AU Newsmakers
August 1 – August 22, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Story
Dotty Lynch Leaves Legacy of Political Communication

The New York Times
Several media outlets including New York Times, Washington Post, CBS News, U.S. News & World Report, Politico, WTOP Radio, and Real Clear Politics reported on the death of Dotty Lynch, School of Communication executive in residence who brought decades of political experience and contacts to AU students. The articles noted Lynch’s legacy as being among the first female pollsters, recognizing female voters’ opinion, and having served in several presidential campaigns. Lynch also joined CBS News as political editor in 1985 where she managed an in-house team of researchers who provided polling and analysis to Mike Wallace, Bob Schieffer, Diane Sawyer and Lesley Stahl. (8/10, 8/11)

AU Wonks on Ferguson, Missouri, Police Shooting and Protests
Amidst the turmoil following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, AU professors discussed the riots, police response, social media’s role, and White House reaction.

- International Service professor Cathy Lisa Schneider appeared on several media outlets including C-SPAN’s Washington Journal, NPR, BBC radio, and spoke to the Associated Press and New York Times discussing her research and providing her expertise on police power and race riots.
- Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to CBS News about the need for President Obama to take a stand on the racial tension in Ferguson.
- Communication professor Scott Talan spoke to USA Today about the recurring themes that appear on social media after tragic events like this shooting.
- Government professor Steven Taylor appeared on WTOP Radio and Sinclair Television to discuss the nexus of federal and local responses to the events. (8/19, 8/20, 8/21)

Additional Features
Book Discussion on 935 Lies
Communication professor Chuck Lewis appeared on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal to discuss 935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America’s Moral Integrity, which discusses the erosion of honesty, transparency, accountability and integrity in journalism. (8/5)

An M.B.A. Your Way
The New York Times
For New York Times’ Education Life section highlighting part-time M.B.A. programs, Jill Klein, director of the professional M.B.A. program spoke about the flexibility of the Kogod School of Business’ part-time M.B.A. program that allows students to commit to one course, one night per week. (8/1)
With an Eye on His Legacy, Obama to Convene Major Summit of African Leaders in Washington

International service professor Carl LeVan spoke to Associated Press and Washington Post about the African Leaders’ White House Summit. LeVan also wrote a commentary for The Hill on the leaders gathering and spoke to NBC News online about Ebola spreading to Lagos, Nigeria. (8/5)

In the Galleries: Two Summer Exhibits American University Museum Featured

Washington Post highlighted two exhibits at American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center noting the distinctive personal nature of each. Bill Newman’s 19 realist painting-photographs contrast the cosmos with his Shenandoah Valley farm, while Judy Byron’s colored-pencil drawings tell stories of women she met during travels abroad. (8/8)

There Is a College Class About ‘The Hunger Games’ and It Sounds Amazing

Teen Vogue featured American Studies professor Stef Woods’ feminist and political theory fall course examining three books from The Hunger Games series in addition to other readings to discuss relevant political topics and how heroine Katniss relates to female world leaders. (8/8)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Tenure and the End of the Three-Ring Binder

In an op-ed for the Chronicle of Higher Education, communication professor Patricia Aufderheide wrote about her experience leading the university’s transition to digitized tenure promotion files, explaining the steps to implement the initiative. (8/6)

A Quiet Revolution in the Israeli President’s Office

For Jerusalem Post, international service professor Guy Ziv wrote about recently retired Israeli President Shimon Peres’ unprecedented prominence brought that he brought to the presidency position over the last seven years and how it’s already begun receding into the background under his successor, Reuven Rivlin. (8/11)

Who Rules America?

