



# This Week's Newsmakers

## February 25–March 4, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

### Top Story

#### The Legacies of America's First Ladies



American University partnered with the White House Historical Association and the National Archives' Presidential Libraries to host top advisors to first ladies Lady Bird Johnson through Michelle Obama during The Legacies of America's First Ladies conference. "The first lady is the one person who provides her husband with unfiltered advice and the one person who can't be fired," said **Anita McBride**, former chief of staff to Laura Bush and now executive-in-residence in the School of Public Affairs, who organized the conference. [AOL News](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Houston](#)

[Chronicle](#), [Politico](#), and [The Hill](#) published articles. **Richard Benedetto**, adjunct professor of journalism and political science, wrote an [op-ed](#) and appeared in a [video segment](#) for [FOXNews.com](#). (3/1, 3/2, 3/3)

#### Kogod among Best Undergraduate Business Schools



[Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#) ranked the **Kogod School of Business** as one of the best undergraduate business schools of the nation in its 2011 ranking. Among schools that made the ranking, Kogod came in at 63 in the overall ranking and 43 in the student survey ranking, and received an A+ —the highest mark attainable—

for teaching quality. (3/3)

#### Ten Universities Producing the Most Interns



With a whopping 81 percent of all of its undergraduates completing at least one internship before they graduate, **American University** came in at number three in a new [US News & World Report](#) ranking of the nation's top 10 intern-producing national universities. (3/1)

#### An International Edge



[Sky](#) magazine, Delta Airlines' in-flight magazine, featured the **Kogod School of Business** in a trend story about internationally-focused MBA programs that teach students how to navigate the complex global market. "Our focus is on exposing and sensitizing students to the nuances of doing business across national frontiers," said **Frank DuBois**, chair of Kogod's Department of International Business. (3/1)

### Additional Features

#### Women Rare on Local Tech Company Boards



[DCTechSource.com](#) featured research conducted by the **Kogod School of Business** and commissioned for Women in Technology that found women are underrepresented on the boards of publicly-traded

companies in Virginia and D.C. "Diversity defines the workplace of the 21st century," said **Jill Klein**, Kogod executive-in-residence. "Women, a vital element in this diverse workplace, represent one of the largest, untapped corporate resource at all levels, including on the board of directors." (3/1)

#### Reel Journalism: Dan Rather



**Nick Clooney**, distinguished journalist-in-residence in the School of Communication, interviewed former CBS *Evening News* anchor Dan Rather for *Reel Journalism*—a coproduction of SOC and the Newseum.

They discussed Rather's opinion of mainstream media and his portrayal in the movie *The Insider*. The [Washington Examiner](#) and [MediaBistro.com/FishBowDC](#) published articles. (3/2-3)

## Two Time Oscar Winner Returns to the Oscars



**Russell Williams**, distinguished artist-in-residence in the School of Communication and AU alumnus, was featured on two **WJLA-ABC7** segments—one the [day before](#) and one from the [Red Carpet](#) at the Academy Awards—for his 20th anniversary of being the first African American to win two Oscars. “I thought that it would never happen, and it also happened back to back, so as a kid from Southeast D.C., a miracle still can happen,” said Williams. (2/26, 2/27)

## Basketball Trick Shots Go Viral



Numerous news outlets including [ESPN](#) and [Yahoo! Sports](#) featured **Joe Hill** and **Steve Luptak**, American University Men’s Basketball players, for their video of basketball trick shots that went viral on YouTube and has garnered more than 200,000 views. Locally, [WTTG-FOX5](#) and [WJLA-ABC7](#) profiled the players. In a city more passionate about politics than college sports, [Politico](#) and [Huffington Post](#) even took notice and featured the video. (3/2)

## Op-Ed/Editorial

### Bahrain’s Shia Question



**Kristen Smith Diwan**, professor of international service, wrote an editorial for [Foreign Affairs](#) magazine about the Shia population in Bahrain. “Contrary to Western fears and the Bahraini regime’s announcements, the country’s largely Shia opposition movement is not an Iranian implant,” wrote Diwan. (3/2)

## Quotes

### Is Obama Unbeatable in 2012?



“An economic downturn would hurt him but not be fatal to his reelection,” said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to the [Christian Science Monitor](#). “A combination of economic downturn and another 9/11-style attack on U.S. soil would finish off Obama for reelection, but that’s a lot to have to happen,” said Lichtman. (3/1)

## Buffet ‘Itchy’ for Takeovers at Berkshire



“He’s saying that the economy is turning and he’s not as concerned about having the extra capital available for his own operating companies,” said **Gerald Martin**, professor of finance, to [Bloomberg BusinessWeek](#) about Warren Buffet’s recent announcement to Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., shareholders that he is ready

to make more big acquisitions. (2/28)

## Petitions, Not Protests, in Saudi Arabia



**Kristen Smith Diwan**, professor of international service, discussed how the protests across North Africa and the Middle East could affect key U.S. allies such as Saudi Arabia on [FOX Business Network](#). “The Saudis are very concerned with the popular democratic uprisings that are taking place,” said Diwan (2/25)

## Military No Longer Protected From Budget Knife



**Gordon Adams**, professor of international service, discussed the defense budget cuts with [Government Executive](#) and during [two](#) radio segments on [Federal News Radio](#). “The defense budget had reached an inflection point that mandated more fundamental action,” said Adams. (2/28, 3/1-2)

## Creativity and Learning



**Gail Humphries-Mardirosian**, professor of theatre, discussed the importance of encouraging children to creatively express themselves with [Washington Family Magazine](#). “If we generate thinkers who just know responses that fit into precise bubbles, we cannot foster creativity,” said Humphries-Mardirosian. (3/1)