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AU Newsmakers: Elections Special Edition

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories



On Election Day eve, 10 students from the School of Public Affairs, School of Communication, and School of International Service appeared live via SKYPE on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) from the Campaign 2012 C-SPAN Bus parked on the AU quad. The students asked questions of *Christian Science Monitor's* White House correspondent about a potential second term for President Obama. (11/5)

U.S. College Students Favor Obama by 30%



[United Press International](#) highlighted director of the Women & Politics Institute **Jennifer Lawless'** survey revealing President Obama had a 30 percent advantage over Governor Romney among college students days prior to the election. The article suggested, "despite the often vitriolic tone of the presidential campaign young people did not seem turned off—87 percent of U.S. college students said they planned to vote and 88 percent of high school students reported they would vote if they were old enough." More than **130** outlets, including the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and *HispanicBusiness.com*, republished the article. (11/6)

Obama's Facebook Fans Love Michelle; Romney's Love Winning



[The Atlantic](#) cited a study by communication professor **Deen Freelon** that revealed striking differences in President Obama's and Mitt Romney's Facebook audiences. "Romney's fans seem to be more goal-oriented than Obama's: rather than reveling in idyllic family scenes, they were most interested in showing off their support for Romney to their Facebook friends," found Freelon. (11/5)

SIS Election Night Watch Party Goes International



On Election Night, [WRC-NBC4](#) reported live from the School of International Service's watch party pointing out the enthusiasm of young voters. Media outlets from Germany, Slovakia, Morocco, [Saudi Arabia](#), Bangladesh, Sweden, and the Middle East also covered the event, interviewing students, faculty, and alumni. (11/6)

In Northern Virginia, Voters Share Thoughts on Election



For the [Virginia Pilot](#), School of Communication students conducted exit polling with Northern Virginia voters. The students spoke to voters about who they voted for and why they supported that candidate. (11/6)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

The Political Speechwriter's Life



Reflecting on his many years as a Democratic speechwriter, communications professor **Robert Lehrman** wrote a [New York Times](#) op-ed about the life of a political speechwriter. "It's tough to do great work when your first draft is often your last. It also can be difficult to make someone sound like Moses addressing the Israelites when you announce a three-point plan for reducing the deficit," wrote Lehrman. (11/4)

Is Obama Like Carter as Romney Says?



In a [USA Today](#) op-ed, **Robert Pastor**, co-director of the Center for Democracy & Election Management, wrote about the similarities between Presidents Obama and Jimmy Carter “Both think that war should be the last option, and that a multilateral approach is a better way to share the burden and to strengthen alliances. To rescue our hostages and mete out justice to bin Laden, Carter and Obama took risks,” wrote

Pastor. He also spoke to the [Chicago Tribune](#) about absentee ballots. (11/2, 11/5)

Expertise

The Race Was on for Independent Women Voters



On Election Night, **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, provided analysis for [NBC local affiliate stations](#) twice an hour between 7 and 11 p.m. With the [Washington Times](#), she talked about female independent voters. “There’s a reason you see the Obama campaign micro-targeting female voters. The Democratic Party is very well aware that they need this gender gap to exist to win elections,” said Lawless. She also spoke to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) and [New York Magazine](#) about women in the Senate and the way women govern. (11/5, 11/6, 11/7)

Election Night Radio Commentary



On Election Night, communication professors **Dotty Lynch** and **Leonard Steinhorn** provided commentary for [CBS Radio](#) from 7 p.m. through 2 a.m. “They’re called swing [states] for a reason and we’ve seen in the past few months that it is quite close. Obama had a lead and that has

narrowed, and that is what is making this a closer race,” said Lynch. Also, government professor **Antoine Yoshinaka** provided commentary on election results for [BBC Radio](#). (11/6)

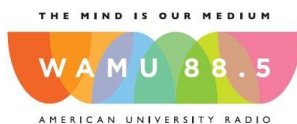
See Which Industries Funneled the Most Cash into Presidential Race



[NBCNews.com](#) interviewed **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, about the super PAC donors’ view of the presidential candidates. “They view [Romney] as one of them. They tend to view him as someone who accumulated substantial wealth doing what they do, someone

who understands what they do and someone who believes that what they do provides substantial value to the economy,” said Kautter. He also spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about the election outcome’s potential impact on the fiscal cliff. (11/2, 11/7)

Election Results: The Presidential Race



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies, spoke to [NPR’s Diane Rehm Show on WAMU 88.5](#) about how President Obama managed to win what the media characterized as a tight race. “I think that the media generally like to have a horse race, like to keep it very close. But I was watching what was happening in each of the battleground

states, and it looked like—this was going to be a blow out, that maybe Romney would win in Florida and North Carolina, maybe Virginia,” said Thurber. (11/7)

Is Early Voting Killing 'Election Day?'



