



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Week's Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

Top Stories

The 2010 Post 200



The [Washington Post's Capital Business](#) published a list of the 200 largest companies in Washington, D.C. that power the local economy. [American University](#) with one of the highest enrollments for the 2009-2010 academic school year ranked fifth among local universities. (12/27)

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies 2010 Winter Institutes



The **Campaign Management Institute** hosted its annual two-week class to train individuals for political campaign participation. Students heard from campaign industry woks including [Ben Nienaber](#), [David Winston](#), and [Jeff Berkowitz](#). At the **Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute**, students learned from American University President [Neil Kerwin](#), [Elizabeth Moler](#), [Charles Brain](#), and [Michael Berman](#). **C-SPAN2** provided live broadcasts of the sessions. Between live sessions and re-airs, more than 65 hours of programming appeared on the **C-SPAN** Networks. (12/27-1/7)

Additional Features

Common Sense Key to Entrepreneurial Success



In her research study, [Barbara Bird](#), professor of management, found that entrepreneurs who learn from experience have an edge over those who acquire knowledge through observation or reading. Bird told [Reuters](#), "They have to make the best decisions possible in the least amount of time. They need to act. Practical

intelligence empowers them to act quickly and confidently." (1/6)

Banks Slowly Getting Stronger



[Wendell Cochran](#), professor of communication, authored an article for the [BankTracker](#) series, a joint project of AU's Investigative Reporting Workshop and msnbc.com. He wrote, "The only category of troubled

assets still growing is 'other real estate owned,' which is primarily property the banks acquired through foreclosure. As of the end of September, banks had \$46.9 billion worth of other real estate owned, a 21 percent increase since the first of the year." (12/21)

Op-Eds/Editorials

Christians Senselessly Tormented by Extremists in Muslim World



[Akbar Ahmed](#), chair of Islamic studies, coauthored an op-ed for [CNN.com](#) about the persecution of Christians in Muslim nations. He wrote, "Christians living in the great societies of Islamic history, including Muslim Spain and the Ottoman Empire, largely

lived in peace and security according to their own laws. Yet in the past few years, the persecution of Christians has increased in scope and frequency." (12/23)

A Leaner and Meaner Defense

FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

"The United States faces a watershed moment: it must decide whether to increase its already massive debt in order to continue being the world's sheriff or restrain its military missions and focus on economic recovery," wrote **Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, in an essay for [Foreign Affairs](#) magazine which focused on improving the Pentagon's performance by cutting its budget. (12/22)

Slavery, Jim Crow and the White House

counterpunch

Clarence Lusane, professor of international service, wrote an editorial for [Counterpunch.org](#) about "The President's House: Freedom and Slavery in Making a New Nation" a new exhibit in Philadelphia's Independence Park. "The President House exhibit's most important lesson is not about the country's first President, but about the voiceless people whose stories have gone untold for centuries," wrote Lusane. (12/17)

Quotes

Kennedy's exit from Congress leaves a family void

AP

Associated Press "It is a milestone," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to the [Associated Press](#) about Representative Patrick Kennedy's exit from the House, ending an era of more than 60 years of the Kennedys serving in office. "Frankly, it's not as if there's a new generation of Kennedys ready to move into public life in a major way," said Lichtman. More than 150 outlets, including the *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times*, published the article. (12/26)

Daley Bring Business and Political Smarts to Job

AP

Associated Press **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed President Obama's new chief of staff with the [Associated Press](#). "[William Daley] is different than Rahm. His ego is not as big and I think that's good for the White House. He's not going to be sending a fish to anybody," he said. More than 125 outlets, including the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, republished the article. (1/6)

Senate Passes Bill to Lift Military Gay Ban

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Michelle McCluer, executive director of the National Institute of Military Justice, discussed the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' with the [Wall Street Journal](#) and in a radio interview on New York City's public radio station [WNYC](#). "The individuals who are in the military who are currently serving who are homosexual, I think, are going to be reticent at first to step forward until they see that the command is implementing the policy," she said. (12/18)

