



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Week's Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

Top Stories

Sense of Place



[University Business](#) showcased the new School of International Service's creative green elements and how the building reflects the school's mission. "We want the building to be an inspiration, and it already is," said **Lou Goodman**, dean of the School of International Service. "We want it to inspire students to dream and think about what they want to do in the world." (1/1)

American's Vlad Moldoveanu Has Come a Long Way from Romania



The [Washington Post](#) featured American University senior and basketball player **Vlad Moldoveanu** for his accomplishments on the court. In one week, Moldoveanu earned three top honors including

Patriot League Player of the Week, East Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Week, and U.S. Basketball Writers Association Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week—a Patriot League and AU first. (1/11)

Op-Eds/Editorials

Career Advice: Job Letters



In two compositions for *Inside Higher Ed*, **Richard Sha**, professor of literature, provided pointers on how academics should write job letters. Sha said, "The job letter is one of the most important pieces of writing an academic does. But I have seen, serving on 15 search committees, that some letters never have a chance." His [first piece](#) discussed how doctoral committees review recommendation letters and [the second](#) advised doctoral students on how to write their letter properly. (1/10, 1/12)

Quotes

Political Discourse and the Arizona Assassination Attempt



In the wake of the shootings at a Congressional rally in Tucson, AZ, several American University experts discussed political discourse in the United States. **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, appeared on [BBC World News](#), and **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, appeared on [WTTG-FOX5](#). Steinhorn, **Carolyn Brown**, assistant professor of communication, and **Connie Morella**,

ambassador in residence, were quoted in the [Boston Globe](#), [Financial Times](#), and [Roll Call](#) respectively. **Jane Hall**, professor of journalism, discussed President Obama's role as "Consoler-In-Chief" with the [Washington Examiner](#). (1/10, 1/11, 1/12)

NASA Names Backup for Giffords' Husband on Shuttle



Howard McCurdy, professor of public administration, discussed NASA's decision to name a back-up to astronaut Mark Kelly, commander of the space shuttle program's final flight and husband to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. "The shooting of Mrs. Giffords put NASA in an uncomfortable position about what to do with the April flight," he told the [Associated Press](#). More than 235 outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times*, republished the article. (1/13)

Struggle Forecast for Pentagon and Deficit Hawks



"The finger in the dike didn't work, and now he is acknowledging that pressure from outside is impinging on defense," said **Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, to the [New York Times](#)

regarding Secretary of Defense Robert Gates' defense budget cuts. (1/8)

Early Practice Fosters Entrepreneurial Common Sense



“The sooner someone gets thinking about business, the more likely they’re going to have practical intelligence in starting a business,” said **Barbara Bird**, professor of management, about her new research about entrepreneurial success in an interview on [The Insana Quotient](#) with CNBC’s Ron Insana. (1/12)

BP Likely to Face Criminal Charges



Dan Jacobs, executive-in-residence in the Kogod School of Business, discussed the likely legal fall out of the BP Oil Spill Commission’s final report in an interview on **Sirius XM Radio’s POTUS**. “What you’re going to see, you’ve already seen, the civil suit for billions of dollars in penalties by the Justice Department, and I think you need to stay tuned for criminal charges down the road,” he said. (1/12)

Republicans Boost Ayotte as New Face of Party



“The GOP has not elected any new women to the Senate in recent election cycles, so they finally have an opportunity to showcase one. That’s what it is, though—showcasing,” said **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, to [Roll Call](#) about Senator Kelly Ayotte’s newfound spotlight in the Republican Party. (1/12)