AU Newsmakers
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Prepared by University Communications
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Top Story
On the Ground: Baltimore

Art Forum featured Art Department Chair Zoë Charlton in a story about Baltimore-based artists and their responses to systemic violence in the city and the trauma residents are experiencing over police brutality. The reviewer compared one of Charlton’s art works, a collage with a cutout photograph of a Pende woman, with the traumatized, eerie and mournful feeling currently in Baltimore. The reviewer wrote, “In addition to teaching, to calling out and resisting, Baltimore artists seek to transcend violence by envisioning alternate realities. Where the persecution of black bodies is sustained and normalized, other mechanisms of succor emerge.” (12/11)

Faculty Authors
Bush vs. Gore’s Ironic Legal Legacy

Los Angeles Times Jaime Raskin, professor of law, penned an op-ed in the Los Angeles Times in which he examines the legal legacy of the Bush vs. Gore decision from December 2000. Raskin argues, “The irony of Bush v. Gore is that, while it is perhaps the most partisan, arbitrary and tendentious decision in the Supreme Court’s history, its injury to democracy was built on an aggressive claim about the necessity of voter equality. The majority did its best to bury the claim just as quickly as it unveiled it, but the rule of law is a pesky and resilient thing and there are many lawyers who refuse to let it go.” (12/13)

Can Al Franken’s Secret Santa Exchange Cure the Senate?

Women & Politics Institute Director Jennifer Lawless wrote an article for CNN about the annual Secret Santa gift exchange in Congress started by Senator Al Franken in 2011. Lawless explores whether the gift exchange can combat partisanship and promote comity. (12/16)

U.S. Public Media Steps Up At International Documentary Film Festival

Current Dean Emeritus for the School of Communication Larry Kirkman authored a piece about the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam for Current. Kirkman explains how the festival has become an important venue for U.S.-based public media professionals. (12/14)

Expertise
A New String of U.S. Military Bases Abroad?

NPR On Point Anthropology Professor David Vine joined NPR On Point to discuss the Pentagon’s proposal to open a new network of military bases to fight terrorism. Vine argued that this step could be part of the right approach because it puts the military closer to where things are happening, but it needs to be one part of a larger strategy. (12/15)

N.Y.C., L.A. Schools Receive Same Email Threat; L.A. Cancels Classes
For the Associated Press, School of International Service Professor Jordan Tama spoke about the terrorist threat issued to the nation’s two largest school systems. Tama said that it is not unreasonable for officials to make different decisions based on the same information. The article ran in more than 250 news outlets. (12/16)

Overoptimistic Fed Strains Credibility on Forecasts

With Reuters, economics professor Simon Sheng spoke about the economic projections of the Federal Reserve. Sheng said that between 1992 and 2003, a period of generally high growth, the Fed’s policymakers tended to under predict GDP growth outcomes and predict too high inflation and unemployment. (12/16)

GOP Candidates: Political Correctness is Getting People Killed

Communications Professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke with Sinclair Broadcasting about the Republican debate and political correctness. Steinhorn said railing against political correctness may play well with the conservative base, but it can be dangerous when it starts influencing policy. Steinhorn also spoke with WJCL (Savannah, GA) about presidential candidate Ted Cruz, saying “Ted Cruz knows how to stoke the evangelical vote in Iowa.” (12/16, 12/14)

Donald Trump’s Proposed Ban on Muslim Immigrants Could Be Legal

Stephen Vladeck, law professor, spoke with the Chicago Tribune about Donald Trump’s proposal to ban Muslim immigrants. Vladeck argued that “the people who say this will be easily upheld are missing the reality of the current court’s views on religion.” (12/14)

U.S. Lobbying, PR Firms Give Human Rights Abusers a Friendly Face

Director of the Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies Jim Thurber was quoted in an article jointly published by Slate and The Center for Public Integrity about the uptick in activity by foreign governments related to lobbying. “These other countries that have very specific problems of human rights — they’re discovering how Washington works,” Thurber said. (12/16)

People Don’t Have to Like Clinton To Vote For Her. Who Likes Donald Trump?

Women & Politics Institute Director Jennifer Lawless spoke with The Guardian about presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s “grandmother status,” saying it has helped make Clinton relatable. Lawless also spoke on CSPAN-2 about aspects of politics that deter young people from becoming involved. (12/15, 12/12)

Congress Finally Preserves U.S. Leadership in Global Finance

For USA Today, School of International Service Professor Randall Henning commented on the International Monetary Fund. Henning discussed how the IMF reflects U.S. economic policy preferences more faithfully than perhaps any other international organization. (12/16)

Bonus Clip

The Surprising Supporters of Donald Trump

For BBC, student Taylar Martin spoke about why she supports Donald Trump, saying that he is “passionate, driven, and confident.” She also said Trump’s success as a businessman makes her interested in seeing how successful he could be leading the country. Martin is a Kogod School of Business student studying
international business. (12/17)