



## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### World's Best Places to Study International Relations



In its special report on international relations education, *Foreign Policy* magazine ranked **American University's School of International Service** among the world's top 10 [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) programs. School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier's op-ed about the changing nature of international relations education called for a more interdisciplinary approach. "As schools of international affairs continue to hire scholars and practitioners from disciplines other than political science, our conception of what it means to conduct research and train people in this field should broaden as well," he wrote. (1/3)**

#### Higher Education's Frequent Flyers: International Students Flock to U.S.

The Washington



The [Washington Diplomat](#) featured **American University** in a trend story about international students increasingly attending universities in the United States to get a top-notch, yet flexible, education. "I wanted to get in a school that had good computer science

and art programs and AU sounded perfect for me," said an undergraduate student from Chennai. **Fanta Aw**, director of AU's International Student and Scholars Services, noted the importance of helping foreign students adjust. (1/2)

### Additional Features

#### What European Debt Means to U.S. Banks



In a one-on-one interview, **Robert Sicina**, executive-in-residence in the Kogod School of Business, explained to [FoxBusiness.com](#) how the European economic crisis could affect the United States.

"There is a very real risk the debt issues in Europe might result in a double-dip recession in the U.S. Our recovery is both anemic and fragile. If the European Union goes into a recession and

therefore buys less of our goods, that could tip us over the edge into another downturn," said Sicina. (1/4)

#### American University Video Holiday Card Is a Favorite



[WashingtonPost.com's Campus Overload](#) column included **American University** in a roundup of video holiday cards from different colleges and universities. [Examiner.com](#) also included the AU card in its list of top holiday

videos. (12/14, 12/23)

#### Students Gearing up to Cover New Hampshire Primary



A [USA Today](#) trend story about universities sending students to analyze the New Hampshire primary featured students in AU's *Communicating the 2012 Election* class. AU student **Elaura Rifkin** said attending the primary will give her access to opportunities that otherwise, she wouldn't have had. (1/5)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Something Is Happening in Jordan



**Josef Olmert**, adjunct professor in the School of International Service, wrote an op-ed for [HuffingtonPost.com](#) about internal problems King Abdullah of Jordan is facing regarding his relationship with Israel. "Dealing with Israel may be attractive for the King also because he simply has no effective response to his own internal problems. So, preaching his political

gospel to foreigners is a good outlet. But is it really?" asked Olmert. (12/30)

## Imran Faces His Greatest Test



For [Al-Jazeera.com](#), Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, explained the challenges Pakistan's Imran Khan will encounter if he is given the opportunity to lead the country. "There is a direct correlation between the depths of the gloom in Pakistan and the high expectations of salvation from Imran Khan. It is clear that the greater the despair in the country, the more fervent the hopes in one man as savior," wrote Ahmed. (1/2)

## Expertise

### Congress Punts Hard Payroll Tax Work to 2012



Patrick Griffin, academic director of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, spoke to [Reuters](#) about the two-month payroll tax extension signed by President Obama and the consequences for Republicans capitulating to the Democrats. According to Griffin, the Republicans "overplayed their hand. How they interpret that lesson will be very interesting." (12/23)

### Hunt for Gas Hits Fragile Soil, and South Africans Fear Risks

**The New York Times** David Hunter, professor of law, spoke to the [New York Times](#) about U.S. involvement in the search for natural gas in South Africa. "Especially with energy projects, the U.S. and its funding institutions have a habit of promoting policies that foster a stable climate for foreign investors but that are not in the best interests of local populations," said Hunter. (12/31)

### Politics Wonk Analyzes Republican Presidential Candidates

**The Boston Globe** Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, spoke to the [Boston Globe](#) about how family members affect the public's perception of the Republican presidential candidates. "There's no question Romney probably has the family edge. Not only does his family look like a Christmas card, there are no skeletons in the closet as far as we know," she said. Lawless also talked to **Voice of America TV** about [Iowa Caucus results](#) and how [Iran's saber rattling](#) offers candidates an opportunity to capitalize on how to respond to threats. (12/30, 1/4)

