Top Stories

Virginia Primary Surprise
Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg, USA Today, NBCNews.com and hundreds of national and regional news outlets talked about AU alumnus David Brat’s upset win in Virginia’s 7th Congressional district this week and highlighted his PhD in Economics from AU.

Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Slate, EconoSpeak and other national outlets highlighted David Brat’s 1996 dissertation, “Human Capital, Religion & Economic Growth” on which AU economics professor Walter Park and emeritus professor Jim Weaver served as co-chairs and economics professor John Willoughby served as a committee member.

Cantor’s Primary Loss Sends Shock Wave Through House
History professor Allan Lichtman appeared on Sinclair TV and spoke to McClatchy Newspapers about the historic aspect of David Brat upsetting House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, which Lichtman said will strengthen the Tea Party and slow down voting on many social issues. Director of the American Communities Project Dante Chinni wrote a piece for Wall Street Journal about the historic upset, noting that based on his research that Virginia’s 7th district is made up largely of exurban communities that back the Tea Party. (6/11, 6/12)

Additional Features

PR Firms Outline Wikipedia Compliance in Joint Statement
In PR Week, communication professor Andrew Lih explained the significance of the statement ten major public relations firms issued jointly expressing respect for Wikipedia’s goals and a willingness to comply with the online encyclopedia’s policies. (6/10) *log-in req’d

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Technology to the Planet’s Rescue?
Global environmental politics professor Simon Nicholson’s co-authored op-ed in U.S. News & World Report explains how climate geoengineering could temporarily ease global warming. However, Nicholson explains geoengineering also presents difficult governance and justice issues. (6/6)

Don’t Cry for Rogue Debtor Argentina
Arturo Porzecanski, director of the international economic relations program, in a Financial Times op-ed argued that Argentina’s bond restructuring should have put forth a more reasonable and credible proposal based on negotiations along the lines of Uruguay’s bond refinancing in order to avoid a holdout problem and restore access to capital markets. (6/12) *log-in req’d
Why Democrats Need Hillary Clinton in 2016

For The Hill, history professor Allan Lichtman explained why a Clinton candidacy that quickly sweeps away the opposition represents the Democrats' best hope for victory in 2016. Lichtman's analysis explains how his "13 Keys" system works and its track record at predicting winners. (6/11)

DC Targets Tax Relief for Middle Class

In an op-ed for The Hill, tax professor Don Williamson analyzed a D.C. Council proposal to revise the District's tax system in order to lower taxes on middle-income residents while still raising enough funds to provide services to residents and run the government. (6/12)

Expertise

The Tasty Musical Pinkalicious

Performing arts associate professor Carl Menninger talked to BroadwayWorld about his directing Pinkalicious, a musical that tells the adventures of a young girl who turns pink after eating too many pink cupcakes. (6/9)

Iraq Violence Threatens OPEC's Precarious Balance

In response to discord in Iraq, international service professor Jeff Colgan spoke to Associated Press about OPEC's ability to adjust output in the face of a crisis. Colgan's soon to be published study concerning OPEC's ability to influence production of its members in the journal International Organization is also mentioned. (6/12)

FCPA Hits Companies Harder if They Committed Fraud

Gerald Martin, Kogod School of Business professor, talked to Wall Street Journal about his findings while he served on the Searle Civil Justice Institute's U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act task force that studied the value of public companies post financial fraud or bribery investigations. (6/9)

Hillary Clinton Book Tour Could Serve as Dry Run for a Campaign

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute spoke to Los Angeles Times and Agence France Presse about how Hillary Clinton's book tour is serving as way for Clinton to test the waters with the public for her potential run for the 2016 Democratic Presidential nomination. (6/9)

Obama, Putin Face Uncertain Standoff Over Ukraine

James Goldgeier, dean of the School of International Service, talked to USA Today about how Russian President Vladimir Putin could avoid further sanctions that G-7 leaders have threatened. Goldgeier suggested Putin's speaking to Ukrainian President Poroshenko could create ambiguity to forestall new sanctions. (6/7)

Blackwater Trial: What You Need to Know

On the eve the Blackwater Worldwide trial for the killing of 14 Iraqis, Justice, Law and Criminology professor Joe Young spoke to NBCNews.com about the rise of such private paramilitary security firms since the end of the Cold War. (6/9)

South Africa's World Cup Warning to Brazil

With CNNMoney focusing on the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, management professor Mark Clark talked about how South Africa was unable to maximize the economic benefits from its hosting the 2010 World Cup. (6/10)
'Unflappable' Science 'Warrior' Chosen to Lead Key NASA Climate Lab

Science magazine spoke to communication professor Matthew Nisbet about Gavin Schmidt, the new head of NASA’s climate lab at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Nisbet highlighted Schmidt’s new role, and how it may affect his media persona and style of engagement. (6/9)

EU Probe Into Apple’s Irish Taxes May Spawn New Laws

David Kautter, executive director of the Kogod Tax Center, talked to Investors.com about how EU member country tax deals may be narrowed as the EU’s executive arm investigates whether tax deals in Ireland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg constitute illegal state aid to large, foreign corporations. (6/11)

Obama’s Speechwriter Part of Advance Team to Scout Orange County

With the Orange County Register, communication professor Robert Lehrman explained why President Obama’s speechwriter was part of the advance team in the days leading up to Obama’s commencement address at UC Irvine. Lehrman said the information gathered is used to make the speech unique to the occasion and its attendees. (6/11)

Michelle Obama’s Weekend Plans Remain a Mystery

Executive in residence Anita McBride spoke to the Desert Sun about the significance, logistics, and importance of family time First Lady Michelle Obama’s weekend plans may entail in Palm Springs with the President. (6/9)