



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

AU's WONKS Discuss the State of the Union



History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about what President Obama needed to say to win Congressional support. More than **500** additional outlets republished the article. Communication professor **Robert**

Lehrman spoke to the [McClatchy News Service](#) about the speech's importance. More than **50** additional outlets republished the article. **Anita McBride**, SPA executive in residence, and **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, spoke to [Washington Post](#) and [Roll Call](#), respectively, about people chosen to sit with the First Lady.

In separate interviews following the speech, **Eric Hershberg**, director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, spoke to [BBC Mundo](#) about Representative Marco Rubio's Republican response. (2/10, 2/12, 2/13)

Additional Features

Watch and Learn



In a trend story about graduate education and careers in homeland security, [Washington Post Express](#) featured the MS in Justice Program (terrorism and security policy) capstone class where professor David Martin McCormick's student run through a simulation attempt to thwart a terrorist attack. (2/11)

Lavender Languages Turns 20



New York City's [Next Magazine](#) profiled anthropology professor **William Leap** as founder and organizer of the Lavender Languages conference which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. [Washington Blade](#) also featured Leap and the conference. (2/13, 2/14)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

The Value of Service



In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), **James Goldgeier**, dean of the School of International Service, discussed why service and idealism are alive

and well among today's students as evidenced by the number of young people, include many AU students, who participate in the Peace Corps. (2/11)

The Rise and Hard Fall of Jesse Jackson Jr.



In an op-ed distributed by [McClatchy News Service](#), international relations professor **Clarence Lusane** wrote about former Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.'s disappointing downfall despite championing the poor while serving in Congress (2/13)

Expertise

Should U.S. Citizens in Al Qaeda be tried for Treason?

Los Angeles Times

In the [Los Angeles Times](#), law professor **Ken Anderson** suggested that federal courts weighing in on executive branch war decisions might violate the Constitution. (2/11)

Rampage Suspect Dorner has Fans on Social Media



Regarding ex-police officer Dorner's suspected shooting spree, communication professor **Scott Talan** spoke with [USA Today](#) about how social media publicly reveals people's innermost thoughts. This article was republished by more than 70 media outlets, including the *Cincinnati Inquirer* and *Indianapolis Star*. (2/14)

Domestic Violence Bill Vote Critical Test of More Inclusive GOP



Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women in Politics Institute, told [CNN.com](#) that supporting the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) could help Republicans show they're trying to be more inclusive. Lawless also spoke to [The Hill](#) about the VAWA. (2/12, 2/13)

Gauging South America's Biggest Economies



International relations professor **Arturo Porzecanski** appeared on [Al Jazeera English's Inside Story: Americas](#) to discuss failing populist economic policies in Venezuela and Argentina after a currency devaluation and grocery price freeze respectively. (2/13)

Can dialogue end Syria's crisis?



With [Al Jazeera English's Inside Syria](#), international relations professor **Hillary Mann Leverett** discussed the possibility of peace negotiations with the Syrian government in an effort to end the bloody civil war. (2/13)