



# This Week's Newsmakers

Aug. 14 – Aug. 20, 2010

## Top Stories

### High Achieving Students at AU



**The Washington Post** profiled two sisters, Meghan and Moira Esson, who as incoming freshmen are members of American University's highest achieving class in history. The class of 2014 boasts the most students who graduated in the top 10 percent of their class, and an average GPA of 3.79. The story illustrates a trend at universities across the nation where applications are up—as are the caliber of applicants—and admission at selective schools is down. (8/19)

### A Mosque at Ground Zero and Religious Tolerance



**Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, appeared in major media outlets to discuss the controversy around the Ground Zero mosque, religious tolerance, and Americans' views about Muslims. "For most Americans, 9/11 remains as an open wound, and anything associated with Islam, even for Americans who want to understand Islam—to have an Islamic center with so much publicity is like rubbing salt in open wounds," he said in an **Associated Press** story, which appeared in more than 375 news outlets. This week Ahmed appeared

on **WAMU's Diane Rehm Show**, **CNN's Anderson Cooper 360**, and **Fox News Channel's America's Newsroom**. Ahmed also wrote an OpEd which appeared on **CNN.com**.

## Quotes

### Travel to Cuba Eased

#### The New York Times

**Robert Pastor**, professor of international relations, was quoted by **The New York Times** regarding developments the easing of travel restrictions to Cuba saying, "We're dealing with a relationship that's

so contorted; it would take another 50 years of incremental steps to pull it apart and reassemble it in a constructive way." (8/16)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Brings Results Today



In **The Christian Science Monitor** **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, suggested women are finally making the gains in politics that were promised to them when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed 90 years ago. "Women turn out to vote in greater proportions than men, so women can often be the decisive bloc

in an election," she said. (8/18)

### Buffet Reclaims His Stake in Johnson&Johnson



**Gerald Martin**, professor of finance, was quoted in **Bloomberg Businessweek** about Warren Buffet's repurchase of his shares in Johnson & Johnson. "He's starting to [build] back up in the investments he wants to be in—Johnson &

Johnson and, of course, the new Fiserv," said Martin. (8/17)

## Cuba in Political Limbo



On [WAMU's Koko Nnamdi Show](#), **Phil Brenner**, professor of international relations, discussed the current political state of Cuba, and what that means for the future of US-Cuban relations. (8/17)

## Shifts in Social Media Will Affect Journalists



**Jessica Clark**, the director for the Future of Public Media Project for the Center for Social Media, commented in an article on the [PBS MediaShift](#) blog recommending print journalists adapt to the changes in social media as it will ultimately help them build relationships with readers. (8/16)

## Obama's Comments May Affect Upcoming Elections



In a [Voice of America.com](#) article about how the Ground Zero controversy will affect the midterm elections, **Steven Taylor**, professor of government, predicted, "President Obama's comments will be used against Democrats in campaign commercials." (8/18)

## Mexican Migrant Crab Workers Exploited



[Voice of America](#) highlighted the report by **Jayesh Rathod**, assistant professor of law, about the exploitation of Mexican guest workers in the American crabbing industry. "They just want to make sure that they have flexibility and rights to make changes of employers and to earn enough under the program without going back to Mexico remaining in debt." (8/17)