AU Newsmakers
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Top Stories

AU Experts Weigh In on Orlando Terrorist Attack

Tricia Bacon, assistant professor in Justice, Law, and Criminology, spoke to The Washington Post about the possible course of the investigation of the Orlando terrorist attack. Bacon said investigators will take a ‘drag net’ approach to try to gather all the information from the attack and that investigators will also need to discern why the attacker became violent. (6/14)

For McClatchy, Joseph Young, professor of government in the School of Public Affairs and professor in the School of International Service, spoke about the impact of the terrorist attack on America’s politicians. Young said, “As soon as something like this happens ...it instantly polarizes people. It’s the nature of these gun attacks that sparks these real divisive responses.” Young also spoke about the tragedy with Mic.com and authored a blog for The Huffington Post. (6/12, 6/13, 6/15)

Professor of Law Tony Varona wrote a blog post in The Huffington Post. Varona argued the Latino angle to the Orlando tragedy must not be lost. “It should encourage us to recognize the special burdens borne by Latino/a LGBT youth, and to do what we can to lessen the trauma that this horrific act no doubt has thrown against the psyches and souls of these already vulnerable and already multiply traumatized people,” wrote Varona. (6/14)

Steve Vladeck, professor of law, spoke to The Miami Herald about the threat of ‘lone wolf’ attacks. “Instead of large-scale attacks on landmark targets, we are now seeing these mass shootings. The problem in these cases is, the perpetrator is committing the crime the second he pulls the trigger. By then, it’s too late to stop him,” Vladeck said. (6/14)

Public Communication Professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to ABC News Albuquerque about the two presumptive party nominees’ different responses to the tragedy in Orlando. Steinhorn said, “Donald Trump is hoping to channel the emotion and energy of an emotional nation whereas Hillary Clinton is aiming to heal but express resolve.”(6/13)

Professor of Journalism Richard Benedetto spoke to The Washington Times about President Barack Obama’s visit with the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting. Benedetto said the president sharing in grief in a personal way is a symbol of unity. He went on to explain that President Obama failed at unifying the nation when he turned the tragedy into a debate over gun control. (6/17)

Scientists Find Further Confirmation of Gravitational Waves in Binary Black Holes

Physics Professor Gregory Harry spoke to WAMU about the significance of the second detection of gravitational waves in the universe. Harry also discussed that American University contributes to gravitational wave research by working on optics and mirrors used in the powerful detectors. Science World Report also ran the feature by WAMU-FM. (6/16)
Faculty Authors
Are Voters Biased Against Women in Politics? Actually, No.
Director of the Women and Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless wrote an article for The Associated Press. Lawless asserted that contrary to popular belief, women do not experience significant bias when running for office. She also authored a blog for Brookings Institution's FIXGOV. (6/10, 6/15)

Trump's Trust-Me Pitch is a Really Big Ask
Chris Edelson, director, Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program, authored an op-ed for USA Today and wrote “perhaps things would be different with a President Trump in office. Perhaps Congress would prove up to the task of curbing presidential power grabs and making sure careful, reasoned analysis is substituted for the shoot-from-the-hip bravado Trump has displayed on the campaign trail. But recent history gives little reason to be confident about this.” (6/10)

Will Sanders Follow Jackson's '88 Convention Script?
For Real Clear Politics, Communication Professor Richard Benedetto authored an article on the similarities between candidate Bernie Sanders' campaign plan and that of former candidate Jesse Jackson from 30 years ago. Benedetto wrote, “Bernie Sanders’ vow to ‘fight on’ to the Democratic National Convention next month in Philadelphia despite his apparent loss of the presidential nomination to Hillary Clinton is not ‘unprecedented,’ a word we in the media use too much.” (6/9)

Teaching Media Entrepreneurship: What Does that Mean?
Entrepreneur-in-Residence in the School of Communication Jan Schaffer wrote an article for Mediashift, saying, “Educators’ definitions of what media entrepreneurship means and what they want their students to learn vary greatly.” (6/15)

