 AU Newsmakers
December 6 – December 13, 2013
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories
Leadership Lessons from the President of American University
In a Q&A with Washington Post’s On Leadership Series, AU President Neil Kerwin talked about how he encourages AU students to be leaders, and discussed the leadership lessons that he has learned throughout his career. Kerwin also said that the role models we really need to look to are in front of us every day, and they’re not famous names. They're just people doing the right thing under difficult circumstances. (12/13)

The Most Important Unplanned Lesson
For Washington Post online, Sarah Irvine Belson, dean of the School of Education, Teaching, and Health, wrote about the lessons a class of aspiring teachers learned while they sheltered in place after reports of a person with a gun on campus earlier this week. (12/13)

The incident garnered national and international attention, and resulted in more than 800 news stories that highlighted the MPD and AU Public Safety collaboration, AU Alert notifications and social media outreach, role of the notifications in resolving the situation, and students' reactions. An Associated Press article focused on President Kerwin’s memo about the incident. (12/11)

Additional Features
Rocking the Suburbs: America’s Political Divide
Dante Chinni, director of the School of Public Affairs’ American Communities Project, appeared on MSNBC’s Daily Rundown to discuss his research which shows a growing trend that suburbs are becoming strongly Democratic and Republicans are moving to the exurbs—counties that make up the space that make up the space between urban and rural America. (12/10)

Op-Eds/AU Authors
America, Genocide, and the “National Interest
With Foreign Policy magazine, Jeffrey Bachman, director of the Ethics, Peace, and Global Affairs program in the School of International Service, wrote an op-ed about the 65th anniversary of the Genocide Convention, and the United States’ pause to reflect on how its own foreign policy may be promoting genocide. (12/9)

Expertise
Iowa GOP Senate Candidate: The Way to Talk to Women is on an Emotional Level
Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute, spoke to the Huffington Post about Republican efforts to speak more effectively to female constituents to demonstrate competence in leadership on issues especially important to female voters. MSNBC’s The Maddow Blog and Salon.com also wrote about this topic. (12/9)
Brown Racks Up More Than 180 Endorsements in His Bid for Maryland Governor

Washington Post spoke to history professor Allan Lichtman about Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown’s gubernatorial campaign and the potential downside of his receiving more than 180 endorsements from elected Democratic officials. (12/10)

African Leaders Complain of Bias at ICC as Kenya Trials Get Underway

Washington Post spoke to international service professor David Bosco about the African leadership’s frustration with the United Nations International Criminal Court’s current set of cases, which are all from Africa. (12/6)

U.S. Bomber Planes at $81 Billion Seen 47% More Than Plan

With Bloomberg, international service professor Gordon Adams talked about how the Department of Defense routinely under-estimates costs for major programs so that they will receive initial funding and then ask for additional funds at a later date. (12/6)

Bashir Resigns Amid Scandal

Journalism professor Jane Hall appeared on CNN’s Reliable Sources to discuss MSNBC reporter Martin Bashir’s resignation following a scandal involving inappropriate comments about Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. (12/8)

NAFTA Turns 20, to Mixed Reviews

NPR’s Weekend Edition spoke to Center for North American Studies interim director Manuel Suarez Mier about the 20th anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement and its successes and shortcomings. (12/8)

The Constitutions Versus Power Politics

Sinclair TV spoke to government professor Chris Edelson about the Constitution and whether the founding principles of the nation are giving in to the disproportionate politics of power, wealth and influence. The segment, which syndicated to more than 30 local news stations, opened with AU students on the quad citing the Preamble to the Constitution. (12/12)