



AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

New Congress and President Obama's Last Two Years

Leading up to the 114th Congress' opening day, news media sought AU faculty expertise about the new Congress and President Obama's last two years in office.



History professor **Allan Lichtman** appeared on [MSNBC's The Cycle](#) to discuss President Obama's legacy and long-term effect on the country. **Lichtman** also appeared on [Voice of America TV](#). (12/19, 12/23)



[C-SPAN](#) covered a Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies discussion featuring former White House legislative directors from the last four presidential administrations moderated by Public Affairs & Advocacy Institute academic director **Patrick Griffin**, who also served in the Clinton administration as a legislative director. Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director

James Thurber also spoke to [CBS Radio](#) about the incoming Congress. (12/11, 1/6)



Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** appeared on [KETV-ABC7](#) to discuss women in the 114th Congress and running for office. **Lawless** also spoke to [Politico Magazine](#). (1/3)

Additional Features

How Grandchildren Botch the Best-Laid Retirement Plans

Bloomberg [Bloomberg](#) online featured Kogod School of Business finance and real estate professor **Robin Lumsdaine's** retirement study. **Lumsdaine's** study says that women are more likely to retire when they become grandparents, which can be detrimental to their retirement savings. (1/7)

Fleeing to Dismal Swamp, Slaves and Outcasts Found Freedom



[NPR](#) featured anthropology professor **Daniel Sayers** and his new book, *A Desolate Place for a Defiant People*. **Sayers** spoke about the conditions of Great Dismal Swamp and the escaped slaves who settled there. The segment aired on more than 70 NPR affiliates nationwide. (12/28)

The Understudied Behaviors of Grant Seekers and Grantmakers



[BizTimes.com](#) featured public administration and policy professor **Lewis Faulk's** research examining the behaviors of both grantmakers and grant seekers. (1/2)

'Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South'

The Washington Post

The [Washington Post](#) featured law professor **Perry Wallace** and Andrew Maraniss' biography of **Wallace**, *Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South*. The biography highlights **Wallace's** experience at Vanderbilt as the first African American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. (1/8)

Op-Eds

Voice Mail is Dying

The Washington Post

In an op-ed for [Washington Post's PostEverything](#), linguistics professor **Naomi Baron** argued that voicemail is "dying" and that we should not "hang up" on spoken language, which distinguishes humans from all other species. The piece also ran in the [Toronto Star](#). (1/2, 1/5)

Why Real Change in Cuba Won't Come Easy or Fast

Los Angeles Times

In a [Los Angeles Times](#) op-ed, government professor **William LeoGrande** argued that reestablishing normal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba will be a difficult task, but the "journey has begun." (12/26)

People Who Participate 'Beyond Voting' are Different

The Washington Post

In an op-ed for [Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog](#), government professor **Jan Leighley** argued that voters who are politically active beyond the polls have different policy views than low-engaged voters. (12/28)

Mario Cuomo: An Appreciation from a Scribe



In a [Real Clear Politics](#) op-ed, journalism professor **Richard Benedetto** argued that reporters don't have the opportunity to get to know politicians as people, as they once did. **Benedetto** recalled his time reporting alongside Mario Cuomo, saying that it wouldn't happen today because of "a fog of mutual distrust" between reports and politicians. (1/2)

The Case for Protected Status for Central American Migrants



In a [Roll Call](#) op-ed, **Eric Hershberg**, director of the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, and Washington College of Law professor **Jayesh Rathod**, argued that the White House should apply Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to migrants from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. **Hershberg** and **Rathod** explained that the TPS wouldn't be a long-term solution, but it would alleviate criticism about immigration. (12/22)

Expertise

Christmas Traditions Explained: Caroling



Daniel Abraham, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, spoke to [USA Today](#) about the tradition of caroling, saying it dates back to the 8th or 9th century. (12/21)

Crude Oil and Hedging



Finance and real estate professor **Jeffrey Harris** spoke to [NPR's Marketplace](#) about Continental Resource's hedging against crude oil prices. **Harris** said being on the wrong side of the market could destroy the value of any company. (12/19)

Inconsistency of Pakistani Policy



International service professor **Akbar Ahmed** spoke to [NPR](#) about the grant of bail of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, alleged mastermind of the 2008 attacks of an army school in Mumbai. **Ahmed** discussed the inconsistency in policy. (12/19)

Boston Bombing: Trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Begins with Jury



Law professor **Ira Robbins** appeared on [NBC](#) to discuss the process of jury selection for the Boston Marathon bombing trial. **Robbins** also spoke to [NBC News](#) online. (1/5)

Why Do Cable News Shows Use So Many Celebrity 'Experts'?



In a [Washington Post](#) interview, communication professor **Joseph Campbell** discussed the issue of cable networks using celebrities as experts, saying "the practice usually doesn't elevate or enrich the discussion." (12/23)

Twenty Years On, a Penetrating Look at Media Missteps



Communication professor **Joseph Campbell** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about the release of his new book, *1995: The Year the Future Began*, which depicts many important events from that year. (12/31)

College Hunt Looms for First Daughter Malia Obama



Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence **Anita McBride** spoke to the [Chicago Tribune](#) about Malia Obama's college search, saying that she can't imagine Malia not getting in whichever colleges she applies. The article syndicated more than 30 times. (12/27)

Michael Grimm Resignation



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke to [CBS](#) and [WTOP](#) radio about Michael Grimm stepping down from Congress after he pled guilty to tax evasion. (12/29)

Some Maryland-Based Businesses Look to Cuban Frontier



For a [Baltimore Sun](#) article, international service professor **Philip Brenner** discussed U.S.-Cuba restrictions, saying that tourism restrictions will likely be the first to end. (1/4)

The Next Battle for Ukraine



International service professor **Keith Darden** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about Ukraine and its ability to reform its government successfully. (1/3)

Caffeine Withdrawal Explained



[KPLA-FM](#) featured psychology professor **Laura Juliano's** research for a segment about caffeine withdrawal. **Juliano** noted how people often visit doctors for chronic headaches or flu-like symptoms and in some cases find they are suffering the symptoms of withdrawal. (12/23)

Hourly Wage Increase



Management professor **Mark Clark** appeared on [WKEF-ABC22](#) to discuss a federal minimum wage increase. **Clark** explained that a state-to-state minimum wage increase would capture the nuances of what states need. (12/28)

Is Greece heading for the "Grexit"?



International service professor **Miles Kahler** spoke to [CBS News](#) online about financial "contagion" in Europe and Greece's attempts at reform. (1/5)

Sony Hack Could be Game Changer



Department of Justice, Law & Criminology professor **Andrew Borene** spoke to the [Hill](#) about the Sony hack, saying that an info-sharing bill may be a possibility in the future. (1/4)

Why Islam forbids images of Mohammed



International service professor **Akbar Ahmed** spoke to [CNN](#) online about the Charlie Hebdo cartoon depicting Mohammed and the controversy of the cartoon. (1/8)

Update on U.S. Relations with Mexico



For [WAMU'S The Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, director of the Center for North American Studies **Mauel Suarez-Mier** spoke about U.S.-Cuba relations. **Suarez-Mier** discussed trade, security and immigration. (1/7)

Bonus Clip

Top Holiday Videos for 2014



[Examiner.com](#) named American University's "[Clawed's Gift](#)" video as a top holiday video of 2014. (12/25)