Iceland’s Selective Default?
Professor in the School of International Service Arturo Porzecanski authored an article for The Financial Times. He wrote, “Iceland’s latest attempt to phase out its capital controls will soon entail what deserves to be characterized as a punitive, selective default on its obligations to the country’s foreign creditors.” (6/14)

Expertise
Which Are the 'Most American' Cars and Trucks?
International Business Professor Frank DuBois' 2016 Kogod Made in America Auto Index was featured in Forbes, Boston.com and Alliance for American Manufacturing. Each article describes the index as a deep dive into data to determine which vehicles from the 2016 model year contribute the most to the U.S. economy. The articles highlight DuBois' findings and what makes his research more comprehensive than other “America-made” rankings. (6/15, 6/16)

Senate Votes to Require Women to Register for the Draft
Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence in the School of International Service Nora Bensahel spoke to the New York Times about the Senate vote to require women to register for the draft. Bensahel also spoke about the Senate vote with Talking Points Memo. (6/14, 6/15)
Can Hillary Play the "Woman Card" All the Way to the White House?

Director of the Women and Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless spoke to AFP about the role of gender in Hillary Clinton’s campaign. Lawless also spoke to The International Business Times about why a two- female candidate ticket is unlikely. For The National Post, Lawless spoke about why there wasn’t greater fanfare when Hillary Clinton made history as the first female nominee of a major party. She was also interviewed by BBC Radio. (6/11, 6/10, 6/15, 6/14)

Trump Adds New Twist to Immigration Proposals, but Legal Doubts Persist

Law Professor Herman Schwartz spoke to Reuters about Donald Trump’s immigration proposals. Schwartz questioned Trump’s command of the legal facts on immigration. (6/14)

O.J. Fever is Back

Communication Professor W. Joseph Campbell was featured on Fox News’ Kennedy Report to discuss his book, 1995: The Year the Future Began. Campbell noted that one reason for renewed interest is because of the continuing plot twists and unresolved nature of Simpson’s story. (6/14)

Legacy of the U.S. War on Terrorism

Director of the Nuclear Studies Institute Peter Kuznick spoke about the war on terrorism on CCTV’s The Heat. “The fallback position of the United States is to look military solution to problems that don’t have any obvious military solution,” Kuznick asserted.

Supreme Court Rejects Effort to Grant American Samoans U.S. Citizenship at Birth

Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke to CNN about the recent Supreme Court decision. Vladeck said, “Despite wide-ranging criticisms that those rulings reflect an outdated, if not racist, approach to constitutional protections in the territories, the court of appeals extended their reasoning to also apply to birthright citizenship, and the Supreme Court today left that ruling intact.” (6/13)

House Balks at Library of Congress Plan to Drop Term ‘Illegal Alien’

Linguist-in-Residence Robin Barr spoke to AZCentral about the use of ‘illegal alien.’ Barr said, “Saying someone is illegal convicts them without any due process. It automatically classes them as part of a criminal subgroup.” (6/10)

These Are the Companies with the Fewest Women in Leadership Roles

Siri Terjesen, Entrepreneurship Chair with the Kogod School of Business, spoke to Mashable about the rarity of all-male boards. “Firms in the service industry have more women on their boards generally as compared to manufacturing firms,” Terjesen said. (6/14)

The Number of Executive Orders by Every U.S. President

Chris Edelson, director, Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program, spoke to the Daily Dot. Edelson said, “A president could issue 1,000 executive orders. As long as they were all based on legitimate statutory or constitutional authority, [the executive orders] would be fine.” (6/13)
Donald Trump and His Uneasy Relationship with the Teleprompter

Robert Lehrman, professor of public communication, spoke to The Globe and Mail about candidate Donald Trump’s use of and early refusal to use the teleprompter. Lehrman said, “They want him to use the teleprompter for two reasons: one to look better; the other is he has less chance of straying off the reservation. That doesn’t seem to have worked so far.” (6/16)