AU Newsmakers
Oct. 3 – Oct. 10, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories

Why the Next Generation of Newsroom Leaders are Studying Video Games

Jeffrey Rutenbeck, dean of the School of Communication, wrote a blog post in the Knight Foundation Blog about the launch of a new joint School of Communication and College of Arts and Sciences program titled “Journalism Leadership Transformation,” featuring a $250,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Medabistro, Gamasutra, and Gamepolitics News also covered the fellowship program that will train journalists focused on media innovation to apply lessons from game design and systems thinking to excel in media leadership. (10/09)

“I Drank Too Much Coffee, and Now I Have the Jitters.”

For the “Now What?” section of Real Simple magazine, psychology professor Laura Juliano answered a reader’s question about coffee consumption, advising readers to not drink more than two 12-ounce cups of drip coffee a day and have only one cup per sitting, no matter one’s weight. (Oct. ’14)

AU Authors

Uneven Economic Recovery Highlights Political Divide

In an NBCNews.com commentary piece, Dante Chinni explained that national economic figures and trends do not necessarily match individual economic realities. Chinni’s research shows that distinctions by county and geography play a role in the employment rate. (10/6)

A Shareholder Solution to Citizens United

In a Washington Post op-ed, law professor and Maryland state senator Jamie Raskin discussed stalled Annapolis legislation on campaign finance reform and a bill he will introduce to improve transparency in political spending. Raskin’s bill would require managers of Maryland-registered corporations to post all political expenditures on company websites and confirm the spending reflects majority shareholders’ preferences. (10/3)

Trade Deals Worsen Immigration Pressures

In a Baltimore Sun op-ed, economics professor Robert Blecker addressed free trade agreements, the U.S. economy and undocumented workers, and how the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, if done incorrectly, will intensify the negative impacts of previous trade deals. (10/3)
Expertise

Reproductive Rights Take Center Stage for Democrats Defending Senate Majority

Director of the Women & Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless spoke to Associated Press about how 2014 Democrat candidates are appealing to unmarried women on reproductive issues as a segue into broader gender issues that proved successful to buoying President Obama to victory in 2012. More than 200 outlets republished the article. (10/3)

Sen. Hopefuls Taking Attendance in NC, IA, KY, CO

For Associated Press, academic director of the Public Affairs & Advocacy Institute Patrick Griffin discussed how U.S. Senate challengers are confronting incumbents on their attendance records in Washington in an effort to win over voters. More than 60 outlets republished the article. (10/9)

Obama Still in Office, But Ex-Aides’ Books and Claws Are Already Out

School of International Service dean James Goldgeier spoke to the Los Angeles Times about the public’s tolerance of the new trend of former administration officials criticizing the current White House administration’s policies. (10/7)

Will President Obama Pay for Palling Around With Paltrow?

With the Washington Whispers’ columnist for U.S. News & World Report, history professor Allan Lichtman commented on how people would react upon learning about Obama’s appearance at a celebrity political fundraiser, noting that most people pay attention to politics primarily when it affects them in some way personally. (10/3)

AIG Cancels Conference at Resort Amid Inquiry Over Expenses

Associate professor of international business Heather Elms spoke to the New York Times about how American International Group is being viewed as behaving unethically when news broke about the company hosting a $440,000 conference days after receiving an $85 billion U.S. government bailout. (10/9)

Hong Kong Protesters in Cyberwar

Portions of journalism professor Andrew Lih’s Quartz op-ed were quoted on CNN.com to describe the sophisticated use of technology by the activist of Hong Kong’s Occupy Central Movement, aka the Umbrella Revolution. (10/03)

Go-Pro Shark Photo Goes Viral

Public & strategic communication professor Scott Talan spoke to the BBC.com about what makes a picture go viral on the Internet and analyzed the trending image of a great white shark off the coast of South Africa. (10/08)

Bonus Clip

American University’s Bill for Late Metro Service for Nats Games: $0

Despite the Nats’ early exit from the MLB post-season, Washington City Paper recognized AU in extending its post season partnership with the Nats for “heroically” offering to put down the money to operate the Metro after-hours if games ran late. (10/8)