



This Week's Newsmakers

February 18–25, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

Wealthiest in Washington Area Get Best High-Speed Internet Values

The Washington Post

The **School of Communication's Investigative Reporting Workshop** released a report showing that certain areas of Washington, D.C., get the highest quality broadband coverage. According to the [Washington Post](#), which broke the story, the study "found that people in the 25 richest Zip codes in the region spend about one-third less on average than those in the 25 poorest Zip codes for similar Internet access speeds." Four additional outlets also published articles. (2/18)

Additional Features

Eight Ways to Get Higher Education into Shape

The Washington Post

The [Washington Post Magazine's](#) feature story about steps to improve the American higher education system highlighted the **School of International Service's** three year bachelor's program as an example of a growing trend of colleges creating accelerated degree programs. (2/20)

Academy Award-Winning AU Prof Heads Back to the Oscars

The Examiner
WASHINGTON

The [Washington Examiner](#) profiled **Russell Williams**, artist-in-residence with the School of Communication, AU alumnus, and the first African-American to win two Academy Awards, as he geared up to return to the Oscars ceremony this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his second win. "So far in the African-American multiple Oscar club there are only three, but we're looking for more members, so put your projects together and hopefully get nominated," said Williams. He was also a guest on [WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) to discuss potential outcomes. (2/23)

Op-Ed/Editorial

Reform or the Flood in the Gulf



"The demands of Gulf activists, and increasingly Gulf publics, are broadly similar to those coming from Tunisia and Egypt: We want accountable governance, free of corruption. We want popular participation and to have our say on the issues that affect us," wrote **Kristen Diwan**, assistant professor of international service, in an editorial for [Foreign Policy](#) magazine. (2/20)

Quotes

Filmmakers Chronicle Africa's 'Last Lions'

The Washington Post

"When they film, they go out of their way not to disturb or even be noticed by the animals they're filming," said **Chris Palmer**, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, to the [Washington Post](#) about the filmmakers of the movie *Last Lions*. The [National Parks Traveler blog](#) also featured Palmer's storied career and recent book, *Shooting in the Wild*. (2/19, 2/24)

Saudi Arabia's Watchful Eye Looms over Bahrain Unrest

The Washington Post

"Saudi Arabia fears a constitutional monarchy in Bahrain. It's about empowerment of the Shia and what that might mean for Shia in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia," said **Kristin Diwan**, assistant professor of international service, to the [Washington Post](#) of the impact Bahrain uprisings might have on its neighbor. (2/23)

Facing a Government Shutdown



"No matter how you define essential, there are still going to be people who depend on services who aren't going to receive them," said **Robert Tobias**, distinguished practitioner-in-residence for the School of Public Affairs, on [ABC World News with Diane Sawyer](#) about the potential government shutdown. (2/20)

Presidential Leadership and Economic Crisis



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, appeared on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) to discuss how presidents Reagan, Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama have dealt with fiscal matters when Congress is divided. "I think the president always has the upper-hand because budgets are incremental," said Thurber. (2/22).

For Egypt's Women, Harassment Remains Part of Daily Life



Diane Singerman, professor of government, discussed the ways in which Egyptian women regularly experience sexual harassment with [PBS's NewsHour](#). "I would say a lot of it is verbal abuse. A lot of it is looks. A lot of it is catcalls. But there is also groping. There are also people sort of touching you when you don't want to be touched," said Singerman. (2/21)

White House, Black History



"There may have been some sense (among the American public) of Jefferson and Washington (owning slaves) because they're pretty well known to have had slaves. And what's significant about that is that compromise and that engagement also then shaped the country's policies around slavery and around race," said **Clarence Lusane**, professor of international service, on [NPR's Tell Me More](#) about how the notion of slaves in the White House shouldn't surprise people, but does. (2/21)

Obama Administration Drops Legal Defense of Marriage Act



Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, discussed the government's decision to end the Legal Defense of Marriage Act with [ABCNews.com](#). "The government has decided that prevailing social views of morality are no longer sufficient to justify discrimination against homosexuals," said Vladeck. (2/23)

Has Political Correctness Gone Too Far?



William Leap, professor of anthropology, discussed why GLAAD and other advocacy groups should hold comedians and other media figures accountable for LGBT depictions that are more hurtful than humorous with [Edge-NewYork](#). "It [insulting LGBT media narrative] does seem to show up more in times of economic crisis," Leap said. "People need something as a foil and a vocal point of anger, and that is something that I think is frankly serious." (2/19)

Federal Spending Cuts



Leonard Steinhorn, professor of public communication, appeared on [WTTG-Fox 5's News Edge](#) to discuss the federal budget cuts proposed by Senate Republicans. "When you put it starkly, the world according to the Republicans is that business creates jobs, every dollar the government takes in taxes hurts businesses ability to create jobs, so you've got to have less money going into government," he said. (2/19)

Metro Grade: How Dirty Is Metro and Does It Matter?



Nancy Zeller, director of biology teaching laboratories, assisted TBD.com with an experiment to determine the number of germs on Metro surfaces. “Wherever there’s a public place, it is loaded with germs,” Zeller said. “When you touched your cotton swab to a surface and then smeared it on the agar in the petri dish, the agar provides food and nourishment. Then the cells start dividing. In a matter of days, you can have a large bacteria colony.” (2/18)