



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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# This Week's Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

## Top Story

### Children's Body Mass Index May Rise the Longer Mom Works



**Taryn Morrissey**, professor of public administration, led a study which found that children's body mass index (BMI) rose the more years their mothers worked over their children's lifetimes. "It's important to emphasize that it seems to be the environmental factors associated with the total time that moms work, and not maternal employment per se, that contributes to an increase in children's BMI," said Morrissey. More than **240** outlets including [Los Angeles Times](#), [US News & World Report](#), [Boston Globe](#), [CNN.com](#), [FoxNews.com](#), [NPR.org](#), and [Time.com](#)

featured the study. (2/4-9)

## Op-Ed/Editorial

### The Reagan Legacy



**Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, wrote an editorial for [EncyclopediaBritannica.com](#) focusing on President Ronald Reagan's centennial birthday. "Ronald Reagan revived a conservative tradition that politically had been in eclipse since the days of Coolidge and Hoover, not by rallying a conservative base, but by making conservatism more optimistic, inclusive and diverse than before," wrote Lichtman. (2/4)

## Quotes

### Obama, GOP Moving in Different Direction on Jobs



**James Thurber**, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential studies, discussed the cost of President Obama's State of the Union speech promises with the [Associated Press](#). "Obama is trying to be pragmatic even

though he never gets very specific on just how he'd reduce trillion-dollar-plus deficits at the same time he's pumping more government money into new programs," said Thurber. More than **160** outlets including [Washington Post](#), [CNBC.com](#) and [Forbes.com](#) published this article. (2/10)

### Reagan's Complicated Legacy for Federal Workforce



"Reagan's lasting impact on the federal workforce was to successfully link his political goal of downsizing the federal government with the demonization of the workforce of the federal government," said **Robert Tobias**, distinguished practitioner-in-

residence for the School of Public Affairs, to the [Washington Post](#) about President Reagan's legacy and policies on minimizing big government. (2/7)

### Lawmakers urge FTC to Investigate Free Kids Games on iPhone



**Kathryn Montgomery**, professor of communication, talked to the [Washington Post](#) about regulations the Federal Trade Commission is creating to oversee free games for children on iPhone. "The bigger question of business marketing practices

moving forward is that policy doesn't have time to stay up, so we need to ensure there are safeguards across all platforms so kids are not exploited," said Montgomery. (2/8)

## Bill O'Reilly interview of Barack Obama Could Be Victory for Both

The logo for POLITICO, featuring the word "POLITICO" in a bold, red, sans-serif font with a thin horizontal line above it.

**Jane Hall**, associate professor of communication, spoke with [Politico](#) about FOX News' pre-Super Bowl interview with President Obama. "I think it's a very smart idea for both Obama and O'Reilly to do the interview before the Super Bowl," said Hall. "In the 2008 campaign, he [Bill O'Reilly] did a terrific, serious, lively interview with Barack Obama that probably helped Obama with Republican voters." (2/6)

## Is the Tweet the New Soundbite?

The logo for CQ WEEKLY, with "CQ" in large, yellow, stylized letters and "WEEKLY" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font to its right.

**Gemma Puglisi**, professor of communication, discussed whether the State of the Union address was purposely set up to be Twitter friendly with [Congressional Quarterly Weekly's Congress.org](#). "[The President is] making sure he gets the message across to the people... and [there's] a very large audience," she said. "Obviously you're going to get messages that will be easy to tweet," said Puglisi. (2/9)

## Lobbying Firm of Clarence Thomas' Wife Raises Ethical Questions

The logo for THE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, with the word "AFRO" in large, white, serif letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

**Stephen Wermiel**, professor of law, discussed the ethical issues surrounding the new lobbying firm of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' wife with [The Afro-American Newspaper](#). "It seems as though she will be working with issues involving legislation that may come before the Supreme Court and working with people involved in political efforts whose organizations may come before the Supreme Court—and that's a problem," said Wermiel. (2/9)