



AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

AU Wonks Analyze State of the Union Address



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies and **Robert Lehrman**, adjunct professor of communication, analyzed President Obama's third State of the Union speech. With [Bloomberg News](#) and [Gannett](#), Thurber discussed the speech's impact on the 2012 elections, and Governor Mitch Daniels' GOP response respectively. [WAMU 88.5's The Diane Rehm Show](#) also turned to Thurber for post speech analysis. Lehrman's op-ed on why the State of the Union is still useful appeared in [Politico](#). Lehrman explained the speech's creation process with

[BBC Mundo](#), and [C-SPAN2](#) covered a speechwriting panel he participated in. (1/20, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25)

Additional Features

Libyans Studying in America Witness Revolution From Afar



The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) described how the **Intercultural Management Institute's** diplomatic training program accommodated a group of Libyan students during the Arab Spring which interrupted their coursework. Student **Hassuna Baishu** said, "I need to finish the program and start my career as a diplomat. It's time to represent our country rather than someone's ideology." (1/22)

Fair-Use Guide Seeks to Solve Librarians' VHS-Cassette Problem



The [Chronicle of Higher Education's Wired Campus](#) online blog cited a new code of fair-use for librarians developed by **Patricia Aufderheide**, director of the Center for Social Media, and **Peter Jaszi**, professor of law. The code will help academic librarians take advantage of their fair-use rights to navigate common copyright issues. (1/25)

AU to Offer Master's in News Entrepreneurship



Students in a program to launch this fall will build, package, then pitch their projects to industry leaders or venture capitalists, ultimately for real funding, said Amy

Eisman, director of the SOC writing programs to [PBS.org's MediaShift](#) about **the School of Communication's** new master's degree in news entrepreneurship. "It's a whole new mindset. This is a town where everyone is looking to move information from one place to another. This gives a lot of people a place to find a home for their ideas," she added. (1/26)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Will Gingrich Get His Wish?



In an op-ed for [FOXNews.com](#), **Richard Benedetto**, adjunct professor of communication, compared GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich to his competitors in the Republican primaries. "But beyond debates, and qualifications and education and experience, it takes far more to win the White House. It also takes something many voters say Gingrich lacks – strong moral character," wrote Benedetto. (1/19)

Staying Out In Front



In an article for [Business Officer](#), the professional publication for the National Association of College and University Business Officers, **Nana An**, assistant vice president of Budget and Finance Resource Center, and **Erica Smith**, senior budget officer, explained how American University improved its budget and finance processes in innovative ways. "Improvement in budget and finance must start in the finance division first; we have to set an example by implementing best practices and testing innovative approaches," said **Donald Myers**, vice president of finance. (1/27)

Expertise

Adoptees Using DNA to Find Family



On [WAMU 88.5's The Diane Rehm Show](#), **Kimberley Leighton**, assistant professor of philosophy, discussed how adopted children are using their DNA to find their biological family. "They want to know what the narrative was that preceded them and that determined why they were relinquished," said Leighton. (1/26)

Why Don't More Women Run for Office?



[Gannett](#) cited a study by **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, in an opinion piece about why women seek political office less frequently than men. "There is a substantial gender gap in political ambition; men tend to have it, and women don't," said Lawless. More than **10** outlets republished the article. (1/24)

Taxi Ruling Could Set New Standard for City Services



Robert Dinerstein, professor of law, suggested to [Reuters](#) that last month's federal court decision which ruled that New York City taxis violate the American with Disabilities Act could set a new standard to be applied to other municipal agencies. "While you could say that not every city does the licensing of taxis the way New York does, it certainly could be analogized to other situations where a city agency is either regulating what's going on or, like here, where you could not legitimately run a taxi unless you went through the process," Dinerstein said. (1/20)

African American Women See Their Own Challenges Mirrored in Michelle Obama's



Caren Goldberg, assistant professor of management, explained to the [Washington Post](#) how Michelle Obama has been able to diminish stereotypes based on race. "In the case of Michelle Obama, who is in this very influential position, it is human nature for her success to reflect more positively on the group," said Goldberg. (1/19)

Newt Gingrich's Lambasting of John King Follows a Popular Line Among Republicans



For [Washington Post](#), **W. Joseph Campbell**, professor of communication, analyzed a heated primary debate interaction between CNN's John King and GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich. "Gingrich was clearly waiting for the question, clearly was prepared to pounce. King seemed taken off guard," said Campbell. (1/20)

50 Years Ago, Kennedy's Order Empowered Federal Unions



Robert Tobias, director of the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation, spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the number of unionized federal employees since the Kennedy administration. According to Tobias, approximately 63 percent of current federal employees are union members. (1/19)

Republican Candidates Challenge Dem Dominance of Social Media



Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, spoke to [Capital News Service](#) about the use of social media in political campaigns. "You are building a campaign in which you're going to engage people, constantly motivate them, and keep them in the loop, and there is perhaps no better medium to do that than social media right now," said Steinhorn. More than **30** outlets, including **FOXNews.com**, **Sacramento Bee** online, and **WTTG-FOX5** online, republished the article. (1/20)

A Look at the Florida Keys for Mitt, Newt



With the [Philadelphia Daily News](#), **David Lublin**, professor of government, discussed distinctions between GOP presidential hopefuls Romney and Gingrich suggesting personality plays a more important factor than policy positions. "These candidates don't fundamentally disagree on much," said Lublin. (1/23)

Beasts of Burden



For [Time](#) magazine, **Christopher Palmer**, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, described how animals are treated on movie sets and the requirements to ensure the safety of animals and their handlers. "Horses or dogs or cats are basically tame, but a wild animal like a tiger is just that—wild—and I'm not sure it can be trained for film without some coercion," said Palmer. (1/23) **Subscription Only*

Key Retirements Sap Institutional Knowledge



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed with [Roll Call](#) the retirement of key Democratic Party members from Congress. "These are people who really know the institution. They are workhorses; they are not people who make the news all the time but are very important in terms of knowing how the place works," said Thurber. (1/19)

Mullahs, Militants and Military – Pakistan's Shadowy Coalition



Stephen Tankel, assistant professor of government, spoke to the [Financial Times](#) about political uprisings in Pakistan. "There's no question that powerful elements in the security establishment view the [Pakistan Defense Council's] rallies and rhetoric as a way to shape the political terrain in their favor," said Tankel. (1/23) **Subscription Only*

Tax Reforms and Tax Delinquent Federal Employees



In separate appearances on **WTTG-FOX5**, **David Kautter**, managing director of the Kogod Tax Center, discussed [tax reforms](#) President Obama mentioned in his State of the Union speech, and suggested that the federal employees who are delinquent on their [tax returns](#) should be held to a higher standard. (1/25, 1/26)

Pakistan's Power Struggle



On [Al-Jazeera's Frost Over The World](#), **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, discussed the political struggle in Pakistan "The people of Pakistan are caught in a dilemma. They are not particularly enamored of the civilian government. Many see it as corrupt and incompetent. At the same time, they don't want another bout of martial law," said Ahmed. (1/21)

This Week's Bonus

The Four-Year Career



[FastCompany.com's](#) feature on millennials whose career paths take on an entrepreneurial spirit highlighted alumnus **Adam Hasler**. "Hasler's young career can appear exotic. But his essential experience—tacking swiftly from job to job and field to field, learning new skills all the while—resembles the pattern that increasingly defines our careers," read the article. (1/12)