Chicago Seen as Likely 2012 Obama HQ

Chicago Tribune

"He will and must select Chicago. Obama needs to project an anti-Washington image and keep the campaign staff far away from the echo chamber in D.C." said **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, to the [Chicago Tribune](#) about where President Obama should set up his reelection headquarters. More than 25 outlets republished this article. (12/24)

The 112th Congress Convenes

The Washington Post

Allan Lichtman, professor of history, discussed the transition between the 111th and 112th Congresses, in an [interview](#) and [online chat](#) with the *Washington Post*, in a radio interview with Boston's NPR affiliate [WBUR](#), and in an appearance on [WTTG-FOX5](#). (12/20, 12/23, 12/31)

A Milestone for Mikulski, the 'Dean' of Senate Women

The Washington Post

As Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) becomes the longest serving female Senator, **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, doesn't see much to celebrate in terms of women's equality in

Congress. "I have a more 'glass is half empty' outlook on this one," said Lawless to the [Washington Post](#). "When we are 52 percent of the population and only 17 percent of the Senate, it's difficult to say we've made so much progress, especially when that number has plateaued." (1/4)

Double Standard on Stock Ownership in Military Development

The Washington Post

The Senate Armed Services Committee prohibits its staff and presidential appointees requiring Senate confirmation from owning stocks or bonds in companies with Defense Department contracts, but

no such provision applies to the senators who sit on the committee. "You get a great deal of information about the Pentagon's intentions for the future," said **Gordon Adams**, professor of international service to the [Washington Post](#). "As a member, you have vastly more information than the average Wall Street adviser or investor." (12/18)

Obama Looks to Reagan Years as a Way to Move Agenda

Bloomberg Businessweek

"It's been one of the fastest cycles of political recoveries I've ever witnessed," said **Patrick Griffin**, associate director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, to [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#) about President Obama's agenda for the

new Congress. **James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, also discussed President Obama's legislative agenda with the new GOP controlled House on [WAMU's The Diane Rehm Show](#) and [MarketPlace: American Public Media](#). (12/23, 1/3, 1/4)

Argentina Swap Seeks Default Closure

Bloomberg Businessweek

Arturo Porzencanski, professor of economics, discussed Argentina's decision to reopen its debt swap to investors with [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#). He said "it won't cure the default because the bulk of the bondholders who didn't enter have

consolidated into a hard core of litigants who have judgments and have won lawsuits." (1/5)

Defining Moments at the Court in 2010

THE NATIONAL
LAW JOURNAL
with D.C. news from LegalTimes

Jamin Raskin, professor of law, highlighted the Supreme Court's top 2010 moments with the [National Law Journal](#). President Obama's scolding the justices over Citizens United and Justice Samuel Alito, Jr.'s negative reaction tops the list. "It confirmed the dominant impression of the Court as closely

aligned with the agenda of corporate America, and what Alito did showed just how passionate the justices are on that side," said Raskin. (12/28)

Baby Boomers Turn 65

news-press.com
Fort Myers, Florida • Southwest Florida

As the first wave of the Baby Boom generation turns 65 this year, **Leonard Steinhorn**, professor of communication, discussed the generation's impact on society, with Southwest Florida's [News-Press](#). "Boomers pivoted society in a new direction. We are a far better society today because of the values they instilled in everyday life," he said. (1/1)

Tax on Cuban Cash Exchange Lifted

ALJAZEERA

Philip Brenner, professor of foreign policy, discussed the end of a tax on American money exchanged in Cuba with [Al Jazeera English](#). Cubans will be able to pay the 10 percent fee in pesos instead of being forced to pay in dollars. "What this means is that if a Cuban American wants to send money to a family in Cuba, they will pay less,

they will be able to send more," he said. (12/28)