



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

# This Week's Newsmakers

## Aug. 20 – Aug. 27, 2010

### Top Stories

#### Freshman Service Experience



First year students were featured in *The Northwest Current* for their efforts during last week's Freshman Service Experience. They volunteered at Tenleytown's Washington Home and Community Hospice. Students served at more than 50 sites throughout the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia suburbs and according to freshman participant, Aaron Grushkin, the goal was to contribute 14,000 hours of service by the end of the week. (8/25)

#### Ground Zero Mosque Controversy Grows



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, continued to appear in national media outlets to discuss the controversy around the Ground Zero mosque, religious tolerance, and American perceptions of Muslim Americans. In his appearances on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) and [Fox News' O'Reilly Factor](#), Ahmed discussed the mosque controversy, including his views about Imam Fiesal Abdul Rauf and the need for Muslims to be more sensitive to post 9/11 issues. In [The New York Times](#), Ahmed said, "[Fiesal Abdul Rauf] is in the eye of a storm for which he's not suited at all. He's not a political leader of Muslims, yet he

now somehow represents the Muslim community." Ahmed was also quoted in stories on [CNN.com](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

### Additional Feature

#### Mosque Controversy Stirs Discussion on Campus



**Tanim Awwal**, president of the Muslim Student Association, was interviewed by [The Washington Post](#) for a feature about Muslim college student reactions to the Ground Zero mosque controversy. AU was mentioned as a campus where Muslim students felt safe and included despite tension throughout country over post 9/11 issues. (8/27)

### OpEds

#### Experiencing the Journey into America

[washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

For [The Washington Post's "On Faith" column](#), AU graduate fellow **Hailey Woldt** discussed her experiences working with **Professor Ahmed** on his new book *Journey into America: the Challenge of Islam*.

"For many non-Muslim American children, they are inheriting a legacy of fear and mistrust and there are innocent Muslim children, not even in existence on 9/11, who are becoming the victims." (8/24)

## Quotes

### How Long Should a Campaign Last



"You have no choice. Unless you are a sitting President, you have to start at least two years in advance," said **Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, to [Time Magazine](#) about the pattern of presidential election campaigns in America. (8/18)

### Sherrod Declines USDA Offer



Shirley Sherrod declined an offer for a new job with her former employer, the USDA, after she had been wrongfully fired based on comments taken out of context. "Sherrod may be able to use her visibility to raise awareness of the questions of racism and discrimination underscored by her ordeal," Jane Hall, associate professor of communication, told the [Tribune Wire Service](#). The story was republished in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, among others. (8/24)

### Documentaries Go Mainstream



"There is a growing hunger for content on all screens from cable to the movie theaters," Patricia Aufderheide, director of the Center for Social Media, told the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about the growing popularity of documentary films. She explained that in the past, audiences for feature documentaries had been underserved, but now, films are even showing in theatres once reserved for major motion pictures. (8/20)