



AU Newsmakers


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Top Story

Thanksgiving Foods Are Some of the Healthiest


 **UPI.com** [United Press International](#) newswire featured health and fitness expert **Stacey Snelling's** commentary about how traditional favorite holiday foods can be healthful choices. "Several foods we consume this time of year are actually good for you when prepared with minimal added fat, sugar and salt, and consumed in moderation," she said. The *Washington Examiner* and [DailyRx.com](#), a consumer health news website, also published the article. (11/17, 11/22)

Additional Features


Bleary-Eyed Students Can't Stop Texting, Even to Sleep, a Researcher Finds

 **THE CHRONICLE** of Higher Education. **Naomi Baron**, executive director of the Center for Teaching, Research and Learning, spoke to the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) about how today's faster, high-tech forms of communication, such as texting, have drastically altered the college experience. "My major concern about this continual connectivity is that students are being deprived of this wonderful opportunity that college used to give," said Baron, who has researched technology's impact on society. (11/20)

Seeking Sikh-Muslim Peace


 **The Washington Post** American University student **Dylan Kaplan** wrote an article for [WashingtonPost.com's Guest Voices](#) about the Sikh holiday, honoring Guru Nanak, the revered founder of Sikhism. On this holiday, Kaplan's mentor, **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic Studies, became the first Muslim to speak at a local Sikh Temple. "To witness such a degree of commitment to religious pluralism as was shown at the Sikh temple was very moving," wrote Kaplan. (11/22)

3 Ways to Use Foursquare To Connect With Your College

 **U.S. News & World Report** [U.S. News & World Report](#) cited **American University's** use of historical AU facts on the location-based social network Foursquare to foster school pride among students. "It's a really cool way to interact with the campus," said senior **Chloë Troia**, president of AU's Social Media club. While developing the AU location network, **Jon Hussey**, web communications manager said, "I actually reached out to a lot of students to get their insider tips on campus." (11/29)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

N.Y. Bomb Plot: What Radicalizes Some Converts to Islam?

 **The Washington Post** In the wake of a recent bomb plot in New York City, **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic Studies, explained in a [WashingtonPost.com](#) op-ed that more contemporary American converts to Islam became extremists because of increased Islamophobia and the lack of good Muslim leadership post-9/11. "In the absence of a clear message emphasizing the peace and compassion which lie at the heart of Islam, the strong messages of confrontation and violence coming from religious leaders like Anwar al-Awalaki filled the void," wrote Ahmed. (11/21)

8 Lessons in the Art of Teaching Journalism Online



In an article for [PBS.org's Mediashift](#), Amy Eisman, director of writing programs in the School of Communication, emphasized how important it is for journalism professors to adapt and rethink their online teaching methods. "Online journalism educators should be *good* at teaching journalism online. After all, we are comfortable communicating clearly, are early adapters of technology, and we like being first," wrote Eisman. (11/17)

It is Time for Discipline, Defense



In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#), Gordon Adams, professor of U.S. foreign policy, discussed the need for a leaner, disciplined military budget. Adams wrote, "At this moment of transition out of Iraq, we need to re-look at how we use the military. We should not be asking the military to 'do more with less,' we should be asking them to do less with less, to set mission priorities in a safer world." [Bloomberg News](#) and [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) also cited Adams' defense budget expertise.

How Occupy Is Transforming Our National Conversation



Robin Broad, professor of international development, co-authored an article for [CommonDreams.org](#) that analyzed how the Occupy Wall Street demonstrations have changed America's 30-year-old economic narrative. "Occupy has already succeeded in challenging the old, faulty dominant story spread by the 1 percent and replacing it with another one that resonates with what most Americans know to be true," wrote Broad. (11/23)

Expertise

UN Bashing Is Popular among Republican Candidates



David Bosco, assistant professor of international politics, explained to the [Associated Press](#) that if elected, presidential candidates who bashed the United Nations eventually end up cooperating with the legislative body. According to Bosco, the change of heart is, "simply because there's a lot of stuff the UN does that is useful to the United States." More than 335 outlets, including [Wall Street Journal](#) (online), [WashingtonPost.com](#), and [MiamiHerald.com](#), republished the article. (11/19)

Help Wanted USA: Hiring Hotspots Emerge, but Mobility an Issue



Robert Lerman, professor of economics, spoke to [Reuters](#) about areas across the country offering abundant employment opportunities, suggesting that much of the hiring has been in places like North Dakota and Iowa and in industries that support energy and agriculture. More than 55 outlets, including [ChicagoTribune.com](#), [MSNBC.com](#), and [CNBC.com](#), republished the article. (11/21)

