



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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This Week's Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

Top Story

Challenges in Prosecuting Wikileaks Founder



Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, appeared on [CNN's American Morning](#) and [CTV: Canadian Television](#) to talk about challenges the U.S. government faces in prosecuting the WikiLeaks founder. "One of the hardest and most important things for the government to prove is that the defendant knew that what he was doing was violating the Espionage Act," he said. An [ABCNews.com](#) article also quoted Vladeck. (12/7, 12/8, 12/9)

Additional Features

Boosting the Profile of Local Artists



[WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) featured *CATALYST: 35 Years of Washington Project for the Arts*, an exhibit at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The segment focused on the WPA's history of helping local artists build their artistic reputations. (12/7).

Op-Eds and Editorials

GOP's Southern Stampede

[St. Petersburg Times](#) "For decades after the end of Reconstruction, the Democratic Party ran the South's public affairs, but the political world has changed, and last month, the formerly one-party Democratic region continued its evolution into a one-party Republican one," wrote **Danny Hayes**, professor of government, in a [St. Petersburg Times](#) Op-Ed about the strong Republican influence in the South. (12/5)

Quotes

Obama Wants New 'Sputnik Moment' for America

[AP Associated Press](#) The [Associated Press](#) interviewed **Howard McCurdy**, professor of public policy, about President Obama's charge for an American "Sputnik Moment." According to McCurdy, while a jolt of innovation is needed for the country, he's not sure what type of precipitous major event Obama is referring to. "Usually, it requires a Pearl Harbor, a shock to the system, and is followed by something new and major, neither of which is occurring," he said. More than 180 news outlets republished the article. (12/6)

In Congress, Short-Timers Pack Up as a New Wave Prepares to Move In

[The Washington Post](#) "The unvarnished truth is that most of them made absolutely no impression whatsoever," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to the [Washington Post](#) about ousted freshman and sophomore Democratic congressional representatives. (12/8)

Political Negotiating on Tax Cuts and Jobless Benefits



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed the tax cut deal between President Obama and congressional Republicans in an interview with [American Public Media's Marketplace](#). "The Democrats will claim that the Republicans want to give tax cuts to the very wealthy, and the Republicans will say the Democrats want to raise taxes and spend money yet again," he said. (12/6)

Bill to Bar Illegal Immigrants from State Colleges Pre-filed for Next Session



Virginia
Statehouse News

“Allowing people access to higher education is not just a benefit to them, it is a benefit to society,” said **William LeoGrande**, dean of the School of Public Affairs, to the [Virginia Statehouse News](#) about a Virginia bill limiting illegal immigrants from enrolling in public colleges. (12/8)