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## **Uva's Miller Center Launches Blog**

### **Looking at 2012 Election Through Lens of History**

The Miller Center at the University of Virginia has launched a blog providing historical context to the 2012 election. The blog, "Riding the Tiger: The Presidential Election in Context," will feature insights from the Center's scholars as well as resources from its vast digital archives, including excerpts from the secret White House tapes, oral-history interviews and presidential speeches.

The blog can be found at [millercenter.org/ridingthetiger](http://millercenter.org/ridingthetiger).

Recent posts include video of President John F. Kennedy's 1960 speech on the separation of church and state; a look at the history and revival of manufacturing as a political issue; and an entry on the Tea Party's potential impact on the election.

The blog gets its name from the opening lines of volume two of President Harry S. Truman's memoirs, published in 1956. "I discovered that being a president is like riding a tiger. A man has to keep on riding or be swallowed," Truman wrote.

"We believe that the lessons of history have much to teach us and the candidates. With these blog entries, contributed by our scholars and designed to highlight existing materials and make them accessible to the public and press, the Miller Center intends to apply our resources and scholarship to add depth and dimension to the discussion of the day's issues," said Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, director and CEO of the Miller Center. Baliles served as the governor of Virginia from 1986 to 1990.

Material featured on the blog will include audio and transcripts from the secret White House tapes recorded by every president from Franklin Roosevelt to Richard Nixon; video, audio and transcripts from the Center's extensive presidential speech archives; and comprehensive oral-history interviews with the principal figures of past presidential administrations. The Center has completed or is currently conducting the oral histories of the administrations of every president from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush. It is also doing the oral history of Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Anne Carter Mulligan is the blog's managing editor.

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