In his op-ed for The Hill, history professor Allan Lichtman called attention to a study about how ordinary Americans have nearly no impact on U.S. domestic policy making. Lichtman’s piece was republished by more than 10 outlets, and he appeared on the Laura Ingraham Show. The piece garnered nearly 20,000 Facebook shares and 1,400 Twitter shares. (8/12)

The Beginning of the End for Real Reading

In an op-ed for LiveScience.com, linguistics professor Naomi Baron discussed the negative effects that the graphic presentation program PowerPoint has had on in-depth reading, explaining that the program puts readers in a ‘power browsing’ state of mind. Yahoo! News republished the piece. (8/9)
Expertise

Does the Prospect of Running for Office Discourage Women?

The Washington Post

Washington Post's She the People did a feature Q&A story with director of the Women & Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless on her recent research debunking common myths of why women do not seek political office and those factors that play a prominent role in discouraging women from seeking political office. With the New York Times blog The Upshot, Lawless provided reaction to a recent election aversion study and explained how that actual elections offer much more variability than controlled experiments on election behavior. The Atlantic also spoke to Lawless about how U.S. treasurers have all been women since 1949. (8/12, 8/13, 8/21)

Presidential Vacations Can Be Anything But

CBS

Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn talked to CBS News Online about U.S. presidential vacations and the events that could cause President Obama to interrupt his vacation to return to Washington. Steinhorn also appeared on NBC’s Weekend Today Show to discuss this topic. (8/8, 8/16)

Houston Cop Who Threatened, Harassed Grand Jury Witness Served on at Least Nine Other Grand Juries

The Washington Post

Washington Post spoke to Justice, Law, and Criminology professor Jon Gould about ethical and other irregularities in Harris County, Texas’ grand jury where the same police officer served on 10 different grand juries. (8/)

Lauren Bacall and Harry Truman's Piano Moment Led to Bigger Things

U.S. News & World Report

In a U.S. News & World Report piece about Lauren Bacall’s life, journalism professor Gilbert Klein talked about the history of Hollywood stars mingling with U.S. presidents. (8/13)

Families of Malaysia Airlines Victims Unlikely to Receive Compensation

The McClatchy Company

Louis Goodman, dean emeritus of the School of International Service, spoke to McClatchy Newspapers about Russian reluctance in admitting blame to the downing of civilian aircraft like Korean Airline Flight 007. (8/1)

Policing Private Contractors Is Challenge for States

The McClatchy Company

School of Public Affairs dean Barbara Romzek spoke to McClatchy Newspapers about New Jersey officials failing to properly oversee state contracts with outside firms in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Romzek explained successful state contracting is dependent on hiring competent staffers who have authority and funding to get work done. Romzek also spoke to Fiscal Times about this topic. (8/13)

U.S. Job Openings at Their Highest Level in Over a Decade

The McClatchy Company

McClatchy Newspapers spoke to economics professor Robert Blecker about the labor market’s slow recovery. Blecker said government budget cuts have hampered the recovery especially in public sector employment. (8/12)

How Much Does Congress Accomplish?

Government professor David Lublin appeared on Sinclair Television in two separate interviews to discuss Congress’ dysfunctionality trend, and how many speculate that it will play a role in candidates’ midterm elections. (8/1)
Russia: Then and Now
Sinclair Television spoke to School of International Service dean James Goldgeier about current tensions with the U.S-Russian relationship compared to the Cold War era. Goldgeier noted that it is not a second Cold War. (8/1)

Stress Can Lead to Extreme Cases of Domestic Violence
Psychology professor Nathaniel Herr appeared on WRC-TV/NBC 4 to explain how stress factors can ignite a spark in someone to become violent, which occurs in situations involving domestic violence. (8/4)

The Secret to Time Shifting When Your Work Is Global
Erran Carmel, dean of the Kogod School of Business, spoke to BBC online about the difficulty of working across various time zones in today's globalized work force, and explained how time shifting helps workers coordinate with team members that are on separate continents. (8/20)

Bonus Feature
Monitoring Solar Activity with SDO
Phys.org featured AU student Dhaneshvaran Krishnarao's internship as a space weather forecaster for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Krishnarao monitors sun explosions that can cause magnetic solar storms near Earth. The article noted he began interning at NASA last summer after a professor recommended the internship. (8/7)