



# This Week's Newsmakers

## March 4–March 11, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

### Top Story

#### Fair to Muslims?



"There is a generalized sense of Islamophobia floating around, and the hearings are not doing anything to assuage Muslim fears," said **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, to [CNN.com](#) about congressional hearings addressing radical Islam. He said the hearings could either encourage or diffuse a growing sense of suspicion aimed at Muslims in America. Ahmed wrote an op-ed for [The New York Times](#), appeared on [FOX News Channel's The O'Reilly Factor](#) and [BBC](#), was interviewed on [WAMU's The Diane Rehm Show](#), and spoke with the [Washington Post](#). (3/7-10)

### Additional Features

#### To LOL, or Not to LOL? That Is the Question



The [Associated Press](#) interviewed **Naomi Baron**, professor of linguistics, about the changing use of LOL—laughing out loud—in everyday communication, and mentioned her book *Always On: Language in an Online and Mobile World*. "One of the things that's pretty clear—whether LOL is in or passe—it depends on your social circle," Baron said, citing her research in to how day-to-day language changes with the times. More than 190 outlets including the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Seattle Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Yahoo! News* published the article. (3/6)

#### Reviewed: Grand Avenues and STAIN at the AU Museum



[Washington City Paper](#) reviewed *Grand Avenues* and *STAIN*, two exhibits at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. The review noted how perfectly *Grande Avenues*, an exhibition focused on D.C.'s traffic circles, fit with the museum given that nearby Ward Circle is included in the exhibit. (3/7)

### Op-Eds

#### David Broder: An Appreciation



"He wasn't out to indoctrinate or proselytize his readers. He was out to provide them with solid and well-researched information with which they could make decisions for themselves," wrote **Richard Benedetto**, professor of communication, in an editorial for [FOXNews.com](#) about the late *Washington Post* reporter David Broder. (3/9)

### Quotes

#### New Book Sheds Light on Lincoln's Radical Views



The [Associated Press](#) talked to **Phillip Magness**, adjunct professor of public administration, about a new book he coauthored on President Abraham Lincoln's colonization views. According to Magness, Lincoln's original draft of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation encouraged slaves to relocate to Central America. "It makes his life more interesting, his racial legacy more controversial," said Magness of Lincoln. More than 200 outlets including the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, [CBSNews.com](#), and [FOXNews.com](#) published the article. (3/4)

#### UN Probe Opened into Torture by Gadhafi Forces



**Juan Mendez**, visiting professor of law and part of a U.N.-sanctioned team investigating Moammar Gadhafi's use of torture on Libyan government opposition, talked to the [Associated Press](#). "We wrote a joint communication to the government of Libya on allegations that we received. It was an urgent action." More than 165 outlets including *Houston Chronicle*, *Boston Globe*, and [CBSNews.com](#) republished the article. (3/9)

## In Kuwait, a Long Battle to Oust the Prime Minister

**The Washington Post**

**Kristen Smith Diwan**, assistant professor of international service, analyzed demonstrations in Kuwait for the [Washington Post](#). "It's like a little Athens," said Diwan in reference to the democratic nature of Kuwait's political climate. "The men have a lot of free time, and they spend their time discussing politics." (3/6)

## Turning the Lens on Home Videos and the Right to Privacy

**The Washington Post**

**Patricia Aufderheide**, director of the Center for Social Media, told the [Washington Post](#) that according to the center's study on documentary filmmaking and ethics, filmmakers believe they have an obligation to protect their subjects from themselves. The obligation "is something that the filmmaker really needs to think about, whether it's a parent of a professional," Aufderheide said, in reference to the debate swirling around films for which parents are the filmmakers and children are the subjects. (3/10)

## The Slow Decline of North America

**The Miami Herald**

"We need to start over with a big North American idea, one based on the simple premise that all three countries benefit when one succeeds, and we are all hurt when one fails," said **Robert Pastor**, professor of international relations, to the [Miami Herald](#) about relations between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. (3/4)

## Groups Seek 2012 Repeat of 'Year of the Woman'

**ROLL CALL**

**Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, discussed with [Roll Call](#) how redistricting might affect the likelihood of new female representation in Congress. "It creates more open seats, and it induces more incumbent retirement. And so any time that you've got a white-male-dominated political institution that sees an upsurge in retirements, any marginalized group stands to benefit," she said. (3/8)

## Surprising Jobs Women Are Taking Over

**Forbes**

Women are increasingly landing jobs that have typically been perceived as male-dominated, including those in finance such as financial managers, budget analysts, and insurance underwriters. **Caren Goldberg**, assistant professor of management, told [Forbes.com](#) the sharp increase of female business school graduates—a 75% jump in the last decade—is likely behind the trend. (3/7)

## Defense: A Question of Scale

**FINANCIAL TIMES**

"It is simply not credible to describe a reduction of even perhaps \$23 billion from the 2011 defense budget as the end of the world—it is about three percent of the department's resources from last year," said **Gordon Adams** to [Financial Times](#) about Pentagon budget cuts. (3/6)

## Does ACLU Have A Case Against Metro's Bag Searches?

**WAMU 88.5**  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

"It's certainly not a frivolous lawsuit, although I do think it is an uphill battle for the ACLU," said **Stephen Vladeck**, professor of law, on [WAMU 88.5](#) about the constitutionality of bag searches in the Washington, D.C., metro system. Vladeck says this case could go a long way toward defining exactly how far law enforcement can go in the name of preventing terrorism. (3/4)

## White House Should Heed Lessons of Reorganizations Past

**1500AM**  
FEDERAL NEWS RADIO  
—Celebrating 10 Years—

Two policy wonks in the School of Public Affairs, **Robert Tobias**, distinguished practitioner-in-residence, and **Beryl Radin**, scholar-in-residence, discussed how the Obama administration should handle government reorganization on [Federal News Radio](#). "We've forgotten politics and we've forgotten federalism. I think that one of the real difficulties we haven't given enough space to the trade-offs we have to make among the different goals," said Radin. (3/9)