



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

## AU Newsmakers

January 16 – January 23, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

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

### Top Stories

#### Muslim Call to Prayer Sounds at Duke University, but Not from Chapel Tower

*The Washington Post*

For a [Washington Post](#) article about Duke University's cancellation of the Muslim call to prayer, American University student **Zainab Attai** discussed her experience as a Muslim student community member at AU, saying, "This is a very comfortable environment for us." (1/16)

#### American University Experts Analyze State of the Union Address

Both leading up to and after the 93rd State of the Union address (SOTU), news media relied on American University professors for analysis, key takeaways and reaction.



For [CNN.com](#), communication professor **Robert Lehrman** discussed President Obama's SOTU address and the 2016 presidential race, saying that Obama's speech laid the groundwork for the 2016 Democratic candidate. **Lehrman** also appeared on [WJLA-ABC7](#), wrote an op-ed for the [Hill](#), and spoke to the [Washington Times](#) and [Washington Examiner](#). (1/22, 1/20, 1/20, 1/19)



History professor **Allan Lichtman** appeared on [MSNBC's NewsNation](#) to analyze and gauge the reaction to the SOTU, referring to President Obama as "born-again." **Lichtman** also spoke to the [Washington Times](#) for a speech preview. (1/21, 1/19)



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke to [Associated Press Television News](#) about the importance of the speech, saying that it could be a "legacy" SOTU. **Steinhorn** also spoke to [WNEW CBS Radio](#) about the president's agenda for the next two years and the [Washington Post](#) about the SOTU audience. (1/20, 1/19)



Prior to the SOTU, journalism professor **Richard Benedetto** spoke to [USA Today](#) about President Obama's agenda and the importance of avoiding the "lame duck" label. **Benedetto** also wrote an op-ed for [Real Clear Politics](#). (1/20)

*The Washington Post*

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director **James Thurber** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about President Obama's final two years in office and how he will accomplish his ambitious agenda. **Thurber** also spoke to the [Associated Press](#) for two separate [articles](#) that syndicated more than 500 times, and he appeared on [WNEW CBS Radio](#). (1/20, 1/21, 1/23, 1/20)

## The Washington Times

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence **Anita McBride** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about the selection process for the first lady's box at the SOTU. (1/19)



International service scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel** spoke to [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the prominence of foreign policy discussion in this year's SOTU. **Bensahel** also spoke to [Federal News Radio](#) about the nomination of Ashton Carter as defense secretary and prospect for rocky confirmation hearings. (1/20, 1/21)

## Additional Features

### Naoko Wowsugi + Whoop Dee Doo

WASHINGTON



[Washington City Paper](#) featured art professor **Naoko Wowsugi** and her annual "Assignment: Happy Birthday," which will be displayed at Hamiltonian Gallery Feb. 14. The reviewer noted the uniqueness of the exhibit in that **Wowsugi's** work was a collection of her students' art in response to her assignment calling for "experiences" in lieu of material possessions. (1/23)

### New Online MBA with 2nd Degree Option



[Poets & Quants](#) featured **American University's Kogod School of Business** and its partnership with 2U to offer an online Master of Business Administration and an online Master of Science in Analytics degree program. Dean **Erran Carmel** said that moving into the online space is a necessity as a competitive business school. (1/21)

## Op-Eds

### Fat and Sugar-Heavy Diet Harms Your Brain – and Makes You Keep on Eating



For the commentary site [The Conversation](#), Center for Behavioral Neuroscience director **Terry Davidson** and Ph.D. student **Camille Sample** argued that the Western Diet, characterized by consuming high levels of saturated fat and sugar, weakens the blood-brain barrier and leads to dysfunction in areas of the brain responsible for memory and learning. (1/20)

### Charlie Hebdo Meets 'The Interview'



In a [Washington Post Monkey Cage](#) op-ed, international service professor **Carl LeVan** compared the hacking of Sony Pictures and the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo as attacks on the freedom of expression in addition to ideas and debates in political science. (1/16)

