AU Newsmakers
November 14 – November 21, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories

After Injury, Estrogen May Shield the Brain
Science News featured a study by biology chair Colin Saldanha and two of his students explaining how estrogen can protect the brain from harmful inflammation following traumatic injury. In zebra finches, Saldanha discovered the brain produces estrogen close to the site of an injury. (11/20)

Are Financial Whistleblowers Worth It? Study Says Yes
The Guardian featured a study conducted by Gerald Martin, Kogod School of Business finance professor, on the impact of whistleblowers. The study confirmed that the benefits of whistleblower programs outweigh the costs. (11/19)

American University Experts Discuss Immigration Plan
Leading up to President Obama’s anticipated executive action on immigration reform, American University professors discussed the economic and political significance of the plan.

The Washington Post
Law professor Stephen Vladeck spoke to the Washington Post’s Wonkblog about whether states will respond by suing the administration over the additional cost of providing for immigrant families. (11/14)

The Hill
In an op-ed for the Hill online, government professor Chris Edelson analyzed President Obama’s plan, saying that if Obama permits undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. permanently, he will be overstepping his boundaries. (11/20)

Debate Over Ending The U.S. Embargo on Cuba
For the Diane Rehm Show, government professor William LeoGrande participated in a panel discussion about U.S.-Cuba relations. LeoGrande spoke about the presence of bilateral dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba since the Eisenhower administration, which he discussed in his new book “Back Channel to Cuba.” (11/18)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Congress Needs to Step Up and Support the Nuclear Negotiations with Iran
In a Roll Call op-ed, Anthony Wanis-St. John, director of the International Peace and Conflict Resolution MA program, discussed Congress and the agreement on Iran’s nuclear program. Wanis-St. John argued that the U.S. should be aware of the alternatives if the negotiations fail, as this could be the last chance for an agreement for years to come. (11/20)
The Best and Worst Election Ads of the 2014 Midterms

In a Washington Post op-ed, communication professor Drew Babb discussed his political advertising class and analyzed the five best and worst campaign advertisements of the midterm elections. (11/18)

Expertise

Obama Pledges $3 Billion to Help Poor Countries Confront Climate Change

For Associated Press, international service professor Paul Wapner commented on the U.S. $3 billion pledge to help combat climate change in vulnerable countries. Wapner discussed President Obama’s advancement of his climate agenda despite a GOP Congress “that may not even believe in global warming.” The story syndicated more than 250 times. (11/14)

A Two-Year Plan to Lower Your Taxes

Donald Williamson, executive director of the Kogod Tax Center, spoke to the Wall Street Journal about a two-year simple tactic that would boost tax deductions for Americans, saying that the tactic would be “marginally beneficial” to many taxpayers. (11/14)

Probe of Ferguson Police Could Spur Broad Change

For Associated Press, law fellow William Yeomans spoke about the civil-rights investigation into the Ferguson police department and explained that the “public becomes too preoccupied with individual prosecutions without recognizing the importance of bringing about long-term lasting change.” (11/18)

Finding a Retirement Haven to Suit You

For a New York Times article, which featured the American Communities Project, government professor Antoine Yoshinaka spoke about how to discover an area’s political views. Yoshinaka stated that residents could obtain voting patterns and results through the elections division of the secretary of state for their locality. (11/19)

Petrobras Scandal Widens, Earnings Delayed

International service professor Matthew Taylor spoke to the Wall Street Journal about the Petrobras scandal and its effect on Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff. Taylor explained that the scandal considerably weakens the newly re-elected president and described the scandal as a “ticking time bomb.” (11/14)

Why Cosby Accusers are Being Listened to This Time

Public communication professor Gemma Puglisi spoke to the Christian Science Monitor about the Bill Cosby sexual assault allegations, saying that the allegations are “opening a dialogue” about assault. Puglisi commented that the victims’ voices should be heard but that Cosby has the right to voice his side of the story. (11/19)
Week Ahead in Congress

Communication professor Paul Albergo appeared on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal to discuss the advantages, disadvantages and political significance of the Keystone XL Pipeline. (11/17)

Carl LeVan Speaks about the Islamic State

For BBC, international service professor Carl LeVan spoke about Boko Haram’s takeover of Chibok, Nigeria and the Nigerian government’s role in protecting those who could not flee the area. LeVan spoke about the Islamic State’s effect on Chibok and international concerns of Boko Haram. (11/15)

Har Nof: 'Scenic Home' to Families, Learners

Center for Israel Studies scholar-in-residence Dan Arbell discussed the demographics and politics of the neighborhood of Har Nof in Israel for a story in the Baltimore Jewish Times about an attack at the synagogue Kehilat Bnei Torah. (11/19)

Global Warming Movies at Box Office: How Climate Change Films Perform

In an interview with Climate News Network, communication professor Declan Fahy commented on the use of well-known celebrities in global warming films. Fahy explained that the use of big-name actors help filmmakers connect with audiences and mobilize them to take action. (11/18)