[NPR’s Minnesota Public Radio](#) talked to **Dante Chinni**, fellow at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, about the impact of early voting, which is allowed in 34 states and the District of Columbia. “You lock a vote up early, it means it’s in the bank. As long as you keep expanding the options for early voting, you’re going to have campaigning that’s going to follow those patterns. You can go straight from a rally to get people to vote.” said Chinni. (11/6)

Mitch McConnell Fails again to Snag Majority



Politics professor **Richard Semiatin** spoke to [Roll Call](#) about the Mitch McConnell's Senate race and the Republican Party's struggles. "I think it's a function of what's happening within the Republican Party and the fight over the soul of the Republican Party," said Semiatin. Also, for the

[Florida Sun Sentinel](#), he predicted who would win Florida. (11/5, 11/6)

Electoral College Favors Democrats



Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the Electoral College. "Democrats enjoy a 10-electoral vote advantage from today's system of handing all of a state's electoral votes to that state's popular vote winner," said Steinhorn. He also discussed the

same subject with the [Boston Herald](#) and [WTTG-FOX5](#). (11/3, 11/5, 11/6)

Obama Has Granted Clemency More Rarely than Any Modern President



[ProPublica.org](#) spoke to politics professor **Jeffrey Crouch** about President Obama's long record of strictness on crime. "This idea of 'tough on crime' took root around the time of Ronald Reagan and it is striking that President Obama is showing so much less mercy than Reagan," said Crouch. More than **40** outlets republished

this article, including [Yahoo! News](#), [Atlantic Wire online](#), and [The Daily Ledger](#) (Illinois), republished this article. (11/2)

Lots of `Rising Stars' Seen for Republican Party



With [Bloomberg TV](#), and in two separate [in-studio](#) appearances on [WTTG-FOX5](#), **Anita McBride**, School of Public Affairs executive in residence, discussed the role female voters had on the elections. "How the debate, or the war on women, as this issue was coined during this election, really allowed Romney to be defined quite differently. Social issues rose to the top, when we could all agree, as both men and women, that our economy, and our fiscal health, and jobs are the most important," said McBride. She also spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about a new book focusing

on White House pets. More than **150** outlets republished the article. (11/6, 11/7)

13 Keys System Effective



Post Election Day, history professor **Allan Lichtman** appeared in-studio at [WTTG-FOX5](#) to discuss the accuracy of his 13 Keys system which allowed him to predict the winner of the election back in March 2010. "The keys to the White House are different than any other system. They're not based on polls; they're not based on the economy alone, the theory is that Presidential elections are both up or down on how well the political party in power has governed, not just the economy, but on a broad range of factors," said Lichtman. With [Politico](#),

and in a [The Hill](#) *op-ed*, he looked ahead to Obama's second term. (11/5, 11/6, 11/7)

Close Race, Romney's Future, and the Electoral College



The [Boston Herald](#) talked to communication professor [Richard Benedetto](#) and government professor [Patrick Griffin](#) about the Presidential race, Mitt Romney's future, and the Electoral College. "It all comes down to who can get their target vote out. I'm sure they know where they need to build up their support and they're working there. It's about whoever has the best ground game," said Benedetto. "I just don't see him trying to make a comeback," said Benedetto in a separate article about the 2016 race. **Griffin** discussed the opposition to the Electoral College. "There was a reason for the Electoral College to go into place in the first instance. That's why, in the end, efforts to upend it never gain much traction," said Griffin. (11/5, 11/6, 11/7)

Why White Men Supported Romney

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With [KCBS Radio](#) (San Francisco), politics professor **Matt Wright** talked about different demographics and their voting patterns. “There is a sort of fundamental demographic truth where it seems like Republicans for a long time have played on racial fear. It’s been a strategy that has paid off for them in the short term until very recently,” said Wright. Wright also provided pre-election commentary for **Sky TV** (United Kingdom). (11/3, 11/8)

Leighley on Voter Turn Out



Government professor **Jan Leighley** spoke to [KCBS Radio](#) (San Francisco) about voter turnout and things that candidates can do to interest more voters. “I think it’s helping people to understand some of the politics. I think the big connection can be if candidates offer issues that are different, so that the choice seems like it matters, and we have that in this year’s Presidential election,” said Leighley. (11/8)