becomes an all-out brawl," read the review. (10/19)

## Expertise

### Obama Faces Tough Call on Iran Oil Sanctions



REUTERS

Assistant professor of international service **Jeff Colgan** spoke to [Reuters](#) about President Obama's decision on whether to grant Iranian oil sanction exemptions to specific countries like China, India, South Korea, and other nations shortly after the election. "The trade consequences are unknown and potentially very bad if they start a trade war over this," said Colgan in reference to China. (10/22)

### Diplomacy Inbox Fills Up as U.N. Awaits U.S. Presidential Vote



REUTERS

[Reuters](#) spoke to assistant professor of international politics **David Bosco** about the U.N.'s delaying consideration of thorny issues that could have an impact on the U.S. presidential election such as a treaty on arms that could have become a wedge issue between the Republicans and Democrats "The administration clearly feared that the treaty would become a major election issue for gun rights organizations and, with a few other countries, worked to ensure that it would not move anywhere until after the election," said Bosco. (10/19)

### Brazil Starts to Hand out Corruption Sentences

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) interviewed international service professor **Matthew Taylor** about Brazil's Supreme Court handing down stiff sentences in a corruption trial netting members of Congress, bankers, consultants, and other individuals, closing a seven-yearlong prosecution of a cash-for-votes-scheme. "This is still the exception that proves the rule, a baby step," said Taylor. (10/23)

### Strategizing for the President, and Corporate Clients, too

The New York Times

**James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies, spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the presidential administration's attempts to change the culture of Washington and its reliance on political operatives. "He's [President Obama] gone in the right direction. But in the wide sweep of things, he didn't really change Washington that much." (10/19)

## The Opiate of Exceptionalism

# The New York Times

The [New York Times](#) interviewed history professor **Allan Lichtman** about presidential candidates avoiding serious issues that can be candidly described and debated. “I think there’s more of a tendency now than

in the past to avoid discussion of serious problems. It has a pernicious effect on our politics and on governing, because to govern, you need a mandate. And you don’t get a mandate if you don’t say what you’re going to do,” said Lichtman. (10/19)

## Neil deGrasse Tyson Tweets for Science Literacy



Journalism professor **Declan Fahy** talked to [USA Today](#) about scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson’s influence. “Tyson is probably the most high-profile public scientist in the U.S. today and in almost every interview and profile you read about him, the comparison with (Carl) Sagan comes up. They have both argued that persuading people of the value of rational thinking will have real benefits for

economic growth and civic culture,” said Fahy. The [Detroit Free Press](#), [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) and [Indianapolis Star](#) also republished this article. (10/20)

## Political Humor Makes an Impact



Communication professor **Lauren Feldman** appeared on [CNN](#) to discuss the role that late-night political humor plays in educating some voters. “Just like traditional news, news analysis, the debates, the conventions, and political advertisements all shape how people make sense of politics and of the candidates, so to do the *Daily Show*, *Colbert Report*, and *Saturday Night Live*. People gain factual knowledge from

*The Daily Show* particularly when they approach the show as news instead of considering it purely entertainment,” said Feldman. (10/24)

## Electoral College Voting Options



Law professor **Jamie Raskin** spoke to [CBS' Sunday Morning](#) about new Electoral College voting options being adopted in many states, including Maryland. “A very creative plan has emerged called the National Popular Vote plan, which says let’s create a compacted state, in which the states commit to cast the electors for the national vote, rather than the winner in their state,” said Raskin. (10/21)

## Polls Show Romney Gaining Support among Women Voters



School of Public Affairs executive in residence **Anita McBride** appeared on [MSNBC](#) to discuss Mitt Romney closing the gender gap and the different types of female voters in swing states. “Women are not single issue voters and they are voting on lots of things. Women care about the economy, and he [Romney] is talking about that first and foremost,” said McBride. (10/20)

## Bonus Clip

### AU Alum Becomes First Pakistani NASCAR Driver



School of International Service alumnus **Nur Ali** made his debut as NASCAR’s first Pakistani driver at the Kansas Lottery 300, broadcast live on [ESPN 2](#). (10/21)