



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

# This Week's Newsmakers

## Sept. 4 – Sept. 10, 2010

### Top Story

#### Primary Voter Turnout Low for Democrats



"What the last 16 months have done is rob the public of the hope that was engendered in 2008," said **Curtis Gans**, director of the Center for the Study of the American Electorate, to [USA TODAY](#) about the center's analysis which showed democratic voters did not vote in mass for the midterm election primaries. On [MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show](#), Maddow said the analysis was more useful than polling data. The [Associated Press](#) story was circulated to more than 140 outlets including [Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Forbes](#) and [Time](#). [The Wall Street Journal's Washington Wire](#) and [Washington Post's Who Runs Gov](#) also commented on the study's significance. (9/7)

### Additional Features

#### AU's Green Campus



Students, faculty, staff and local neighbors built a green roof on the **Kogod School of Business** and **Chris O'Brien**, director of sustainability, noted on [WUSA-CBS9](#), that AU has the highest density of green roofs for a DC campus. [WRC-NBC4](#) featured the new **School of International Service** building and noted its environmentally friendly aspects during a teaser for the evening weather. (9/8)

### OpEds

#### Religious Turmoil in America



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic Studies, wrote an opinion piece for [CNN.com](#) suggesting Pastor Terry Jones and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf "appeared to be disconnected" from the controversies surrounding them in the media until recently. Ahmed observed, "Two men of God, both believing that they are motivated by their faith, are adding fuel to the fire flaring around the religion of Islam in the United States today." (9/8)

### Quotes

#### Burn Quran Day



Florida Pastor Terry Jones threatened to burn the Quran, the Muslim holy book, if Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf did not change his plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero. **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, commented on the pastor's ultimatum on [CNN's American Morning](#), "I've never heard this argument before that a construction that's yet to be created is somehow jeopardizing this national security of the [USA]." He discussed the controversy on [BBC World News](#), [BBC Radio](#), [WJLA-ABC7](#) and [WTOP](#) Radio. The [Associated Press](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) quoted him. (9/8-9/9)

## First Daughters Adjusting to Life in the White House

**Chicago Tribune**

From meeting the Jonas brothers to traveling to domestic and international locations the first daughters experience life differently than most peers their age according to the [Chicago Tribune](#). **Anita McBride**, executive in residence with the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, said the mansion's recreational offerings can be a plus for the girls, and "the girls to have [developed] some good and happy relationships here in D.C." (9/5)

## Castro Back In Action



Cuban dictator Fidel Castro has reentered public life after rumors of his death according to the [Christian Science Monitor](#). **William LeoGrande**, dean of the School of Public Affairs, said "I think [Cuba is] staging in very gradual ways his reintroduction." (9/8)

## New Technology: Helping or Hurting?

**THE CHRONICLE**  
of Higher Education

In a [Chronicle of Higher Education Wired Campus](#) podcast, **Naomi Baron**, professor of linguistics, discussed the impact of new technology, such as cell phones and laptops in classrooms. She said technology is changing social interactions and shared her concerns that too much new technology isn't good for both students and faculty. (9/9)

## Sexual Harassment In and Out of the Work Place

Silicon Valley  
**MercuryNews.com**

"Adding alcohol to the mix makes things riskier for the organization," said **Caren Goldberg**, professor of management, to [San Jose Mercury News](#) about inter-employee relationships inside and outside of the office. "There's nothing inherently wrong or unusual about it," referring to happy hour, "but I think organizations probably do need to be a little guarded, I guess, in making sure that everyone understands that the same rules with regards to sexual harassment that apply on-site apply off-site." (9/4)