



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### The Washington Post

**American University** students are the most politically active in the nation according to *Princeton Review* which released its 2013 rankings. AU also ranked high in other categories including, #6 for most popular study abroad program, #10 for best career services and earned the highest ranking on the Green Honor Roll. News organizations including, [Washington Post online](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [The DCist](#) highlighted the university's achievements.

### Additional Features

#### Protect Pregnant Moms from Off-Label Drug



An [ABC News online](#) article cited research coauthored by associate professor of philosophy and religion **Ellen Feder** about the dangers of experimentally giving a specific steroid to pregnant women to reduce rates of typically boy-like characteristics, lesbianism, and bisexuality in their yet-to-be born baby girls. (8/22)

#### Businesses Experiment With Wellness Programs to Cut Costs, Increase Productivity



[Washington Post's Capitol Business](#) highlighted Human Resource Office's pedometer challenge as an example of programs employers are starting in an effort to trim health care costs and increase the productivity of their workforces. **Ann Joiner**, senior director of employee benefits, said, "[We] also bring in an outside vendor twice a year to do screenings that measure a person's body mass index, glucose levels, blood pressure and cholesterol." (8/20)

#### Philippines Students with Disabilities Blaze Trail for ASEAN



[Global Nation Inquirer](#) highlighted the first graduating class from the **School of International Service's Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDPP)** at Mahidol University in Bangkok. "These students have broken the ceiling of physical disability and can become advocates for billions of individuals with disabilities around the world," said **Derrick Cogburn**, executive director of IDPP. (8/19)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Sunday Dialogue: The Legacy of the Baby Boom Generation

#### The New York Times

In a letter to the editor in the [New York Times](#), Leonard Steinhorn, professor of public communication, defended the 'baby boomer' generation in response to an editorial criticizing the generation by *Times* writer Bill Keller. "Generations are complex. They do outstanding but also not so good things, and they should not be reduced to cartoon characters." said Steinhorn. (8/18)

#### The Taliban's Wedge Strategy



In an op-ed for the [International Herald Tribune](#) (Global Edition of the *New York Times*) and the *New York Times online*, **Benjamin Jensen**, assistant professor of international affairs, discussed the Taliban's most recent strategies. "These "green-on-blue" attacks—episodes in which Afghan soldiers and policemen turn their weapons on their coalition partners—are not isolated incidents. Rather, they reflect a Taliban strategy with deep roots in Afghan history," wrote Jensen. (8/21)

## Why Paul Ryan Is Not 'Bad' for Women



In an op-ed for [CNN Online](#), **Anita McBride**, executive in residence in the School of Public Affairs, addressed Paul Ryan's appeal to female voters. "American women have to ask themselves if they want a federal government that respects their hard-earned dollars as much as it respects their right to choose. When they do, I am confident they will not be distracted by media hype and attack ads painting Ryan as hostile to women's concerns; rather, they will find his efforts to stop the buck from being passed to another generation very appealing," wrote McBride. (8/20)

## Expertise

### Killing in the Name of Honor



On [CNN](#), **Akbar Ahmed**, chair of Islamic studies, discussed the frequency of honor killings in Pakistan, where many men are killing their wives in the name of Islam. "What you're seeing is a weak understanding of Islam, a weak understanding of modernity, and men who are not really understanding that they need to move their families into the 21st century and not backwards, over a millennium ago when these tribal customs were practiced," said Ahmed. (8/20)

### Promoting Women in Political Office



[MSNBC.com](#) cited research by **Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women and Politics Institute, on factors that may be contributing to a gender gap in who runs for political office. "Study after study finds that, when women run for office, they perform just as well as their male counterparts." (8/20)

### White House's 'We Can't Wait' Initiatives



[Washington Times](#) talked to **Richard Benedetto**, adjunct professor of journalism, about the reasoning behind President Obama's 'we can't wait' initiatives. "He gets to appeal to various interest groups and he uses it to reinforce the notion that the Congress is blocking him from doing good things for the American people," said Benedetto. Also, in an op-ed for [Fox News.com](#), Benedetto discussed the reasons why the media may be going easy in interviews with President Obama. (8/16, 8/21)

### Worse-Than-Argentina Debt Offer Rejected by Belize Bondholders



[Bloomberg](#) talked to **Arturo Porzecanski**, distinguished economist in residence, about Belize's debt offer to its stakeholders, which is very poor in comparison with Argentina's debt offer in 2001. "It puts Belize in the same league as the most punishing restructurings in sovereign history," said Porzecanski. **Reuters**, *International Finance Review* online, and *The Independent* online republished the article. (8/21, 8/22)

### Groups Ask FTC to Investigate Viral Marketing Aimed at Kids



[Adweek](#) talked to **Kathryn Montgomery**, professor of communication, about the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of viral marketing aimed at kids. "It's disguised as communications, fun and entertainment, but it's all about promoting a commercial message. Hopefully this will be a wake-up call for the industry. I am surprised the [Federal Trade Commission] hasn't cracked down on this," said Montgomery.