AU Newsmakers
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Top Stories
Camille Nelson Named New WCL Dean
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The National Law Journal featured the announcement that Camille A. Nelson will be the new dean of the Washington College of Law. Nelson served as the dean of Suffolk University Law School from 2010 to 2015. As Suffolk dean, Nelson increased diversity in students and faculty and created the school’s first strategic plan. Provost Scott Bass wrote of Nelson, in the university’s announcement, “The Washington College of Law is fortunate to attract such an experienced candidate ready to lead a law school whose very founders were women.” The announcement of the new dean was also featured by the American Law Institute. (3/14)

AU Legal and Political Experts Weigh In on Supreme Court Nomination

Law Professor Steve Wermiel spoke to Al Jazeera America about the nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. Wermiel pointed out that Garland may have been selected because he would be seen as more confirmable by Republicans and he may be more able to ‘withstand the storm’ of the confirmation process. Wermiel also spoke to FOX 5, ABC Radio, The Norman Transcript, Bankrate.com and Modern Healthcare Chicago. (3/16)

Steve Vladeck, law professor, spoke to The Washington Post about the nomination, predicting that Garland would become a swing vote in the most highly publicized cases, if confirmed. Vladeck also spoke to The Christian Science Monitor, CNN Politics and Bloomberg Law. (3/16)

Allan Lichtman, history professor, spoke to NPR Here and Now about the historical context of nominating and confirming for the Supreme Court during an election year. (3/16)

Additional Features
Bringing Research into Teaching Labs

Chemistry Professor Matthew Hartings discussed the chemistry department’s new approach to undergraduate education through research and upper-level integrated chemistry labs with Chemical & Engineering News. Hartings favors lab experiences that allow students to go beyond proficiency to doing experiments. “This is a great way to teach chemistry and a great way to get some real chemistry done,” Hartings said. (3/14)

Cultural Training: Conference Addresses ‘Intercultural Competence’

The School of Professional and Extended Studies’ Intercultural Management Institute was featured in Bloomberg BNA. The March 10 conference examined the dynamic that awareness of cultural differences is not the same thing as knowing how to deal with such differences. Assistant Vice President of Campus Life Fanta Aw spoke about the Global Marketplace and the Global Organization, saying that a business entering the international market must rethink its policies and
practices, which are often culture-specific and can get in the way of successful cross-cultural operations.

(3/17)

Research Yields Clues About Inflammation Control in Songbird Brains

Parkinson’s News Today featured research by Biology Department Chair Colin Saldanha about how estrogen can protect the brain from harmful inflammation following traumatic injury. In zebra finches, Saldanha discovered the brain produces estrogen close to the site of an injury. Saldanha’s research published in the journal Endocrinology. (3/15)

Certificate Gives Students License to Fight Fraud

The Kogod School of Business was featured in the Washington Post for its certificate in forensic accounting. Casey Evans, director of the Master’s of Science in Accounting program, said that she uses her experience in forensics and litigation to educate students about the fascinating world of fraud investigation. (3/16)

Faculty Authors Stand By Afghanistan’s Courageous Women

Executive-in-Residence Anita McBride co-authored an op-ed for The Hill about the resilience of Afghan women. McBride noted that America has a vested interest in Afghanistan establishing a peaceful, stable nation, and women are at the center of that effort. (3/15)

Our Right to Know: We Cannot Let Government Build Walls to Hide the Truth

Communications Professor Charles Lewis wrote an op-ed for The Star Press about the importance of access to and freedom of information for the American people. Lewis noted that the founding fathers saw the importance of access to information in a functioning democracy, and he cautioned that tools like the Freedom of Information Act should not be curtailed. (3/13)

Expertise

Brazil: What Lies Behind the Political Chaos?

School of International Service Associate Professor Matthew Taylor spoke with Yahoo! News about the political situation in Brazil and the unrest following President Dilma Rousseff’s surprise decision to name her predecessor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as her chief of staff. While Brazil’s judicial system has been functioning efficiently and independently in recent years, the past 10 days have hinted toward presidential overreach or politicization of the system, Taylor said. The Christian Science Monitor also discussed the issue with Taylor. (3/18)

Americans Willing to Wait Longer for Tax Refunds if it Would Prevent Tax Fraud

For Bankrate.com, Executive Director of the Kogod Tax Center Donald Williamson spoke about American taxpayers and their concern about identity theft and tax refund fraud. Williamson said that tax fraud is helped by tax payers who expect immediate refunds, because the IRS is not able to check returns to make sure that they are legitimate. (3/14)
Hillary Clinton’s Link to a Nasty Piece of Work in Honduras

In The Huffington Post, Adrienne Pine, anthropology professor, was quoted about Hillary Clinton’s support of the coup in Honduras. Pine said Clinton was instrumental in propping up the coup administration while the United Nations and the Organization of American States opposed the coup leadership. (3/15)

Cyber Security is the Hottest MBA Career Path in Business Analytics

William DeLone, executive director of the Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center, spoke to Business Because about cyber-crime and cyber security. DeLone argued that most firms do not think they are vulnerable and are therefore unconcerned, leaving a huge shortage of talent in the field. In a separate Business Because article, DeLone talked about teaching cybersecurity to AU students and said seven students work at the Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center. (3/14)

With Rubio Out, Cuban-Americans In Congress Reclaim Battle On Cuba

Government Professor William LeoGrande was quoted in Miami Herald’s article about Sen. Marco Rubio’s loss in the Florida primary and how it may impact the fight of Republican Cuban-Americans to reverse the U.S. rapprochement with Cuba. LeoGrande argued that many South Florida Republicans who have long maintained their uncompromising positions against Cuba can no longer count on as many Republican colleagues supporting them. This is because their business constituents now are interested in doing business on the island. The article ran in more than 20 additional outlets, including The Kansas City Star, The Modesto Bee, and Herald Online. History Professor Allan Lichtman also spoke to the Canadian Press about Rubio’s campaign. (3/17, 3/14)

Environmental War Waged In Amazonia

David Hunter, director of the International Legal Studies Program, spoke to USA Today about the environmental war being waged in Amazonia. About the Chevron case in the Amazon, Hunter said that Chevron has immense resources for litigation and is aware that delays work in their favor. (3/11)

The Presidential Primaries

With CNN International, Allan Lichtman, history professor, discussed the possibility of a brokered convention. Public Communication Professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to WBZ-AM Boston about the presidential primary. Steinhorn said a win in Ohio for candidate John Kasich would ultimately help Donald Trump because it would make a contest between Trump and Ted Cruz less likely. (3/16, 3/14)

Bonus Clips

Failure Is an Option in Startup Nation

Washington Jewish Week featured a story about the startup business fair sponsored by Israel Ideas! and Hasbara Fellowships at the Kogod School of Business. The fair provided opportunities for AU students to find jobs and internships. Dean Erran Carmel spoke about Israel’s consistently high ranking for startups, noting that the small country has produced many companies valued at more than $1 billion. (3/9)

Top 25 Colleges and Graduate Schools to Study Game Design in 2016

The Princeton Review, which has been ranking game-design programs since 2010, chose schools based on its 2015 survey of 150 institutions’ programs or courses. (3/15)
How a Once-Bullied Student Created a Network to Feed Thousands

Maria Rose Belding, a pre-med major in the College of Arts and Sciences, was featured in People Magazine for her work with the MEANS (Matching Excess and Need for Stability) Database. Belding’s organization matches excess food donations to organizations in need, so that donated food does not go to waste. People’s designation of Belding as Hero of the Week is one of many accolades Belding has received (3/17).