



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

AU Newsmakers

October 26 – November 2 2012

Prepared by University Communications

For prior weeks, go to <http://www.american.edu/media/inthedia.cfm>

Top Story

Women and the Elections



Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, and **Anita McBride**, executive in residence for the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed the pivotal role women play in elections including, voting, issues, running for office, and serving as First Lady. **Lawless** spoke to [Glamour Magazine](#) about the lack of women in public service positions. “The problem is not the voters. When women run, they fare just as well as men. The problem is that women aren’t recruited to run,” said Lawless. She also spoke to [WTTG-FOX5](#) on the importance of women voters in the presidential election. With [Agence France Press](#), **McBride** discussed why Michelle Obama is a critical part of her husband’s bid for a second

term in the White House. “She’s [Michelle Obama] been very effective at using her platform, using her voice, in attempting to make a difference in the issues she’s engaged with,” said McBride. (10/26, 10/30)

Redistricting, Sandy, Education and the Elections



During an in-studio appearance on [WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show](#), government professor **David Lublin** spoke about Maryland’s controversial congressional redistricting and its potential impact on the election. “We may get more swing districts precisely because they won’t do what they did in the last decade which is the Democrats and Republicans divvy up the districts. Though, I would point

out that in Maryland, actually, the gerrymandering, such as it is, has probably made the district’s unbalance more swingy rather than more hyper-partisan for one party or the other because that’s what you have to do in order to try and win more districts,” said Lublin. With the [Hechinger Report](#), Lublin discussed why both presidential candidates often talk about their education platforms. “It’s a positive theme for the future they can emphasize, rather than an attacking theme,” said Lublin. Also, in an op-ed for [The Globe and Mail](#), Lublin questioned, with early voting already in place, whether Hurricane Sandy would have an effect on the Presidential election. (10/26, 10/30, 11/1)

Additional Features

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 the class discussed whether Hurricane Sandy would affect election outcomes. The class will be televised each week throughout the election season. Tune in next week for the last televised class this campaign season. (11/1)

Schools Took Emergency Precautions as Hurricane Sandy Struck



In a feature about how colleges and universities responded to Hurricane Sandy, [USA Today College](#) highlighted the efforts of **AU’s Emergency Response Team**. The article cited the process that AU conducts in making the decision to close, and the tools AU used during the crisis to communicate with faculty, staff, and students. (10/31)

Idealism Harder to Find from Young Volunteers

The New York Times

In a feature about young people volunteering during a presidential election, the [New York Times](#) talked to two students at “the most politically charged campus in America.” **Kathryn Tinker**, president of the AU College Democrats, and **Thadius Main**, campus coordinator for AU’s Students for Liberty chapter, discussed why they are supporting their candidate of choice. (10/31)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

The New Politics of Human Rights in the Middle East



For [Foreign Policy magazine](#), **Shadi Mokhtari**, international relations professor, wrote about the advances in the fight for human rights in the Middle East. “These strengthened human rights forces now insert their voices into virtually every unfolding political contest—openly bringing past and present abuses to light and pushing human rights stances into constitutions—drafting processes, parliamentary agendas, and socio-economic policies,” wrote Mokhtari. (10/30)

Expertise

Sentencing Begins In Brazil Corruption Trial



International service professor **Matthew Taylor** explained to the [Associated Press](#) why the Brazilian corruption trial should not be held with too much significance. “The courts remain the chief bottleneck for justice in Brazil. While this case is very important, it is the exception that proves the rule. The fact that there are special privileges for politicians is anachronistic for a democracy as vibrant as Brazil,” said Taylor. More than **170** outlets, including the **San Jose Mercury News**, **Houston Chronicle**, and **Palm Beach Post**, republished the article. (10/26)

U.S. Appeals Court Rejects Argentine Bond Arguments



The [Associated Press](#) interviewed **Arturo Porzecanski**, director of the International Economic Relations Program, about the U.S. Court of Appeals ruling against Argentina on its treatment of bond holdouts. “This decision has driven a stake through the heart of Argentina’s legal and political strategy of refusing to pay the holdouts while paying all other bondholders,” said Porzecanski. More than **130** outlets, including the **Wall Street Journal**, **Houston Chronicle**, and **Washington Post**, republished this article. (10/26)

From ‘Frankenstorm’ to ‘Grease’: The Foul-Weather Lexicon of Hurricane Sandy



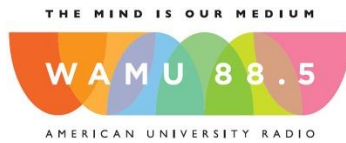
Linguistics professor **Naomi Baron** explained to the [Washington Post](#) why people use clichés and neologisms like Frankenstorm or hunkering down when talking about severe weather situations, such as Hurricane Sandy. “We want to use the terms that people who know what they are talking about use. We learned as kids how to pronounce the word Sputnik, because we wanted to be able to talk about it,” said Baron. (10/29)

Obama Gets Christie’s Praise as Storm Aftermath Assessed



History professor **Allan Lichtman** talked to [Bloomberg](#) about President Obama’s efforts after Hurricane Sandy. “We’ve never seen anything like this before. There has been nothing on the national scale of Sandy so close to an election,” Lichtman said. (10/30)

Zap! Bang! Pow! Shazam: The Appeal of Comic Book Culture



During an in-studio appearance on [WAMU's *Kojo Nnamdi Show*](#), literature professor **Amanda Berry** discussed the wide spread appeal of comic book culture. "When I teach the graphic novel and the comic book, I think some students come to the subject with a sense that these are easy books to read or, you know, a quick read, a fun—only fun, and, you know, comic books are really complicated to read. They require a sense of what it means to think about two-dimensional words and images at the same time," said Berry. (11/1)

Romney vs. Obama: How They'd Tax Your Portfolio



With [MarketWatch](#), **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, talked about how the election outcome may affect the taxes on many people's investment income. "Because of these variables, it's not wise to make drastic changes to your portfolio right now," said Kautter. (11/1)

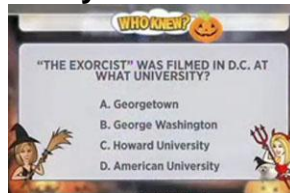
Foreign Policy Complicated



Jordan Tama, assistant professor of U.S. foreign policy, appeared on [Euronews](#) to discuss President Obama's success in foreign policy. "He [President Obama] has been very successful at taking out most of the leadership of Al Qaeda in Pakistan and Yemen in particular, including Osama bin Laden, of course. He has also reduced the U.S. military footprint in the Middle East, withdrawing from Iraq in a way that is responsible without Iraq descending into chaos or civil war and has started to withdraw from Afghanistan," said Tama. (10/30)

Bonus Clip

Today Show Trivia



At which university in Washington was the movie, *The Exorcist*, filmed—Georgetown, George Washington, Howard University, or **American University**? This was the question posed as part of a Halloween trivia segment of the [Today Show with Hoda and Kathie Lee](#).