



## AU Newsmakers

December 16–22, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Stories

#### D.C. Debuts Live Near Work Pilot Program



Washington, D.C.'s Mayor Gray announced a new pilot program with **American University** to encourage employees to live within a few miles of work, creating a stronger tax base, healthier communities, and fewer cars on the road. [WAMU 88.5](#), [WUSA-CBS9](#), [WRC-NBC4](#), *Washington Business Journal*, and *Northwest Current* reported on the partnership. **Linda Argo**, assistant vice president of external relations, told the [Washington Business Journal](#), "It's a wonderful opportunity to avoid the glazed look of the hordes of commuters who travel every day in and out of the District of Columbia." (12/20)

#### Post 200: A Guide to the Region's Largest Businesses



[Washington Post Capital Business](#) included **American University** in its 2011 guide to the region's top businesses. The article highlighted the opening of the Kogod Tax Center and plans to improve campus facilities. (12/19)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Presidents Have Strayed From Framers' Vision



In an opinion piece for the [New York Times'](#) online **Room for Debate** section, **Jeffrey Crouch**, assistant professor of American politics, wrote about how the presidential power of clemency has strayed from the founding fathers' intentions. "The world has changed, and largely in the past three decades or so. Recent presidents have little or no motivation to pardon anyone," wrote Crouch. (12/18)

#### Voting Rights: Which Side Are You On?



In an op-ed for the [Chicago Tribune](#), **Julian Bond**, distinguished adjunct professor of government, argued that state attempts to require voters to show government IDs and limits on early voting essentially tax some members of society, such as the poor. "This is a direct assault on democracy and the biggest threat voters have faced since the passage of the Voting Rights Act.," wrote Bond. (12/18)

#### The Reluctant Firewall



**David Bosco**, assistant professor of international politics, wrote an article for [Foreign Policy](#) magazine about the European economic crisis. Bosco argued the United States must take a more active leadership role to contain the crisis should European leaders fail. "The critical question is not whether Europe is to blame but whether outsiders can step in where Europe has failed," wrote Bosco. (12/16)

### Expertise

#### In Islamic Law, Gingrich Sees a Mortal Threat to U.S.



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, talked to the [New York Times](#) about GOP presidential hopefuls propagating Islamic law as a threat to the United States. "Most American Muslims have no enthusiasm for replacing federal and state law with Shariah, as some conservatives fear, let alone adopting such ancient prescriptions as stoning for adulterers," said Ahmed. (12/22)

## Secrecy Defines Obama's Drone War

**The Washington Post**

**Kenneth Anderson**, professor of law, spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the legality of a CIA drone program in Pakistan to eliminate government targets, but the identities of those killed remain classified. "I believe this is the right policy, but I don't think [the administration] understands the degree to which it looks way too discretionary," said Anderson. (12/19)

## Shakespeare Theatre's 'Much Ado' raises question of Latino stereotypes

**The Washington Post**

**Ana Serra**, associate professor of language and foreign studies and an expert on modern Cuba, talked to the [Washington Post](#) about the Shakespeare Theatre Company's Cuban spin on the play *Much Ado About Nothing*. "For me, it was shocking that it was set on a Cuban plantation and there was only one character who was non-white," said Serra. (12/19)

## Liberal Sites Dominate Facebook Political News



**Jane Hall**, associate professor of communication, spoke to [FOXNews.com](#) about Facebook's top 40 political stories of 2011. She said, "Many of the articles on the list are items that people strongly agree or disagree with so it makes sense that Facebook users would share or disseminate them. I would say it has more to do with contention than news source or ideology." (12/20)

## \$1 Trillion in Defense Cuts? Big Deal.



**Gordon Adams**, professor of U.S. foreign policy, spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) online about the clamor surrounding upcoming military budget cuts. "You get some version of this every time you get a buildup. For me, all the hair-pulling and rending of garments is a bit excessive, given the slope that we're on," said Adams. (12/21)

## FDIC Takes Cues From Banks for New Risk-Management Office

**AMERICAN BANKER**

In *American Banker* magazine, **Robin Lumsdaine**, professor of international finance, discussed the FDIC's new risk-management office and its role to identify internal risk for its board. "In this case, given the FDIC's supervisory role, a natural question that arises is how much information sharing will be allowed to pass between the risk management and supervision sides of the business?," said Lumsdaine. (12/13)

## A D.C. Writer on the Rise



On [WAMU-FM 88.5's The Koko Nnamdi Show](#), **Danielle Evans**, assistant professor of literature and author of the critically acclaimed book *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*, discussed how the city of Washington inspired her new project. "The book that I'm working on now is very much a D.C. book. There are so many different D.C.s—currently, historically. They all kind of co-exist. And sometimes, they get written about as if they exist in these really separate spheres, but the truth is most people are kind of moving between them constantly," Evans said. (12/19)

## Faking Wildlife Scenes Not Uncommon in BBC Documentaries

**THEBLAZE**

**Chris Palmer**, director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, spoke to [TheBlaze.com](#) about staged scenes in the BBC documentary *Frozen Planet*. "BBC's actions in not disclosing the staged scenes more obviously in the film violated a sense of trust audience members have in documentary films. When people look at a documentary, there is an implied promise that what you're seeing is real." (12/20)

## Bonus Clip

### AU Wishes Holiday Card Earns Kudos

**THE CHRONICLE**  
of Higher Education

The [Chronicle of Higher Education's](#) online **Tweed** column featured American University's 2011 holiday card in a round-up of video greeting cards enjoyed by the editors this holiday season. (12/20)