



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AU Newsmakers

January 11 – January 18, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

For prior weeks, go to <http://www.american.edu/media/inthemediacfm>

Top Story

American University Poll Reflects Youth Attitude toward Guns



[WUSA9-CBS](#) featured Women and Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless**' nationwide poll which revealed that more than half of 'depressed' high school and college-age students plan on owning a gun in the future. The poll of more than 4,000 students also showed that high school students who

regularly play video games for more than 4 hours per day are 50 percent more likely than those who do not typically play video games to report plans to own a gun. More than **60** TV stations nationwide and **USA Today online** aired the segment. (1/15)

Additional Features

The Buck Stopped Here

The New York Times Magazine

With the [New York Times Magazine](#), international service professor **Gordon Adams** spoke about the fear of proposed

government cutbacks, especially at the Pentagon, and the potential effect on Washington, D.C.'s economy. "People are saying, 'We're going to lose a million jobs here,' that's not going to happen, and it's not going to happen because contractors are working on existing contracts financed with prior-year dollars. We're going to be working through this for some time, and there's going to be a very slow roll to actual projects. The implications aren't for current work, but the next round of work," said Adams. (1/13)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

The GOP's Disappearing Diversity in Congress



In an op-ed for [McClatchy-Tribune Media](#), international service professor **Clarence Lusane** talked about the lack of diversity within the GOP in the U.S. Congress. "Overwhelming and growing black and Latino support for Democrats has

terrified some in the GOP who believe there is no future for the party unless it can recruit support from communities of color. Like Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., [South Carolina Sen. Tim] Scott is the counter to charges that the Republican Party (and its Tea Party engine) is lily-white and cares little for people of color," wrote Lusane. *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*, *Kansas City Star online*, and *Minneapolis Star Tribune online* republished the op-ed. (1/14)

Expertise

Second Presidential Terms



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies, spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about challenges President Obama will likely face in his second term.

“The American people have gotten to know the president very well. The enthusiasm of his first election is long gone. That limits the possibility of great success in the second term,” said Thurber. More than 250 outlets, including the **Sacramento Bee**, **Houston Chronicle**, and **Palm Beach Post**, republished the article. Executive in residence **Anita McBride** also spoke to [USA Today](#) about Obama’s second term. (1/17)

The Future of an Obama Presidential Library



Executive in residence **Anita McBride** spoke to [FoxNews.com](#) about the amount of fundraising President Obama needs to raise to build his presidential library. “The sheer magnitude of raising so much cash requires a specific plan that includes a president telling donors exactly what he wants to accomplish with their money,” said McBride. (1/12, 1/15)

Uncertainty Looms For Pentagon in Obama's Second Term



With [NPR's All Things Considered](#), international service professor **Gordon Adams** discussed the growth of the Pentagon budget over the last decade, and the looming cuts likely to occur during Obama’s second term. “If you start in the year where we were spending the most, and went 10 years out, you

found that we had reduced the defense budget 30 percent every single time. Right now, we haven't yet significantly reduced the defense budget at all. We don't face an existential threat [and] we don't face a major power that can extend its power to the United States,” said Adams. (1/13)

Brave new world of Cuba travel begins Monday



With the [Miami Herald](#), international service professor **Robert Pastor** discussed Cuba’s new migration and travel policy which took effect this

week. “I think there will be a large number of Cubans who will want to leave. This will be a real test for the Cuban lobby to retain the Cuban Adjustment Act,” said Pastor. (1/14)

Put Down That Energy Drink



Psychology professor **Laura Juliano** spoke to [Women's Health Magazine](#) about potential health risks associated with high amounts of caffeine found in many energy drinks. “They’re unregulated, so there can be any amount of caffeine, and that

varies tremendously from one brand to the next. Too much caffeine in general can lead to a host of different types of problems,” said Juliano. (1/11)

Kuwaiti Opposition Loses Momentum



International service professor **Kristin Diwan** spoke to [Financial Times](#) about Kuwait’s fragile opposition movement against the ruling family led by tribal leaders, youth activists, and Islamists. “Kuwait is a wealthy country

and people have a lot to lose. I'm pretty convinced that it's a long game in Kuwait – you may see ups and downs but the political activity will continue,” said Diwan. (1/15)