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Top Story

Kogod Tax Center Experts Explain Taxes 2013



Kogod Tax Center directors **David Kautter** and **Donald Williamson** explained how the changes resulting from Fiscal Cliff legislation will affect taxpayers. In a live interview on **C-SPAN's *Washington Journal***, Williamson discussed the biggest changes in the tax code. He said, "One of the biggest changes was the AMT, the Alternative Minimum Tax. There was an exemption amount from it that retroactively had expired. Congress on Friday re-enacted the increase on the exemption. The other biggest change was the basic change in rates, which really only applies to the higher-income Americans." In addition, [Williamson](#) and [Kautter](#) spoke to the ***Wall Street Journal***. "For a couple with one child and \$1 million of income, including \$250,000 of itemized deductions, the tax increase from higher rates and other provisions taking effect next year would run almost \$37,000 over what they paid in 2012. Many people who think they've dodged higher rates will actually have backdoor tax increases," Kautter said about increases for high earners. Kautter also spoke to the ***Philadelphia Inquirer***, ***Los Angeles Times*** and the ***Washington Post***. (1/1, 1/2, 1/4, 1/7, 1/8, 1/10)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

It Wasn't Pretty, but the System Worked



Communication professor **Richard Benedetto** wrote a ***FoxNews.com*** op-ed about how a dysfunctional Congress eventually passed legislation to prevent going over the Fiscal Cliff and how the media portrayed all of it incorrectly. "Neither side got everything it wanted—the news media chose once again to craft this as one more case of flaws and folly: who lost and who won, who stood firm and who caved, who was smart and who was dumb, who to praise and who to blame," Benedetto wrote. (1/2)

Expertise

Analysis: Euro Zone Bond Clause Highlights Rich Nation Default Risk



REUTERS

Washington College of Law professor **Anna Gelpert** talked to ***Reuters*** about Collective Action Clauses (CACs) in the Euro Zone government bonds. "The debate about including CACs was about a \$300 billion market. We're entering a new era when (developed market) money can

be restructured," said Gelpert. She also spoke to the ***Financial Times*** about Euro Zone bonds and the Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism (SDRM). "The lesson of the SDRM debate last time is that a mechanism has to be comprehensive to be effective, and that will involve considerable change. Whether the U.S. has the enthusiasm for this is doubtful." (12/28, 1/7)

Pentagon Prepares to Warn 800,000 Employees of Furloughs



REUTERS

International Service professor **Gordon Adams** discussed with ***Reuters*** the defense department's upcoming civilian furloughs as a result of budget cuts. "What the secretary probably said was that prudence would lead him to notify Pentagon civil servants that there

might be some furloughs if sequester happened. If sequester is 'fixed,' it might be for none of them. Certainly, none of them are layoffs." In another defense budget related story in the ***Washington Post***, Adams surmised Secretary of Defense nominee Chuck Hagel's budget plans. "Whatever that budget decline looks like will set the context for whatever else Hagel wants to do as defense secretary. We know the cuts are coming. This is a drawdown." (12/31, 1/7)

Mayor Nutter: One Cool Cuss-tomer

The Philadelphia Inquirer

With the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** discussed public reaction to Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter's use of curse words in a recent public statement. "If this comes off as not crude but authentic, people may in fact feel that the politicians, who are so often careful about the words they use, who so often speak from talking points, that this comes from the heart," said Steinhorn. (12/28)

Fiscal Cliff? Here Are Ways to Cushion Your Fall



Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies director **James Thurber**, and Kogod School of Business executive in residence **Mark Waldman** weighed in on discussions about the Fiscal Cliff's outcomes. Thurber explained results to [NPR's Diane Rehm Show on WAMU 88.5](#). "Spending cuts and dealing with so-called entitlement programs were not part of the deal. The Republicans wanted that. There were other permanent changes in the tax code, and I want to emphasize that, that these tax cuts from not only Bush, but from Obama—are now permanent. And so we are not going to have that as a major thing to debate in the future." Waldman talked to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about the effects of potential Fiscal Cliff tax increases. "The drain of this money from the private economy may mean a serious economic slowdown, as if the economy ran into a wall," he said. (12/27, 1/2)

Sen. Hutchison Leaves Legacy of Texas Projects

The Dallas Morning News

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, spoke to the [Dallas Morning News](#) about the Senate exit of Texas's first female senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison. "She demonstrated that women don't have to be pigeonholed or stereotyped. She normalized the fact that a woman could hold a Senate seat and not necessarily be more moderate than her male counterparts," said Lawless. The Associated Press distributed the article, which was republished by more than 15 outlets, including the *Houston Chronicle*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *El Paso Times*. (12/27)

Surin Lauded as 'Hard Act to Follow'

THE NATION.

With [The Nation](#) (Thailand), international service professor **Amitav Acharya** summed up the end of ASEAN foreign minister Surin Pitsuwan's term and Pitsuwan's accomplishments. "He will be a hard act to follow. He was the most active, open and globalised ASEAN secretary-general ever," said Acharya. [Yahoo! News](#) and [The Straits Times](#) (Singapore) also published this article. (12/31)

Back-to-School Fears

The Boston Globe

In an article comparing students' and parents' fears about school violence before and after the Sandy Hook shooting, the [Boston Globe](#) cited Justice, Law and Society professor **Lynne Addington's** research on similar fears surrounding the Columbine shooting. Addington's findings concluded that "specifically, the percentage of students, ages 12 to 18, who indicated feeling apprehensive about safety while at school rose by only 4%. And for those who did report heightened concern, the extent of increase was rather modest. Overall, the level of fear among students prior to Columbine was fairly low, and after Columbine it was just not quite so low." (1/2)

For Former Members, Life after Congress

THE SUN

School of Public Affairs ambassador in residence **Constance Morella** spoke to the [Baltimore Sun](#) about life after serving 16 years as a member of the House of Representatives. "A lot of people think when you lose an election you died and disappeared. I still run into people in Frederick or Washington County or Montgomery County who say, 'Oh? Oh!' Well, I'm around. I'm still here," said Morella. (1/2)

The Flu: to Work or not to Work?



Kogod School of Business executive in residence **Meredith Persily Lamel** talked to [WUSA-CBS9's 9 News Now](#) about how employees should handle illness and missed work with their employers. "I think you should think about what you're going to do when you're sick before you get sick. Obviously, when you are sick you're going to be a bit compromised in making good decisions and figuring out what you need to stay connected to your work," she said. (1/8)

Fructose Sugar Tells the Brain to Keep Eating



Director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience **Terry Davidson** discussed with [MyHealthNewsDaily.com](#) a new study that suggests fructose consumption is a major factor in the obesity epidemic, but glucose consumption is not. "Processed foods generally contain a combination

of fructose and glucose. For this reason, it's not possible to say how the results would play out in the real world. I'm not necessarily sure that you would have seen similar effects," said Davidson, referencing the fact that the study focused on subjects' consumption of pure fructose or glucose. (1/2)