AU Newsmakers
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Top Stories

AU Faculty Discuss Upcoming Mid-term Elections
Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director James Thurber spoke to AFP, CNN.com and Time about his midterm election predictions. (10/26, 10/31, 10/28)

For CNN online, Women and Politics Institute director Jennifer Lawless discussed the "gender gap" and its ineffectiveness in swaying voters. Lawless also spoke to the Boston Herald about whether Martha Coakley’s bid for Massachusetts governor as the first female candidate would gain some advantage in the polls if she focused on “breaking the glass ceiling.” (10/28)

Washington Post in association with AU’s American Forum, livestreamed the School of Communication and the Kennedy Political Union’s discussion with students about voting and the midterm elections. (10/23)

In an interview with Sinclair TV, history professor Allan Lichtman commented on Congress, lobbyists and special interest groups, stating that Congress’ attention is internal rather than external. (10/28)

Campaign Management Institute academic director Candice Nelson spoke to Newsday about how technology is changing campaign techniques and outreach efforts to win votes. (10/29)

Being Married Has a Lot to Do with Economic Success, Scholars Say
The Washington Post
Washington Post Color of Money columnist Michelle Singletary featured economics professor Robert Lerman’s research on the economic impacts of marriage on family wealth. Lerman’s research showed that stable, two-parent families decrease the chance of people ending up impoverished. Singletary added that she hoped Lerman’s research would spur conversations about programs to encourage and strengthen marriage. The column also ran in the Boston Globe. (10/28)

America’s Best Colleges for a Major in Film
In a USA Today ranking, American University was featured as one of the best colleges to major in film within the U.S. The film and media arts program offers a combined bachelor’s and master’s degree in film and video. (10/29)

Rocket Explosion at Wallops Island
In an interview from AU’s physics lab for WJLA-7, assistant director for the NASA Space Grant consortium Megan Kemble discussed her first-hand experience seeing the Antares rocket explode. Kemble talked about an experiment by
several area university students being destroyed in the explosion. Kemble also spoke to Baltimore’s WJZ-TV and shared explosion images and spoke with WTOP Radio online. For Washingtonian.com, space policy professor Howard McCurdy discussed what impact the rocket explosion would have on private space flight. (10/29)

**Op-Eds**

**Behind Mexico’s latest massacre: Authorities were warned but didn’t listen**

In an op-ed for The Hill’s Congress Blog, international service professor Jonathan Fox explained how the massacre in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, demonstrates the shortfalls in Mexico to address serious human rights and rule of law issues that the U.S.-funded Merida Initiative was to help remedy in part. Fox stated that Mexican civil society is being treated as a threat rather than a partner by some in the Mexican government and that the U.S. Congress should take notice. (10/29)

**Expertise**

**Where’s Czar? Ebola Raises Management Questions**

For an Associated Press article on the White House’s handling of Ebola, Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director James Thurber explained President Obama’s evidence-based approach to making decisions. Thurber said it can sometimes be MEGO — My Eyes Glaze Over. The story syndicated to more than 130 outlets. (10/29)

**Initiative to revitalize Barry Farm is Little More Than an Urban Dispersal Plan**

For Courtland Milloy’s Washington Post column, School of Public Affairs Metropolitan Policy Center’s director Derek Hyra discussed his research findings concerning the demolition of public housing throughout the country. Hyra explained that from 1997-2007 more than 240,000 people have been displaced. African Americans represent 192,000 of those being displaced—a significant increase from 2000. Hyra explains how new mixed income communities in the short-term often do not benefit less well-off residents. (10/28)

**In Cold War, U.S. Spy Agencies Used 1,000 Nazis**

In a New York Times article, Richard Breitman, Holocaust scholar and history professor, commented on how the American military, C.I.A. and F.B.I. employed at least 1,000 ex-Nazi’s as spies during the Cold War. Breitman said the “morality” of the recruitment wasn’t considered, as the United States feared a Communist take-over and had few assets to rely on at the time. The article was reprinted in several outlets including Dallas Morning News and MSN.com. (10/26)

**Focus on NSA Surveillance Limits Turns to Courts**

In an Associated Press article, law professor Stephen Vladeck commented on the NSA’s collection of millions of Americans’ telephone records. Vladeck explained that the court cases are creating potential for a Supreme Court review to determine the boundaries of privacy and digital information. (10/28)

**Ukraine Elections**

For CNN International, Initiative for Russian Culture director Anton Fedyaishin discussed the Ukraine elections and wide-ranging impacts including how the outcome was a step in the right direction, but unlikely to improve the country’s economic situation because of political gridlock. (10/26)

**Generation to Generation: the Future of Civil Rights**
For MSNBC’s Reid Report, government professor Julian Bond appeared in a segment discussing the future of Civil Rights while reflecting on his own role in Civil Rights history. Bond also spoke about the role of contemporary activism, and how it has changed. (10/29)

On Washington

Public communication professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to CBS Radio Detroit about Ferguson, Ebola and the rise of the Islamic State constantly in the news is making Americans anxious and concerned about Washington’s ability to address these issues. (10/31)

2014’s Richest and Poorest States

Public administration and policy associate Daniel Mullins participated in a panel discussion for WalletHub about wealth-generation and the post-recession wealth gap. Mullins pointed out that a state’s wealth doesn’t depend so much on its geographical location. He said it depends on a state’s willingness to improve its current assets, such as infrastructure.