



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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## AU Newsmakers

December 5 – December 12, 2014

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Stories

#### AU Experts Discuss CIA Torture Report



Law professor **Stephen Vladeck** appeared on [CNN Newsroom](#) to discuss the CIA torture report and the prospects for prosecution of those involved. **Vladeck** also spoke to the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#) and appeared on [Al Jazeera America](#). Law professor **Jennifer Daskal** spoke to [NPR](#) about the “interpretation” of the McCain Amendment. International service professor **Joseph Young** and department of justice, law & criminology adjunct instructor

**Erin Kearns** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about their research on the public’s perception of torture. Law professors **Robert Goldman**, **Diane Orentlicher** and **Juan Mendez** spoke to the [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#) and [International Business Times](#), respectively. (12/10, 12/11)

#### Perry Wallace, Who Broke Basketball Barriers, Didn't Set Out to Be a Pioneer



Law professor **Perry Wallace** spoke to [NPR](#) about his biography, *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*. Andrew Maraniss chronicles Wallace’s experience as the first African American athlete in college

basketball’s Southeastern Conference. **Wallace** also spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the rise of social activism among athletes. (12/8, 12/5)

#### William LeoGrande on Charlie Rose



Government professor **William LeoGrande** appeared on [PBS's Charlie Rose](#) with his co-author Peter Kornbluh to discuss their book, *Back Channel to Cuba*. **LeoGrande** and Kornbluh discussed historical and contemporary U.S.-Cuba bilateral relations. (12/7)

#### In Chevy Chase, a Good Amphipod Is Hard to find



Maryland Community News Online

The [Gazette](#) featured environmental science professor **David Culver’s** research along with two of his graduate students in their search for whether endangered amphipods, a tiny shrimp-like species, live in an area of Chevy Chase, Maryland, slated for the proposed construction of the Purple line. (12/10)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Nature TV Is Running Wild. The Man-Eating Anaconda Is Just the Latest Atrocity



In a [Washington Post](#) op-ed, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking **Chris Palmer** and AU graduate student **Shannon**

**Lawrence** explained that the Discovery Channel’s “Eaten Alive” show and many other nature shows claim to have environmental and educational goals, but they actually encourage animal harassment for the sake of entertainment and increased ratings. (12/9)

## Online Education, With Great Investment, Can Provide Extraordinary Opportunities for Students and Faculty

**THE HUFFINGTON POST** In a [Huffington Post](#) op-ed, School of International Service dean, **James Goldgeier**, and international politics professor **David Bosco** explained the challenges and opportunities of developing a top-rate online master's degree for students who could not otherwise attend traditional brick-and-mortar classes in Washington for professional or geographic reasons. (12/9)

## Torture and the Rule of Law



In an [American Constitution Society](#) commentary, government professor **Chris Edelson** argued that torture is unconstitutional and that the executive branch is not above the law. **Edelson** assessed post 9/11 torture policy during the Bush administration explaining executive authority does not exist outside of the law. (12/10)

## Expertise

### New Efforts to Revamp Police Procedures Amid Charges of Racism



For [WAMU's Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, law fellow **William Yeomans** joined panelists for a discussion about biased police practices, nationwide protests and new efforts to bridge the country's racial divide. (12/8)

## In Seven States, Atheists Push to End Largely Forgotten Ban

**The New York Times** Program of Law and Government director **Jamin Raskin** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about a provision in Maryland's constitution that bans secular Americans from serving in office. **Raskin** explained that the provision banning atheists from holding public office was inconsistent with Maryland's history. (12/6)

## Consumer Change Written on Faces of Multicultural Dolls



Communication professor **Angie Chuang** spoke to [USA Today](#) online about the impact of American Girl's elimination of two non-white dolls from its lineup. **Chuang** explained that as the population changes, norms change causing a trickle-down effect to the doll industry. The article syndicated more than 80 times. (12/10)

## House and Senate Unanimous: No Social Security for Nazis



History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke to [Newsweek](#) online about Congress unanimously passing a bill stripping Nazi war criminals from receiving Social Security benefits. **Lichtman** explained that the bill was common ground on which both Democrats and Republicans could agree. (12/5)

## Why I Shop for Produce at Ethnic Markets

**The Washington Post** The [Washington Post](#) cited public administration and policy professors **Taryn Morrissey**, **Alison Jacknowitz** and **Katie Vinopal's** research showing the relationship between local fresh fruit and vegetable prices and healthy weight outcomes for U.S. children. (12/9)

## Report: More Minorities Studying Public Health



For [U.S. News & World Report](#), Public Health Program director **Jolynn Gardner** spoke about the increase of minority students majoring in public health and the role personal connections with these communities play for these students. (12/8)

## Urban Blacks in U.S. Have Little Confidence in Police



[Gallup](#) online featured the **American Communities Project** in an article about minorities' confidence in the police. (12/8)

## Robert Tobias on Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey Results



For [WTOP](#) radio, Key Executive Leadership Programs director **Robert Tobias** spoke about the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, saying that federal agency executives are losing the leadership skills to inspire employees to do a good job. (12/8)

## U-Va. Rape Investigation



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** appeared on [WTTG-Fox5's Good Day DC](#) to discuss the importance of accuracy and credibility within news stories. Communication professor **John Watson** spoke to [C-Ville](#) about ethics in the digital era of journalism. (12/8, 12/10)

## Dan Arbell on Israeli Settlement Protests



Center for Israel Studies scholar-in-residence **Dan Arbell** appeared on [Al Jazeera America](#) to discuss Israeli settlement protests and the international consequences. **Arbell** discussed the death of Palestinian minister Ziad Abu Ein. (12/11)