Top Story

AU Faculty Authors Share Their Insights in Op-eds and Essays

Law Professor Jennifer Daskal penned an op-ed in The New York Times about the Obama administration’s expanded interpretation of the Authorization for Use of Military Force, passed after September 11th. Daskal asserts that recent interpretations of the law, which have enabled aerial strikes and deployments against ISIS and other terrorist organizations, are dangerously broad. (4/29)

Rachel Louise Snyder, professor of literature, wrote an article for Salon, reflecting on her past experience interviewing His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and its influence on her decision to write about violence and disasters. “There is not a victim or perpetrator of any crime anywhere on this planet who does not understand despair. It travels beyond cultures, beyond languages and geographies, beyond class and economics,” Snyder wrote. (4/24)

For The Hill, Communication Professor Bob Lehrman co-authored an article on soccer concussions and the new rule of United States Soccer Federation, which bans heading for kids under 11, and severely limits it for kids under 14. “A ban on heading for kids under 11 will hardly change this beautiful game. But it will protect the beautiful children who play it,” Lehrman wrote.

Dan Gerstein, adjunct professor in the School of International Service, wrote an article about genome editing as a global danger. Gerstein wrote, “The low cost and growing availability of these powerful new techniques means untrained personnel will inevitably gain access to them, and lack of experience, disregard for codes of ethics, and ignorance of appropriate precautions all but guarantee dangerous outcomes.” (4/25)

Chair of Islamic Studies, Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, wrote an article in the Huffington Post about the dangerous divide between Jews and Muslims. Ahmed wrote, “We believe it is especially important, precisely when our faith communities are at the tipping point, to join together and reach out to each other.” (4/28)

Additional Features

American University to Launch New Innovation Center

The launch of the new AU Center for Innovation in the Capital at the Kogod School of Business was featured in the Washington Business Journal. Melissa Bradley, director for the entrepreneurship and innovation initiative, said the center’s competitive advantage lies in the increasing ties Kogod has in the capital region. The goal for the new center is to teach more innovative thinking whether students plan to start a business or not. (4/26)

Why Gentrifiers Shouldn’t Feel Guilty

The Washingtonian featured a Q-and-A with Carolyn Gallaher, associate professor in the School of International Service, about her new book The Politics
of Staying Put. The book assesses the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, a D.C. real-estate law, and offers a history of the District’s gentrification. Gallaher said, “TOPA has not slowed the changing demographics. But you can’t expect a miracle. No one has found a way to step outside the market. TOPA at least allows tenants to step in.” (4/28)

Higher Ed, Lower Emissions: How Are Colleges Striving Toward Sustainability?

Forbes featured American University for its 2020 deadline to achieve carbon neutrality. Sustainability Program Director Megan Litke talked about how AU will achieve this goal. Starting this spring, American will receive more than 50 percent of its electricity from solar power. (4/22) *Link unavailable

Expertise

What Do Voters Want? Maryland Race Pits Job Experience vs. Life Experience

Director of the Women and Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless spoke to The Christian Science Monitor in advance of Tuesday’s primaries. Analyzing the implications of Democrats outnumbering Republicans in Maryland by more than 2-to-1, Lawless said voters are able to consider diversity and inclusion beyond just who will be electable in the fall. Lawless also spoke to Governing about the impact of term limits on women’s involvement in politics and to CNN about Ted Cruz’s vice presidential pick. (4/25, 4/22, 4/27)

It’s Not About You: When Death Meets Facebook

Aram Sinnreich, communications professor, spoke to the hosts of Money Markets And More, a Wall Street Journal podcast, for an in-depth discussion about how people react through social media when celebrities and loved ones pass away. Sinnreich talked about how the sharing of information, pictures and personal experiences of deceased celebrities through social media is a part of grieving. (4/28)

Trump, Clinton Already Campaigning Against Each Other, Ignoring Rivals

For McClatchy, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies Director James Thurber spoke about the potential results of Tuesday’s primaries. Thurber believes that Bernie Sanders will begin to change his rhetoric to move more closely to Clinton, after a resounding loss. (4/27)

Merriam-Webster Adds LGBT Terms

Nikki Lane, anthropology lecturer, spoke to MetroWeekly about the inclusion of LGBT terms in Merriam-Webster’s dictionary. Lane addressed the significance and discussed how education would continue to play a crucial role. “People whose gender expression is nonconforming, they’re going to continue to be placed in a position of needing to teach people what the words mean.” (4/28)

'Oh No, Not Again': Why Do Stars Keep Dying In 2016?

For AFP, American Studies Instructor Stef Woods discussed the steady stream of celebrity deaths in 2016. Woods said, “Our grandparents’ generation, there wasn’t the same... opportunity to share someone’s work through a variety of mediums, or follow somebody on Instagram, or hear their music on Tidal or Spotify, or see a movie on YouTube.” She also spoke with WTOP about the prevailing misogyny in online bullying and attacks on female firefighters and sportswriters. (4/26, 4/27)
Hispanic Voter Registration Spikes

Government Professor David Lublin spoke to *The Hill* about the increase in registration by Hispanic voters. Lublin described Arizona as “the sort of state that if Clinton starts moving into landslide or big-win territory, she could win.” (4/27)

Predictions for Tuesday’s Presidential Primaries

Allan Lichtman, history professor, spoke to *WBZ-AM Boston* about the alliance that presidential candidates Ted Cruz and John Kasich announced. Lichtman said Donald Trump needs to convince Republicans he will reach 1,237 delegates for the nomination or come close enough so that he will receive the party’s nomination. Lichtman also discussed his predictions with *WPTF Raleigh*. (4/25)

2016’s Best Cities for Hispanic Entrepreneurs

Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies Eric Hershberg and Director of the Latino Entrepreneurship in the D.C. Metro Area Project and Kogod School of Business Professor Barbara Bird spoke to *Wallet Hub*. Hershberg discussed a CLALS study that found a lack of access to credit is a major obstacle for Latino entrepreneurs. Bird said a major hurdle is planning, which may be affected by education and industry experience. (4/25)

Bonus clips

Video Games are Terrible at Depicting Mental Illness

The Daily Dot covered a presentation by Kelli Dunlap, a fellow in the master’s of game design program. Dunlap gave a presentation about video games and mental illness at PAX East in Boston. “Games tell us stories. They reflect our cultural understanding of what’s going on. And what games seem to be telling us is that we have no idea what to do about mental illness,” said Dunlap. (4/25)


*The Nation* highlighted research by Deen Freelon, communication professor, on the Black Lives Matter Movement. The study by American University’s Center for Media and Social Impact showed the immense participation in the conversation about racial justice on Twitter, with 3.4 million Tweets following the killing of Michael Brown. (4/19)