This Week’s Newsmakers
Nov. 12 – Nov. 19, 2010
Prepared by University Communications

Top Stories

Less Spending for National Security

Gordon Adams, professor of foreign policy, led a team that prepared the Bipartisan Policy Center’s military spending recommendations for its new report aiming to address the U.S. deficit. Adams discussed his team’s recommendations, which included a 5-year freeze on Pentagon spending, with the New York Times, acknowledging it would not be easy. Adams also spoke to NPR.org about Democrats losing their top defense and military voices on the Hill. (11/12, 11/17)

Additional Features

Blasphemy Law Prevents Free Speech in Pakistan

During a 7-minute interview segment on CNN International, Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic studies, discussed a case of blasphemy against a Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death for comments about the Prophet Mohammed. “These cases appear again and again, unfortunately, targeting the Christian minority,” Ahmed explained, saying blasphemy law often compromises Pakistani citizens’ right to free speech. (11/18)

Washington Project for the Arts at the AU Museum

The Washington Post ran a glowing review of Catalyst: 35 Years of Washington Project for the Arts, now at the American University Museum. “It is the role of nonprofit alternatives such as WPA to act as a catalyst - and a home - for art that might otherwise slip between those cracks,” wrote critic Michael O'Sullivan about WPA's role in promoting art that is not shown in D.C. museums and galleries. The Post also featured an image gallery and a sidebar article about Alberto Gaitan whose work is in Catalyst. (11/18)

Reinventing Yourself in Journalism

A Huffington Post column by AU alumna Janet Janjigian highlighted a School of Communication event about staying ahead of technology in journalism—moderated by SOC alumna and WRC-NBC4 anchor Wendy Reiger. “Larry Kirkman, Dean of the School of Communication, has encouraged and cultivated a broad spectrum of professors, alums and students attracting new talent and exciting educational programs and opportunities. Yes, the AU experience did change my life and my career in news—mine and many others,” wrote Janjigian. (11/15)

The Democratic Lame Duck Agenda

James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, appeared on NBC Nightly News to discuss President Obama’s new agenda with a Republican led Congress. “He’s trying to play the space in the middle. There’s nobody in the middle and it’s going to be very hard for him,” he said. Thurber also appeared on PBS NewsHour to discuss the rise of government earmarks and in an interview with Gannett, he said Democratic leadership needs to have “someone who is tough and knows the media and knows how to react.” (11/12, 11/16 11/17)
Quotes

Top Investors Share Their Picks


Other Generations Weary of Baby Boomers

<i>USA Today</i> asked Leonard Steinhorn, professor of public communication, about newer generations' feelings about baby boomers. "Boomers have certainly sucked up a lot of cultural oxygen. They changed America in deep and profound ways," he said. "It's natural for other generations to think they didn't get their time in the sun." (11/17)

Health Care Reform under Attack

Stephen Vladeck, professor of law, appeared on <i>CNN's Situation Room</i> to discuss the health care reform debate between the federal government and state legislatures. He said the question lies in whether the federal government can require consumers to buy health care or tax those who do not. "The states, the challengers, have to convince the courts that it's unconstitutional on both sides," said Vladeck. (11/12)

Presidents Get Less Personal Time

<i>Newsweek</i> interviewed Allan Lichtman, professor of history, about how presidential responsibilities have increased, leaving the president less personal time. "Lincoln had time to think," Lichtman said. "That kind of downtime just doesn't exist anymore." (11/13)