### Polanyi's lesson for Europe



For [EurActiv](#), international service professorial lecturer **Greg Fuller's** op-ed examines the potential disintegration of the EU on the eve of Greece's upcoming election where the once fringe anti-austerity Syriza Bloc has gained central player status. **Fuller** draws a comparison to Europe's past in making his argument. (1/23)

## Expertise

### Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Legal Saga Enters Final Chapter – Maybe

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Sustainability Management Program director **Daniel Jacobs** spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, saying that he expects the judge to enforce a “record-setting” fine. **Jacobs** also spoke to the [Guardian](#). (1/20, 1/19)

### Civil Rights Group Closely Allied with the NFL Calls for the Redskins to Change its Name

The Washington Post

Law professor **N. Jeremi Duru** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the Fritz Pollard Alliance’s efforts to influence the Washington Redskins’ name change. **Duru** also spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the success and shortfalls in NFL coaching staff diversity. (1/19, 1/20)

### First U.S. Envoy Heads to Cuba to Start Normalization Talks

Bloomberg

International Service professor **Philip Brenner** spoke to [Bloomberg](#) about the possible outcomes from assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson’s trip to Cuba.

Government professor **William LeoGrande** spoke to the [Orlando Sun Sentinel](#) about Cuba “harboring scores of criminals wanted in the United States.” Center for Latin American and Latino Studies director **Fulton Armstrong** spoke to an [NPR](#) affiliate about U.S.-Cuba relations. (1/19, 1/21, 1/16)

### Cities Forge Policy Apart from States



For [McClatchy DC](#), government professor **Jocelyn Johnston** discussed recent progressive policy changes by many Democratic-dominated cities in the face of Republican dominated state legislatures. (1/18)

### The Battle for Donetsk



Initiative for Russian Culture executive director **Anton Fedyashin** appeared on [CNN International](#) to discuss the attacks in Donetsk and the Ukraine Army’s ability to retake cities in the east. (1/19)

### Boehner's Netanyahu Invite is an 'Unprecedented' Diss of Obama



International service professor **Guy Ziv** spoke to [Talking Points Memo](#) about the unusual break in protocol for Speaker of the House John Boehner’s invitation to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying it is a way for Congress to “embarrass and humiliate the Obama administration.” [MSNBC’s Maddow Blog](#) also reprinted **Ziv’s** quote. (1/21)

### Obama's Visit to India Includes Climate Change Talks



For [USA Today](#), international service professor **Malini Ranganathan** discussed President Obama’s upcoming trip to India, explaining that while climate change is on the agenda, the visit will be heavy on ceremony and pomp. (1/22)

## Report: GOP Women Face High Hurdles to Office



Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** spoke to [Politico](#) online about the lack of GOP women in Congress, saying that women are more liberal in fields related to law, education, political activism and business. (1/21)

## Why Americans Should Care About ECB Strategy



International service professor **Stephen Silvia** spoke to [CBS News](#) online about the European Central Bank (ECB) and discussed the correlation between economic growth in Europe and the United States. For [New York Times' DealBook](#), international service professor **Randall Henning** explained that the ECB should assume a more activist role in combating economic stagnation. The article cited **Henning's** latest research. (1/20)

## Crustacean Found Near Planned Purple Line Route Not Endangered



Environmental science professor **David Culver** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about his analysis of a tiny, shrimp-like creature he and his graduate students found in an area near the planned route for the light-rail Purple Line. **Culver** divulged that the particular species of amphipod found does not qualify as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, but that it was possible the endangered type could be elsewhere in Montgomery County. (1/23)

## Bonus Clip

### Pee Wee Gardner Comes Up Big for American U. Basketball



[USA Today](#) featured **AU Eagles men's basketball** senior point guard **Pee Wee Gardner** and highlighted his three game-winning shots within the last month. American University named **Gardner** student-athlete of the week. (1/20)