AU Newsmakers
June 20 – June 27, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
For prior weeks, go to http://www.american.edu/media/inthemedia.cfm

Top Story
American University Teams Up to Make Deal in Solar Power

AU’s participation in a 20-year agreement to directly source half its power needs from solar energy was discussed in more than 150 news articles and TV and radio segments. Stories by Associated Press and Washington Post’s Capital Business highlighted AU’s unique and ambitious goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. Key outlets covered the news, including Bloomberg Businessweek, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Fox Business, U.S. News & World Report, EcoWatch, Washington Business Journal, Huffington Post College, and ThinkProgress.com.

Additional Features
Decoding the Cold War

Washingtonian magazine spoke to Anton Fedyashin, executive director of the Initiative for Russian Culture, about his course on Cold War history and the spy novel. Fedyashin explained how he set out to deconstruct the stereotypes that came about during the Soviet-American era. The piece also noted how the course fit with Fedyashin’s mission with the IRC, which was created to break down stereotypes.

Heil Hipster: The Young Neo-Nazis Trying to Put a Stylish Face on Hate

In a Rolling Stone trend piece about the evolution of German neo-Nazis, Cynthia Miller-Idriss, director of the International Training and Education Program, discussed her research revealing that social media space allows young people to have different expressions of their identities in different places, making it more difficult to identify young people who support the neo-Nazi movement. Miller-Idriss explains appearance does not necessarily identify one’s tendencies towards extreme ideologies as they once had. (6/23)

Op-Eds/AU Authors
Sweden’s Feminist Initiative Has Lessons for Social Movements Elsewhere

In a Washington Post Monkey Cage blog, government professor Kimberly Cowell-Meyers wrote about the significance of Sweden’s Feminist Initiative win of a European Parliament seat-- the first ever autonomous feminist party to win a seat. Cowell-Meyers explained what the victory could mean for other parties and social movements. (6/20)

Obama Can’t Go It Alone in Iraq

In an op-ed for U.S. News & World Report, government professor Chris Edelson explained why the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq is inadequate for President Obama to take any military action in Iraq. Edelson argued why Obama must seek new authority from Congress. (6/20)
Why Cantor's Loss Caught Journalists Flat-footed

In an op-ed for Real Clear Politics, communication professor Richard Benedetto discussed how the media coverage following former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s loss revealed how out of touch the news media is with the average voter. (6/23)

Expertise

This Is What it’s Like to Be Young and in a Sexless Relationship

Huffington Post spoke to psychology professor Barry McCarthy about young couples sustaining happy and healthy relationships even when intimacy is infrequent. (6/20)

Obama Keeps Busy, Do-Nothing Congress Dithers

History professor Allan Lichtman appeared on MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow Show to discuss President Obama’s use of executive orders while Congress stalls on moving legislation as compared to his predecessors. (6/20)

The End of the Internet?

Laura DeNardis, communication professor, talked to The Atlantic about how rising geopolitical conflict over control of the Internet could result in direct government regulation that would be inherently less commercial and privately controlled. (6/25)

Experts Say a Major Upset Unlikely in Congressional Races

Government professor David Lublin spoke to Washington Times and Baltimore Sun about the Democratic and Republican primaries in Maryland and Mississippi. (6/22, 6/25)

Blurred Lines in Iraq

School of International Service dean James Goldgeier and international service professors Gordon Adams and Guy Ziv provided analysis of recent events in Iraq and Syria. Goldgeier appeared on Hearst Television citing the frustration the United States has with the Maliki government and the lack of an alternative. Adams spoke to New York Times and Los Angeles Times about Obama’s request to Congress for funds to arm moderate Syrian rebels. Ziv spoke to The Hill about the increasing role sectarian strife and religion play in the post-Cold War era. (6/21, 6/23, 6/27)

Argentina Sovereign Bond Default Case Shifts Power to Creditors

International service professor Arturo Porzecanski spoke to Financial Times about Argentina’s U.S. Supreme Court case loss to holdout bond creditors. Porzecanski explained that the long held advantages in bond restructurings has shifted away from sovereign debt issuers. (6/20) *login req’d*

The Problem with Calling Hillary Clinton "Calculating"

With Elle magazine, Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, talked about the way that the media is describing Hillary Clinton as ‘calculating’ or ‘conniving’ is not so much gendered but rather reflective of how the Clintons have been characterized since arriving to Washington. (6/23)