



AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

Learn to Earn



Matt Boerum, studio manager and instructor of audio technology, described for [Audio Solutions](#) magazine the Audio Technology Program’s new, state-of-the-art facility and how the curriculum prepares students for a wide range of audio career options. “A classic approach is taken to broaden their audio knowledge. It’s very well rounded,” Boerum said. A photo of the new main control room graced the magazine’s cover. (10/12)

Additional Features

Who Will Win the 2012 Race?



On [Fox News Channel’s Fox & Friends](#), **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, discussed his “13 Keys” system and prediction that President Obama will win in 2012. “Whenever you have major policy change, historically, that gives you something to run on—something to present to the American people,” Lichtman said in reference to counting the healthcare law as one of the nine keys in Obama’s favor of winning a second term. (10/8)

Ex-Iran Prisoners Lunch with American University Professor Who Helped Them



On [WRC-NBC4 News at 11 p.m.](#), **Akbar Ahmed**, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, spoke about a private lunch he and other Muslim leaders hosted for the U.S. hikers released from Iran. This group of leaders had helped the hikers in their fight for freedom. “What we saw were three humans with a great spirit surviving and emerging almost unscathed; and ready now to give to share with the whole world their sense of compassion,” said Ahmed. [NBCWashington.com](#) featured a nine minute interview with Ahmed.

AU Students Produce Stage Fright!



[NBCWashington.com](#) will air ‘**Stage Fright!**’, a 10-part ghost-comedy Web series developed, written, shot, and edited by AU students in communication professors **Claudia Myers’** and **Kyle Brannon’s** Creating Webisodes class. The show is scheduled to run on the [NBCWashington.com](#) beginning October 10, rolling out one episode a day (Monday-Friday) during a two-week period. The show will be up in its entirety after October 21 and remain on the site through Halloween and beyond. (10/10)

American Forum: Julian Bond Town Hall



As part of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial dedication content this weekend, [NBCWashington.com](#) will feature the **American Forum** with associate professor of communication **Jane Hall** as moderator and guest **Julian Bond**, distinguished adjunct professor of government. The program, a discussion of civil rights with Bond and AU students, will also air over the weekend on WRC-NBC4’s Digital Channel 4.2, Comcast 208, Verizon FIOS 460, Cox 803, and RCN. (10/13)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Iranian 'Plots' and American Hubris



Hillary Mann Leverett, professor of foreign policy, coauthored an op-ed for CNN.com cautioning the United States against using isolation to punish Iran for the plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States. "The Obama Administration mistakenly believes it can exploit the accusations for strategic advantage. In fact, they are likely to play to Iran's advantage, not America's," wrote Mann Leverett. (10/13)

Shalit Deal—Egypt's Role



In a Huffington Post op-ed, **Josef Olmert**, adjunct professor of international relations, analyzed Israel's release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Hamas' release of an Israeli soldier—a deal Egypt brokered. "Here again, we are confronted with a basic rule regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; nothing is as simple as it may look

at first sight as the words of a famous Israeli song suggest, 'what we see from here, is not what we see from there,'" wrote Olmert. (10/12)

This World Food Day Is not a Time for Celebration, but a Time for Action



In a Huffington Post op-ed, assistant professor of public communication **Caty Chattoo** wrote about the global hunger crisis, World Food Day, and an upcoming documentary, *ViewChange: Africa's Last Famine*, she produced for Link TV in association with Oxfam America. "Without continued calls for funding and media attention, we'll continue to see

cycles of drought and famine and more, as the planet struggles to cope with the population explosion and extreme weather patterns," wrote Chattoo. (10/13)

USAID Fight for Reproductive Rights Should Focus on Contraception



Rachel Sullivan Robinson, assistant professor of international relations, wrote a letter to the editor of Conscience magazine about an article criticizing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for ineffectively promoting

access to safe abortion around the world. In her letter, Robinson argued that in sub-Saharan Africa, "USAID would do better to focus its efforts on improving access to contraception rather than fighting battles about the legality of abortion." (10/12)

Expertise

Power 30: The World's Most Influential Players



Arturo Porzecanski, distinguished economist in residence, spoke to SmartMoney magazine for its Power 30 cover story about what International Monetary Fund managing director Christine Lagarde must do to succeed. "She will need her considerable diplomatic and political eclat to avoid appearing Euro-

centric, even as she helps shepherd the continent through its sovereign debt crisis," he said. Porzecanski also spoke to CNN.com about the new Colombian, Panamanian, and South Korean free trade agreements Congress passed this week. (10/12, 10/14)

Study at USAEE Suggests OPEC "Fair Price" Has Limited Market Impact



AOL Energy News cited research coauthored by **Michel Robe**, associate professor of finance, on OPEC's fair pricing pronouncements. "We find that fair price pronouncements add little to pre-existing information and have little

impact on the futures market price of crude oil," said Robe. (10/11)

Defining "Fair Use" for the Digital Age



Columbia Journalism Review's Page Views blog lauded *Reclaiming Fair Use: How to Put Balance Back in Copyright*, a new book by **Patricia Aufderheide**, director of the Center for Social media, and law professor **Peter Jaszi**. "As the authors write in the introduction, the book's purpose is to understand copyright, to 'give strategies to deal with

some copyright policy problems' and to reframe the copyright debate. *Reclaiming Fair Use* indeed lives up to its purpose and answers many of the questions you may have," read the review. (10/12)

Film, Music, Art, & the Public Domain: Copyright Controversy



On [WAMU 88.5's *Kojo Nnamdi Show*](#), **Michael Carroll**, professor of law and director of AU's Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, discussed copyright and the public domain as they apply to works created by foreign artists. Until 1994, such works were not copyrighted in the United States. Now, a movement is challenging the law that gave copyright to those works. "The Constitution itself says Congress only has power to give out these rights for a limited time. Why is that? Precisely because these works have to become part of our common cultural heritage. They have to be available to all of us for use," Carroll said. (10/13)

Iranian Assassination Plot



On [WRC-NBC4's *News4 Midday*](#), **Jordan Tama**, assistant professor of international relations, discussed Iran's plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States. "I think it is further evidence that Iran does not follow international rules of behavior, whether it's with respect to their nuclear program, international terrorism, or the way they treat their own citizens. This is another piece of evidence and we should have a firm response, but also we should avoid overreacting," said Tama. (10/12)

Renter's Paradise



Martha Starr, associate professor of economics, explained to [Washingtonian](#) magazine why D.C.-area residents who can afford to buy homes are instead choosing to rent luxury apartments. "Attitudes towards buying homes have shifted

in a more prudent direction. Renting offers more protection against risk than buying," she said, noting that this especially applies at the upper end of the market, which saw the biggest price drops. (10/10)

The Politics of Inequality



HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW

Robert Lerman, professor of economics, suggested to [Harvard Political Review](#) online that in the battles to reduce the deficit and income inequality in the United States, legislators may need reign in

the costs of the largest entitlement programs to save the smaller ones. "The proposed budget cuts to programs like the Home Energy Assistance Program illustrate the U.S.'s failure to deal with Medicare and Social Security, which are crowding out lots of other programs—a big portion of [which] assist low income people," he said. (10/12)

Debate Maneuvering



Danny Hayes, assistant professor of government, previewed Tuesday night's Republican presidential primary debate for Canada's [Sun News Network](#). "Presidents really have a limited influence on the economy overall, so what we hear from the candidates tonight, we should probably take with a grain of salt if they are promising to be able to turn the economy around," said Hayes. (10/11)