Top Story

AU Experts Respond to the Passing of Justice Antonin Scalia

Law Professor Steve Wermiel recalled his relationship with Justice Scalia for WTTG Fox5. Wermiel, who knew Scalia for 34 years, called him kind, charming and a family man. In relation to Scalia’s replacement, Wermiel called it a ‘perfect storm’ in which political circumstances and current factors will make the nomination a big fight. Wermiel also noted that if Congress waits until the next president to confirm a nominee, it would be one of the longest vacancies on the court. Wermiel also offered analysis for Al Jazeera. (2/13, 2/15)

SPA Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Jessica Waters spoke to ABC News about the passing of Justice Scalia, saying that his death has been highly politicized and that a court vacancy for more than one year is possible. (2/15)

Distinguished Professor of History Allan Lichtman spoke to BBC World News, calling Scalia the most significant figure on the court in the last generation. Lichtman also spoke with CBS Radio. (2/13)

Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke to CNN and called Scalia an enormously polarizing but also immensely important figure on the court. Vladeck also spoke to The Hill, saying the president needs to nominate someone unopposable on merits. Vladeck cautioned that the Senate election year will affect the nomination process. Vladeck also offered analysis to Roll Call. (2/13)

Law Professor Jamie Raskin summarized important aspects of the history of the court for Reuters, saying, "Where the courts at the turn of the century read individual free-market ideology into the Constitution, the Roberts court has read corporatism into the Constitution, expanding the rights of corporations far beyond anything ever imagined by the Founders." (2/17)

Government Professor Chris Edelson spoke with CBS News, saying that Republicans don’t have to confirm a nominee but this course of action could be a liability politically, as it may appear they are being obstructionist. (2/13)

Additional Features

Review: ‘Big Love’ at American University

DC Metro Theater Arts featured a review of Big Love, directed by Isaiah M. Wooden, assistant professor in the Department of Performing Arts. A reviewer called the play “masterful in communicating” big and complex issues. The review pointed to how the play “explored themes of individual rights vs. those of a group, justice, marriage, and how one person’s power can exert undue pressure on others.” (2/12)
Looking for a New Job Can be Exciting, but External Pressure is Really What Drives Us

*Medical Daily* featured Kogod School of Business Professor *Serge da Motta Veiga*’s research on job hunting. His research measured how the motivation of college job seekers changed over time. *da Motta Veiga* finds that external pressures, such as supporting a family or trying to live up to your parents’ expectations, are often the main driver to securing employment. (2/18)

Faculty Authors
Lincoln’s Forgotten Birthday

*The Hill* Communications Professor *Richard Benedetto* wrote an article for *The Hill* on Lincoln’s birthday. *Benedetto* wrote that there was a time when Americans commemorated Lincoln’s birthday more widely. In the past, school children worked on projects and learned of Lincoln’s achievements in depth. (2/12)

Guns and Women

*Marie Claire* featured Literature Associate Professor *Rachel Louise Snyder*’s essay in a series on women and guns in America today. The essays ran in conjunction with research findings the magazine commissioned, and other contributors include Hillary Clinton, Carly Fiorina, and Roxane Gay. (2/11)

Expertise
AU Experts Offer Analysis of Historic Presidential Visit to Cuba

Government Professor *William LeoGrande* spoke to *PBS NewsHour*, calling the president’s planned visit to Cuba historic and symbolic of the fundamental shift in U.S.–Cuba policy. *LeoGrande* predicted that the current embargo against Cuba may come before Congress for consideration after the election when a coalition is more likely. *LeoGrande* also spoke to the *Washington Post*, saying that the timely trip will act as an impetus for future agreements between the two countries. School of International Service Professor *Phillip Brenner* also spoke to *WTOP* and offered a historical perspective on the U.S.-Cuba relationship. (2/18)

At ASEAN Summit, Obama Calls For Mutual Prosperity

Professor in the School of International Service *Amitav Acharya* spoke to *USA Today* about the ASEAN Summit. *Acharya* discussed Obama’s use of the phrase “peaceful legal means” and the implication for the Philippines and China, who are now in U.N. court over rival shipping claims. (2/15)

Ben Carson’s Campaign Shrugs Off Fake Joseph Stalin Quote

In the *Daily Dot*, *Eric Lohr*, chair of Russian History and Culture, discussed a quotation presidential candidate Ben Carson attributed to Joseph Stalin. *Lohr* said the quote is probably fake but still more plausible than many of Carson’s claims. (2/15)

Frustrated Female Senators Say Clinton Is Victim of Sexism

For *The Hill*, *Jennifer Lawless*, director of the Women and Politics Institute, said that Hillary Clinton appeared to make more of an effort to control her voice and tone during the most recent debate because of widespread
discussion about her voice sounding shrill and as if she’s yelling. (2/15)

Fast Food, U.S. Neighborhoods and Obesity
For BBC Radio, Sociology Professor Michael Bader spoke about how fast food impacts neighborhoods. Bader described how lower-income people in the U.S. and people of color tend to have higher obesity rates. Bader also noted that some relationships are unexpected, like the fact that children with the largest number of fast food restaurants in their neighborhoods are the least obese. (2/18)

The Grammys As a Stage for Political Commentary
American Studies Instructor Stef Woods spoke with HearstTV's "Matter of Fact" about the Grammys as a stage for political commentary. Woods said that given the racial climate in the U.S. and discussions of structural racism, and the election year and other factors, discussion is good if it is respectful and all involved can share their experiences. (2/13)

Why it’s So Disturbingly Common for Water Regulation to Fail
For The Atlantic, Director of the Center for Environmental Policy Daniel Fiorino talked about why it’s common for water regulations to fail. Fiorino spoke of how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency often doesn’t fine state agencies. Fiorino said, “I often compare it to family relationships. You may not all get along, you may have different perspectives, but you’re in the same space, and you have to learn to work together.” (2/12)

Sanders’ Jewish Roots So Far Have Been Quiet Issue in Campaign
Government Professor David Lublin spoke to Washington Jewish Week about presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. Lublin argued that despite Maryland’s large Jewish community, Sanders’ Jewish heritage will not have a great impact. (2/17)