Top Stories

Girl Gamers and AU’s Game Lab

Al Jazeera America featured American University Game Lab, a partnership between the School of Communication and the College of Arts & Sciences. Christopher Totten, game designer-in-residence, and Benjamin Stokes, communication professor, discussed the rising role of women in game design and development. AU graduate student Kelli Dunlap was also interviewed about her research and game design work. (12/25)

Male Students of Color Are More Likely To Miss Class When They Have White Teachers

School of Public Affairs professors Seth Gershenson and Stephen Holt were featured in the Huffington Post and Education Week for their research on minority students. Their study showed that racial differences between students and teachers may play out in students’ behavior. This can often result in minority students missing class or experiencing suspension at high rates. (1/6, 1/5)

Additional Features

AU Ushers In Second Decade for Arts Center

The Katzen Arts Center was featured in The Northwest Current, as the arts center celebrates 10 years with a new museum gallery space and technology-minded concert series. Jack Rasmussen, curator and director of American University Museum, said the new initiatives were in line with the mission of the arts center. College of Arts & Sciences Dean Peter Starr said, “The arts have a place at this university that they didn’t have before we built this building, and increasingly they have a place in the greater Washington community.” *Link not available* (1/6)

American University Temporarily Bans Hoverboards

American University’s temporary ban on hoverboards was covered by the Washington Post. Dan Nichols, executive director of risk, safety and transportation programs, issued a message to the AU community that the devices would be prohibited from campus or AU-owned buildings while the Consumer Product Safety Commission investigates complaints of injuries and spontaneous combustion. Chronicle of Higher Education, Fox5, DCist, Washington City Paper, WUSA9 and NBC Washington also covered the temporary ban. (1/4)

Faculty Author

An ‘Immaculate Perception’ At the Start of 2016

For The Hill, Tom Squitieri, professor of communications, penned an op-ed reviewing the events of the past year in satirical form. Squitieri reviewed the Syrian crisis and Congress’s marginal legislative achievements. (12/31)
Expertise

Shinola Takes Its ‘Detroit Cool’ Message on the Road

The New York Times spoke to Kogod School of Business Professor Frank Dubois for an article about Shinola, the Detroit watch company, and its use of foreign parts in comparison to the automobile industry. The piece mentions Dubois’ research, the Kogod Made in America Auto Index, and contains a link to the 2015 Kogod report. (1/6)

"Systemic Failure" At New York Times; Is There a Media "Bernie Blackout"?

Journalism and Media Studies Professor Jane Hall spoke to CNN Reliable Sources about Bernie Sanders’ campaign manager, saying the press doesn’t pay attention to “economic and social issues.” Hall spoke about the poor coverage of Sanders’ campaign relative to coverage of other candidates. (12/20)

Argentina’s Macri Aims to Restore Faith in Government Data

School of International Service Professor Arturo Porzecanski spoke with Morningstar about Argentina’s economy. Porzecanski said of Argentina, “They are moving rapidly, starting with appointing the key people. But there is a long and difficult road ahead to dismantle the populism put in place during the last 12 years.” (12/27)

Why Did Miss Honduras Wear Skulls?

For WAMC Northeast Public Radio, anthropology professor Adrienne Pine discussed why Miss Honduras wore skulls in the Miss Universe pageant. Pine said people pay a lot of attention to beauty pageants in Honduras and they bring in a lot of revenue for cities. (12/23)

Which President Had the Best Last Year in Office?

For Politico Magazine, James Goldgeier, dean of the School of International Service, discussed Ronald Reagan’s last year in office. Goldgeier argued that thanks to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Reagan had a great last year in office. Gorbachev effectively ended the four decade-long Cold War in 1988. (12/27)

Brazil’s Fall from Grace Could Take Years to Fix

Matthew Taylor, professor in the School of International Service, discussed Brazil’s political crisis with the International Business Times. Taylor said, “For Brazil, 2016 will be dramatic and unpredictable — as the country weathers the most dangerous political crisis since the impeachment and resignation of President Fernando Collor in 1992.” (1/2)

The Political Outlook for 2016

Jim Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, appeared on NPR’s The Diane Rehm Show about the political outlook for 2016. Thurber also discussed with the Associated Press how presidential candidate Ben Carson blurs the lines between candidate, and speaker-doctor-author, calling it an ethical “shade of grey.” (1/4, 1/2)

Yahoo Investors Want to Sell Internet Business Even if It Triggers Big Tax Bill

Don Williamson, executive director of the Kogod Tax Policy Center, spoke with Reuters about the selling of Yahoo’s internet business and its tax implications. Williamson identified that the IRS could challenge the spinoff. Another worry is that in a Yahoo appeal the company may have to make financial disclosures that hurt the stock. (1/5)
How Could the Next President Reshape the Supreme Court?

Law Professor Stephen Wermiel spoke with CBSNews about the significant impact that the next president may have on the composition of the court. Wermiel noted that the implication is that the next president will play a role in whether or not the court maintains its conservative edge. (1/5)

Will Obama’s Gun Moves Face a Legal Challenge?

Law Professor Stephen Vladeck spoke with CNN about President Obama’s executive action on gun violence. Vladeck argued that any legal challenges to the executive action will face an uphill battle because the president is employing an ambiguous federal statute. Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies Executive-in-Residence Anita McBride also spoke with WTTG Fox News about the executive action. (1/5, 1/6)

Talking About the Rapture

Philosophy and Religion Professor Mark Schaefer spoke with Public Radio’s Interfaith Voices about the history and meaning of the Rapture in Christianity. Schaefer outlined the biblical roots of the concept as well as the popular implications of the Rapture. (1/3)

How the Phonograph Changed Music Forever

Communications Professor Aram Sinnreich spoke to Smithsonian Magazine about how streaming music services are reshaping relationships with music. “We’ve seen the average college student go from being a hard-core ‘rock fan’ or a hard-core ‘hip-hop fan’ to being a connoisseur of a lot of different genres, and a casual fan of dozens more,” Sinnreich says. (1/6)

‘Comfort Women’ Agreement

Journalism professor Christopher Simpson spoke with CCTV America about the Comfort Women Agreement between South Korea and Japan. Simpson advocated for caution with respect to the agreement, saying that it is yet to be seen if Japan acknowledges responsibility for the crimes committed against so-called comfort women. (12/29)

New Cyber Security MBA Programs Help Executives Combat Digital Risks

Kogod School of Business’ Cybersecurity Governance Center was highlighted in a BusinessBecause article on the rise of cyber security education in MBA programs. Launched in October, Kogod’s program will focus on cyber security as a management and governance issue, not just a technology one. Executive Director William DeLone also discussed the growth of cyber-crimes against corporations. (1/5)

Bonus Clip

Top # Highered Holiday Cards- 2015 Edition

The holiday video produced by University Communications and Marketing was featured in a compilation of College Web Editor favorite holiday videos by institutions of higher education. (12/16)