### Returning Outsourced Jobs to America



On [NBC's Nightly News](#), Erran Carmel, professor of information technology, discussed the number of outsourced jobs returning to the United States from India. "What's coming back to the United States is just a trickle. Most of the jobs seem to be in low wage call centers," said Carmel. (12/31)

### Why Iowa?



On [MSNBC's Jansing & Company](#), Allan Lichtman, distinguished professor of history, discussed the importance of the Iowa Caucus. "It [Iowa] became first as part of one of the most momentous shifts in the nomination process in recent history. The shift from a system where many delegates were chosen behind closed doors by party bosses to a system of open primaries and caucuses," he said. He also discussed the Iowa Caucus on Canada's [Business News Network](#). (12/29, 1/3)

### 2011 Was about Congress. 2012 Will Be about the Supreme Court



Stephen Wermiel, professor of law, spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) online about how the policy battles of 2012 will take place in the Supreme Court, not in Congress. "This is huge. If it were up to the justices, they would prefer to be more out of the limelight. But it's a perfect storm, this convergence of cases and timing that can't really be avoided," said Wermiel. (12/30)

### Iraq War Lives on as Second-Costliest U.S. Conflict Fuels Debt



Gordon Adams, professor of U.S. foreign policy, spoke to [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) online about the debt accrued from the Iraq war. "The worrisome question has been 'what is the cost of running a high federal deficit?' That's a financing question: how we chose to finance the war," said Adams. (1/3)

## Both Lesbian Moms Have Parental Rights, Daytona Court Rules in Custody Dispute

**SunSentinel** Nancy Polikoff, professor of law, spoke to the [Orlando Sentinel](#) about a lesbian couple's custody battle over their daughter. "Any ruling that supports the right of a same-sex couple is important for its willingness to recognize that these families exist and a child raised in this environment shouldn't be forced to give up a parent," said Polikoff. More than **20** outlets, including the *Los Angeles Times* online and the *Chicago Tribune* online, republished the article. (12/29)

## Grand Juries: A Vital Tool or in Need of Reform?

**Detroit Free Press** Jon Gould, professor of Justice, Law and Society, talked to the [Detroit Free Press](#) about potential grand jury reforms in the U.S. court justice system. "I think that anybody who practices in the world of criminal justice knows that the grand jury is a tool of the prosecutor," said Gould. (1/3)

## A Close Call for Mitt Romney



On [WTTG-FOX5](#), Leonard Steinhorn, professor of public communication, discussed the results of the Iowa Caucus and what it means for Mitt Romney. "This nomination is Mitt Romney's to lose. Here he came in first, by a razor thin margin," said Steinhorn. (1/4)

## Cuba's Economic Revival



On [Al-Jazeera's Inside Story](#), Philip Brenner, professor of U.S. foreign policy, discussed the first resurgence in the Cuban economy since the 1950's. "They are turning over part of the economy to the private sector and allowing much more freedom for people to engage in economic activity," said Brenner. (12/27)

## Ron Paul Proposal Would Severely Curtail Supreme Court Docket

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES** Darren Hutchinson, professor of law, talked to the [International Business Times](#) about Congressman Ron Paul's proposal to remove federal courts' power to decide whether state laws are unconstitutional. "Paul wants to remove federal courts from the business of deciding whether state laws violate the federal constitution," said Hutchinson. (12/31)

## 20th Anniversary of the Soviet Fall

**The Voice of Russia** On [Voice of Russia](#) radio, Anton Fedyashin, assistant professor of history, discussed the 20th anniversary of the Soviet fall. "Not many people have lived through the collapse of a country in which they lived, especially one where the ideology was linked to the geographical borders," said Fedyashin. (12/26)

## Bonus Clip

### One AU Alum Highlights Another

**THE HILL** Kate Oczypok, an alumna of the School of Communication, wrote a spotlight article for [The Hill's](#) online *Washington Scene* about NBC's *Meet The Press* host and School of International Service alumnus David Gregory's holiday traditions and his participation in a School of International Service discussion. "I loved going back to AU. Talking to students and finding ways for professionals to be involved in their lives is great, I hope they benefited from hearing about my experiences," said Gregory about his frequent visits to his alma mater. (1/3)