Developments in U.S.-Pakistan Relations



On [CBS Evening News](#), Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, discussed how recent NATO strikes in Pakistan would affect the relationship between the United States and Pakistan. "I think Pakistan, certainly the establishment, including the military establishment, understands the importance of a close alliance with the United States," said Ahmed. With [Voice of America](#), he also talked about Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States. (11/23)

Syria Showdown



On [FOX News Channel's Fox Report with Shepard Smith](#), Josef Olmert, adjunct professor of international service, discussed the Syrian citizens' call for the end of military rule. "We should see the downfall of this regime [Bashar al-Assad] in the near future," said Olmert. (11/18)

Challenges in the 2012 Elections



Allan Lichtman, professor of history, analyzed major changes that could affect the 2012 congressional and presidential elections. He talked to the [Chicago Tribune](#) about how redistricting in Illinois could benefit Latino voters and discussed with [Hearst Television](#) whether Herman Cain will continue as a Republican presidential candidate. (11/18, 11/29)

To Imagine a Gingrich Presidency, Look to the 90's



On [NPR's Morning Edition](#), James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed what a Newt Gingrich presidency would look like. "He was a person who got a lot accomplished with the president—a balanced budget for the first time since 1969; the 100,000 cops bill; welfare reform; and a variety of other things," said Thurber of Gingrich's track record in the 90's. (11/18)

Relationship Sours after Airstrikes in Pakistan



On [NPR's Talk of the Nation](#), Stephen Tankel, professor of justice, explained the effect recent NATO airstrikes in Pakistan could have on the country's relationship with the United States. "Pakistan is an ally in some regards and in others is not. And I think it's no secret, you know, that Pakistan and the U.S. have different strategic objectives," said Tankel. (11/29)

David Duke Plans to Fight Arrest in Germany



For the New Orleans' [Times-Picayune](#), Stephen Silvia, associate professor of international service, discussed the importance of David Duke's arrest in Germany before he could deliver a radical speech to

extremists. "It is a difficult thing for Americans to grasp, because we have such a tradition of free speech. But when you put it in the context of Europe in general and Germany in particular with the history of the Nazis, the idea there are certain boundaries of speech that one should not cross, it makes sense," said Silvia. (11/30)

Will Police Officer's Manslaughter Trial Bring Greater Accountability in Caribbean?



Richard Bennett, professor of justice, spoke to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about police accountability after accusations of unjustified killings by police in the Caribbean. "You're not going to see a lot of changes in the police until you see change in the approach of government towards crime, and I think in Trinidad and Tobago you're in that kind of netherland where government has not yet made a strong commitment," said Bennett. (11/17)

Clinton's Global AIDS Fight May Be Hurt by U.S. Trade Initiative



Sean Flynn, professor of law, explained to [Bloomberg News](#) how Secretary of State Clinton's AIDS foundation will help with battling the disease. Flynn said the U.S. trade office "defines 'access' without regard to affordability, and therefore its ultimate effect will be to raise, not lower, excessive medicine prices in poor countries." (11/21)

Why Losing Presidential Candidates Stick It Out



Danny Hayes, assistant professor of government, discussed with [U.S. News & World Report](#) why unsuccessful presidential candidates like Senator Rick Santorum and Congressman Ron Paul keep trying their luck in every election cycle. "There's just been an unsettled nature to the race in which even also-rans and long-

shot candidates like Santorum don't see anyone pulling away and so why not stay in the race as long as you can afford to do so?" said Hayes. (11/23)

Squabbling While the World Burns



Matthew Nisbet, professor of communication, spoke to the [Financial Times](#) about why climate change is controversial. "Climate change has joined gun control, taxes and abortion as a form of social identity marker," said Nisbet. (11/25)

Michelle Obama Rallies Female Voters Behind Her Husband



Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, spoke to the [Washington Examiner](#) about Michelle Obama's efforts to gain female voters' support for her husband's re-election campaign. "Everyone is questioning right now whether Obama can mobilize the energy among women that was present in 2008, and Republicans are banking on that," said Lawless. (11/17)

This Week's Bonus

The Backward Pianist



American University sophomore political science major **Evan Petrone** appeared on [The Ellen DeGeneres Show](#) to showcase his 'Hidden Audience Talent'—his double jointedness that allows him to play the piano backwards. (11/28)