



This Week's Newsmakers

January 21–28, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

AU Faculty Works Analyze State of the Union Address



Several American University political and communication works analyzed President Obama's second State of the Union address. SOC's **Dotty Lynch** discussed how coverage has drifted from broadcast networks to cable news and the Web with [Politico](#). CBS News Radio, San Francisco's ABC Radio affiliate and [Federal News Radio](#) interviewed SOC's **Robert Lehrman**, who also wrote an article for [Christian Science Monitor](#). In addition, Lehrman was an in-studio guest for post address analysis on [WAMU 88.5 Radio](#) alongside SPA's **Connie Morella**. CAS's

Allan Lichtman discussed the Republican response with the [Washington Post](#). [WAMU's The Diane Rehm Show](#) and [Yahoo! News](#) interviewed SPA's **James Thurber**. Finally, SPA's **Jennifer Lawless**, participated in a [Canada Broadcasting Company](#) radio tour and provided post-speech analysis with [China Radio International](#). (1/21, 1/24, 1/25, 1/26)

Additional Features

Stress Driven by Economic Insecurity and Food Abundance Blamed for Obesity



"When I began to look into the issue of obesity, I realized that the most overweight are the least privileged members of society. And amongst those, it tended to be minorities. And amongst minorities it tended to be women. It

was those people who possessed the least control over their lives, and thus suffer the greatest insecurity and stress," said **Jon Wisman**, professor of economics to [eMaxHealth.com](#) about his research suggesting economic insecurity leads to obesity. More than 60 outlets, including [Asia News International](#), published articles about the research. (1/21, 1/22)

Circles, Stains at AU Museum



[Washington Jewish Week](#) featured *Julie Linowes: STAIN*, *Marisa Baumgartner: Grande Avenues*, and *Nicole Cohen: Driving in Circles*, three of the six exhibits at the [American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center](#). The article highlights Linowes, Baumgartner, and Cohen's D.C. roots and Jewish heritage. (1/26)

Op-Ed/Editorial

Hu Jintao's Visit Ends Any Dreams of the US and China Sharing the World Stage



Amitav Acharya, professor of international relations, wrote an editorial for [Jakarta Globe](#) about Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to the United States and the U.S.-China summit. "While the unipolar moment in international relations is over, it will not be replaced by a China-U.S. duopoly, at least not

an effective one that addresses the challenges of our time," he wrote. (1/25)

Quotes

Product Placement, Turned Inside Out



Patricia Aufderheide, director of the Center for Social Media, explained to the [New York Times](#) why high level officials of large corporations participate in interviews with documentary filmmakers, who typically put said officials on the hot seat. "If

they're not there, it looks like an admission of guilt," she said. "And at least if they show up they have a chance to get their side of the story—their spin—across." (1/22)

How Challenger Brought NASA Down to Earth



"When the shuttle turned out to be not what we thought it was, all those downstream visions began to crumble," said **Howard McCurdy**, professor of public administration, to [USA Today](#) about the 25th anniversary of the Challenger explosion. "The business model collapsed, and it wasn't just the business model for shuttle, it was the business model for shuttle, station, Mars, [and] the moon. It was like a corporation going down." (1/26)

Olbermann's Abrupt Exit: What Happened?



Jane Hall, associate professor of communication, appeared on [CNN's Reliable Sources](#) to discuss Keith Olbermann's resignation from MSNBC. "I think it's regrettable that his voice is lost because [Olbermann and MSNBC] were the anti-Fox. That's what he characterized himself as," said Hall. (1/23)

Accused Tucson Shooter's Day in Court



"Raise the insanity defense from day one, simply with the hope of saving the defendant's life once it comes to the sentencing part of the proceedings," is the strategy **Ira Robbins**, professor of law, suggested on [NBC Nightly News](#) for accused Tucson gunman Jared Loughner's defense team. More than 15 additional NBC affiliate stations re-aired the segment. (1/23)