



This Week's Newsmakers

Oct. 2 – Oct. 8, 2010

Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

Book Details Legacy of Supreme Court Justice



Stephen Wermiel, professor of law, appeared on [NBC's Nightly News](#) to discuss the start of the Supreme Court's new session and his book *Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion*. The next morning, he appeared on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) where his work was praised by hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski. [The New York Times](#) cited that Brennan placed his trust in Wermiel to write his biography before his death in 1997.

Additional Features

The Artists Behind Katzen

Serving Communities in Northwest Washington Since 1967

THE NORTHWEST CURRENT

Rasmussen, director and curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center about the tight-knit group of AU art alums called Group 93. A *Northwest Current* feature story about Group 93 outlined how the group's longtime comraderie with each other and their former professor, Luciano Penay, led to the Katzen Arts Center's creation. (10/7)

"I can't imagine this happening many places... To me it's a wonderful example of how a little bit of concern for the university's family and your neighbors and your community can pay big dividends," said **Jack**

D and R Wonks Agree: Youth Vote Is up for Grabs

The Washington Post

POSTPOLITICS

They may be on opposing ends of the political spectrum, but during the School of Communication's [American Forum](#), MSNBC political analyst Karen Finney and Republican strategist Kevin Madden agreed that the youth vote is always up for grabs. The event, live streamed on the

[WashingtonPost.com's Post Politics](#) page and on [Federal News Radio](#), allowed AU's students—ranked the most politically active in the nation—to challenge Finney and Madden with questions about the 2010 midterm elections. "In 2006, only 11 percent of the voters were young people, but they made the difference in several races," Finney said. In addition, [Fishbowl DC/MediaBistro](#) ran a photo and blog post about the forum. (10/6)

Wild Life Documentary Fans Disillusioned



[MovieFone.com](#) published a feature spotlighting **Chris Palmer**, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and his new book *Shooting in the Wild*. The article garnered more than 300,000 hits and was featured on the [AOL](#) homepage twice. (10/1)

Quotes

Politicians Play the Blame Game



The [Associated Press](#) quoted **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, about the strategies politicians are using for midterm election campaigns. He said, "The election will be about anger, with not a lot of content." This article was syndicated to more than 400 news outlets including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Houston Chronicle*. (10/2)

Mario Vargas Llosa wins Nobel Prize for Literature



Richard McCann, professor of creative writing, talked to **Associated Press Radio** about Mario Vargas Llosa winning the Nobel Prize for literature. He discussed why Llosa was the best candidate, provided insight into the significance of the Nobel Prize. McCann said Vargas Llosa is known for using personal material and well as historical material. (10/7)

Political Fundraising Race



Republicans have raised almost twice the amount of money as Democrats have in the midterm elections according to the [Washington Times](#). **Candice Nelson**, professor of government, said it's because of the enthusiasm gap, "Democratic contributors were more excited about the election in 2008; Republicans are more excited this year." (10/3)

Obama Could Become Carter



Obama's decision to install solar panels on the White House rather than focus on the possible switch to Republican control of Congress has brought much criticism and comparison to a past president. "Jimmy Carter is a symbol of a failed president whose failure helped contribute to nearly 30 years of Republican dominance of American politics," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to [Politico](#). (10/5)

From Greening the Government to Greening the Campus



For years, organizations have viewed sustainability as cost prohibitive, but not until recently have they seen that implementing sustainable programs can save money in the long run. On [Federal News Radio](#), **Chris O'Brien**, director of sustainability, explained how the green industry has changed, and discussed the challenges of committing to sustainability. "If someone doesn't see it happening, is it really happening? For example, electricity consumption is invisible in reality," he said. O'Brien recommended ways federal employees can make their offices more sustainable and highlighted AU initiatives as examples to follow. (10/6)

Bad Economy Affects Everyone



Whether it's the single mother living in poverty or the President of the United States, the economy is the most pressing issue on American minds. **Robert Lerman**, professor of economics, spoke to the [Columbus Times Dispatch](#) about how family structure in the United States relates to economic factors and with [Inside Higher Ed](#) about how high unemployment is steering people towards apprenticeships rather than jobs.

Picketing at Military Funerals: Free Speech?



Dan Marcus, professor of law, explained to [WTTG-FOX 5](#) "We'll find out from the Supreme Court," about the Westboro Baptist Church's claim that the First Amendment protects its members' right to protest at military funerals. The church travels across the country to hold demonstrations at the funerals of fallen soldiers, claiming that God is killing soldiers to punish America for homosexuality, adultery, and divorce. (10/6)

90 Years after the 19th Amendment



"Women's responsibilities and roles behind the scenes were probably the same before suffrage as they were after but they were seen as actual voting people with real rights and a potential constituency that could be appealed to by the candidates," said **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, to [Voice of America](#) about the ninetieth anniversary of women winning the right to vote in America. (10/5)

US-ASEAN Summit



Amitav Acharya, professor and chair of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Studies Center, said "the heart of it all lies in the U.S.'s recognition of ASEAN's 'strategic primacy,'" in an interview with [Straits Times](#) about the U.S.-ASEAN summit. President Obama's decision to host this meeting reassured Asian leaders that the U.S. is serious in building a positive relationship with Asian countries.