AU Newsmakers
June 27 – July 11, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Story
2 Universities’ Vast Green-Energy Deal Will Also Save Millions of Dollars

More than 170 news articles and TV and radio segments covered AU’s participation in a 20-year agreement to directly source half its power needs from solar energy. Chronicle of Higher Education and Voice of America Television discussed AU’s solar commitment in feature stories about the growing impact of solar power on the conventional electricity industry.


Additional Features
The List: Largest Employers

American University ranked 31 in the Washington Business Journal’s list of largest nonfederal public and private DC-metropolitan area employers. AU’s ranking placed it ahead of large organizations such as Fannie Mae, Capital One, Freddie Mac, and BAE Systems, and behind George Washington, George Mason, Howard, and Georgetown universities. (7/4)

Push for Obama to Extend the DREAM Act

On MSNBC’s Daily Rundown with Chuck Todd, Dante Chinni, director of the American Communities Project, discussed the role foreign born populations play in key counties looking specifically at Hispanic centers and recent electoral outcomes. Chinni also explained how the immigration debate could affect diverse constituencies’ reaction in future elections. (7/2)

Presidential Power

Chris Edelson, director of the Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program appeared on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal to discuss presidential executive orders, House Speaker John Boehner’s lawsuit against President Obama for his use of executive orders, and the Supreme Court’s recent decision to limit the presidential power of filling high-level vacancies. (6/29)

Violence in Iraq

International service professor Benjamin Jensen appeared on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal to discuss the latest developments in Iraq and Syria and the options that are available to the United States to prevent ISIS from destabilizing Iraq further. (7/6)
Op-Eds/AU Authors

**Why I Left 60 Minutes**

*Politico Magazine’s Primary Source* section published an expansive excerpt from communication professor Chuck Lewis’ recent book, *935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America’s Moral Integrity*, which delves into what it takes to be a successful investigative reporter, and how Lewis established his passion for revealing the truth through journalism. *Los Angeles Times*’ *Morning Fix*, Huff Post Live, AOL On News, and Media Bistro highlighted this piece. (6/29)

**From the Unipolar Moment to a Multiplex World**

In an op-ed for *Epoch Times*, international service professor Amitav Acharya discussed the foundations of his newest book *The End of American World Order*. Acharya explained the multipolar world emerging post 9/11 and the post Cold War new world order analogizing it to the single screen movie theater giving way to a multiplex theater where several features are taking place simultaneously. (4/7)

**Expertise**

**Benghazi Militant’s Next Court Date in September**

With the Associated Press, law professor Stephen Vladeck discussed the implications that criminal proceedings in the Benghazi attacks hold for the Obama administration. More than 300 outlets republished this story including U.S. News & World Report, ABC News and *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. (6/30)

**Despite the Grousing, Voters Rarely Fire Lawmakers**

Ambassador Connie Morella spoke to the Associated Press about why Congressional incumbents are rarely defeated by challengers despite Congress’ low approval ratings. More than 150 outlets republished this article, including Houston Chronicle, Chicago Sun Times, Huffington Post and San Jose Mercury News. (6/29)

**As Deadline Looms, Argentina Moves Closer to Another Default**

In an interview with Reuters, international service professor Arturo Porzecanski explained why the Argentine government won’t default on its debt and ultimately negotiate with bond holdout creditors before the end of July. (6/30)

**Index Seeks to Determine Why One Film Spurs Activism, While Others Falter**

In a piece about why some Participant Media activism videos produce a stronger following than others, New York Times highlighted communication professor Caty Borum Chattoo’s survey findings that revealed even among the progressive participant audience, the primary concern for most people is crime; followed closely by human rights, health care and education. (7/6)

**At 27,000 Feet, an Air Force Plea to Preserve Its Bombers**

International service professor Gordon Adams spoke to the New York Times in two separate interviews about Air Force aircraft to explain that Cold War era bomber upgrades are unnecessary to keep the country safe and the F-35 fighters latest round of mechanical issues. (7/4, 7/9)
Obama Doctrine on the Line in Iraq

James Goldgeier, dean of the School of International Service and international service professor Gordon Adams talked to McClatchy Newspapers about the Obama doctrine in Iraq and Los Angeles Times about President Obama’s request to approve $500 million for direct military training aid for Syrian rebels. Goldgeier explained Obama’s goal is to keep U.S. forces directly out of the conflict, and Adams explained that the money will serve to boost the confidence of Syrian rebels. (6/27, 7/2)

For Celebrities’ Children, the Spotlight Can Burn

Communication professor Kathryn Montgomery spoke to USA Today about how the Internet has become a forum for an exceptional amount of cruelty aimed at celebrities’ children, through online comments in response to paparazzi photos and unregulated conversation about their lives. (7/7)

Sweet 16 at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

With CBS This Morning, executive in residence Anita McBride talked about what it is like for the Obama daughters to grow up in the White House. Specifically, McBride discussed the pros and cons for first families celebrating milestones like first daughter Malia Obama’s 16th birthday on July 4. (7/3)

SCOTUS Alters Contraceptive Mandate

Leading up to and following the Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby decision, Jessica Waters, assistant dean of the School of Public Affairs appeared on Hearst Television, WUSA9-CBS, and spoke to WBZ Radio Boston. Waters noted that the decision marked the first time that the Court ruled that for-profit corporations have the right to the freedom of religion and the potential impact of the decision going forward. (6/29, 6/30)

Tensions Boiling Over in the Middle East

On MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry, international service professor Hillary Mann Leverett spoke on a panel about Sec. of State John Kerry’s failed pursuit to deliver a Middle East Peace deal and the subsequent escalation of tensions in the Middle East. (7/6)

What Will it Take to Fix a Divided Government

History professor Allan Lichtman appeared on Sinclair Television to discuss the impact that the partisanship in Congress is having on passing legislation on the Healthcare Act, taxes, global warming and immigration reform. (7/4)

Scientists Believe the Brain is Key to Treating Weight Problems

South Africa’s Mail & Guardian highlighted director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience Terry Davidson’s research that found that there is a link between obesity-causing diets and changes in the brain’s hippocampus, resulting in the overconsumption of food. (7/4)