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AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

President Clinton Named Wonk of the Year



"Thousands of **American University** students gathered in the basketball arena Friday night to present Bill Clinton with their inaugural Wonk of the Year award, and after accepting the award Clinton spoke about the work of his foundation and 'embracing our common humanity,'" stated [Washington Post's Campus Overload](#) in its coverage of the event.

"He is the first person who comes to mind when you say wonk," said Alex Kreger, student director of the Kennedy Political Union, who presented the award on behalf of students. [ABCNews.com](#),

[Washington Post's Post Local online](#), [Examiner.com](#) and *Northwest*

Current also highlighted this inaugural award. (1/27, 1/28, 1/30)

A New Home for WAMU



[Washington Business Journal online](#) and [Washington City Paper online](#) covered the news that **American University** has signed a contract to purchase a building to become the new home for **WAMU 88.5**.

"We are pleased that WAMU will soon be housed in a facility to meet its current and future space needs, and provide an environment for future programming growth to better serve our listeners," President Neil Kerwin said in a statement picked up by all outlets. [CityBizList.com](#) and [DCRTV.com](#) also reported the announcement. (2/2)

Additional Features

What You Can Learn From Mitt's Tax Return

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

For [Wall Street Journal's Weekend Investor](#)

section, a trio of Kogod's Tax Center experts including **Don Williamson**, executive director;

Dave Kautter, managing director; and Center member **Tom Ochsenschlage**, analyzed Mitt Romney's tax returns. "The only schedules missing [from the Romneys' return] are the ones for fishermen, farmers and the elderly," said Kautter. Williamson added, "The credit [for \$1 General Business Credit] could be for hiring a disadvantaged youth or qualified veteran and it flowed through from an investment partnership." Kautter also spoke to [Bloomberg](#) about President Obama's tax plan and with the [Wall Street Journal's Total Return blog](#) about Mitt Romney's tax preparation. (1/26, 1/28, 2/1)

Rethinking College Admissions



Sharon Alston, vice provost for undergraduate enrollment, appeared on [WAMU 88.5's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) to discuss college admissions and the characteristics universities seek in applicants. "We are very much using our campus visitor center to connect students to what we think is most

important for them to know about AU, and that we're looking for students who are smart, passionate, focused and engaged," said Alston. (2/2)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Fear Itself: Time to Build Down



For [National Journal's National Security Experts Blog](#), **Gordon Adams**, professor of U.S. foreign policy, explained both from an historical context and fiscal standpoint the necessity for the current defense build down as the Iraq War has ended and Afghanistan War is wound down. Adams argues further defense cuts are warranted beyond what's already been announced. "The real challenge the Pentagon faces is that this first round of build down is only a start," wrote Adams. (1/31)

Expertise

China's Workers Are Targeted as Its Overseas Reach Grows

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Deborah Brautigam, professor of international service, spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#)* about the recent kidnappings of Chinese workers in Sudan and Egypt. "This will be seen—by the [Chinese] government anyway—as part of the learning curve and the price to be paid in 'going global,'" said Brautigam. (2/1) (*subscription required)

Brazil's President Flexes Clout in Cuba Trip

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

For [Wall Street Journal](#), **Matthew Taylor**, assistant professor of international service, analyzed Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's trip to Cuba where Brazilian economic assistance was announced in addition to engagement on other issues. "This is about growing Brazil's soft power on the international scale and raising Brazil's role in the world," said Taylor. (2/1)

Analysis: Wall St. Cash Flows to Romney Over Obama



REUTERS

Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, spoke to [Reuters](#) about Wall Street bankers retreating from their 2008 support for President Obama in favor of Mitt Romney in 2012. "Romney is one of them so they can feel comfortable with him," said Steinhorn. (2/2)

Paper Sacks Yale Quarterback



Appearing on [CNN's Reliable Sources](#), **Jane Hall**, associate professor of communication, discussed a *New York Times* article about the Yale quarterback informally accused of sexual assault. "There are anonymous sources, there is incomplete information, and then they ran a follow-up. The story seems very murky to me," said Hall, suggesting that the *New York Times* should have done more due diligence before publishing their story. (1/29)

EU Drafts New Rules Amid Greece Debt Talks



For [PBS's Nightly Business Report](#) and [American Public Media's Marketplace](#), **Matthias Matthijs**, assistant professor of international service, analyzed last weekend's European summit where German backed austerity measures remained a contentious issue. "If you can grow an economy, then we can bring down the debt- to-GDP ratio also. I think that's a big misunderstanding. America never paid back the big World War II debt. They grew out of it. That seems to be a much more attractive solution to the problem," said Matthijs on the *Nightly Business Report*. (1/30).

Carstens Beats Tombini as Yield Curves Diverge: Mexico Credit

Bloomberg

For **Bloomberg Arturo Porzecanski**, distinguished economist in residence, compared the Brazilian and Mexican bond market activity. As compared to Brazil, “[Mexico’s] central bank has a much better track record of keeping inflation very low and that explains why Governor Carstens’s conservative approach is welcomed by the bond market,” said Porzecanski. (1/30).

Do All the GOP Debates Matter?

U.S. News
& WORLD REPORT

“The debates have really become a focal point,” says Dotty Lynch, director of American University’s political communication program, to [U.S. News & World Report online](#) who questioned the need for more than 260 Republican presidential debates this campaign season. (1/27)

College Presidents Want to Make Campuses Greener

Greenwire

[Greenwire](#), a newswire service for environmental issues, highlighted American University as a school dedicated to expanding its involvement in the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. AU’s partnership with ACUPCC “is what is prompting these internal explorations and these programs,” said Chris O’Brien, director of sustainability. (1/30)

Muslim America Moves Away From the Minaret

BBC
WORLD
NEWS

Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic studies, discussed with [BBC News Magazine](#) the sensitivity and angst Muslims in the United States face in a post 9/11 world in building mosques where controversy over construction is forcing architectural concessions. “For non-Muslims [the mosque] has become the symbol of Islam and therefore a target,” said Ahmed. (2/1)

Analysts: Difficult Dialogue with Nigeria's Violent Boko Haram Essential

VOA

[Voice of America](#) talked to **Carl LeVan**, assistant professor of international service, about the escalation of violence in Nigeria between the government and Boko Haram, an Islamic radical group in Northern Nigeria. “A strategy that militarizes the conflict and reduces the opportunities for negotiations will, in fact, facilitate the internationalization of the conflict,” cautioned LeVan. (1/30)

Africa Policy Watchers Lose Hope in President Obama

VOA

For [Voice of America](#), **Kwaku Nuamah**, assistant professor of International Peace and Conflict Resolution, discussed the disappointment of some that Africa was not elevated to a higher priority in the first three years of the Obama administration. “I did not think the traditional contours of American foreign policy were going to change because there was somebody in the White House with ties to Africa, but of course a lot of people expected that,” said Nuamah. (1/28)