Top Story

New Congress and President Obama’s Last Two Years

Leading up to the 114th Congress’ opening day, news media sought AU faculty expertise about the new Congress and President Obama’s last two years in office.

History professor Allan Lichtman appeared on MSNBC’s The Cycle to discuss President Obama’s legacy and long-term effect on the country. Lichtman also appeared on Voice of America TV. (12/19, 12/23)

C-SPAN covered a Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies discussion featuring former White House legislative directors from the last four presidential administrations moderated by Public Affairs & Advocacy Institute academic director Patrick Griffin, who also served in the Clinton administration as a legislative director. Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director James Thurber also spoke to CBS Radio about the incoming Congress. (12/11, 1/6)

Women & Politics Institute director Jennifer Lawless appeared on KETV-ABC7 to discuss women in the 114th Congress and running for office. Lawless also spoke to Politico Magazine. (1/3)

Additional Features

How Grandchildren Botch the Best-Laid Retirement Plans

Bloomberg online featured Kogod School of Business finance and real estate professor Robin Lumsdaine’s retirement study. Lumsdaine’s study says that women are more likely to retire when they become grandparents, which can be detrimental to their retirement savings. (1/7)

Fleeing to Dismal Swamp, Slaves and Outcasts Found Freedom

NPR featured anthropology professor Daniel Sayers and his new book, A Desolate Place for a Defiant People. Sayers spoke about the conditions of Great Dismal Swamp and the escaped slaves who settled there. The segment aired on more than 70 NPR affiliates nationwide. (12/28)

The Understudied Behaviors of Grant Seekers and Grantmakers

BizTimes.com featured public administration and policy professor Lewis Faulk’s research examining the behaviors of both grantmakers and grant seekers. (1/2)
‘Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South’

The Washington Post featured law professor Perry Wallace and Andrew Maraniss’ biography of Wallace, Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South. The biography highlights Wallace’s experience at Vanderbilt as the first African American basketball player in the Southeastern Conference. (1/8)

Op-Eds

Voice Mail is Dying

The Washington Post

In an op-ed for Washington Post’s PostEverything, linguistics professor Naomi Baron argued that voicemail is “dying” and that we should not “hang up” on spoken language, which distinguishes humans from all other species. The piece also ran in the Toronto Star. (1/2, 1/5)

Why Real Change in Cuba Won’t Come Easy or Fast

Los Angeles Times

In a Los Angeles Times op-ed, government professor William LeoGrande argued that reestablishing normal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba will be a difficult task, but the “journey has begun.” (12/26)

People Who Participate ‘Beyond Voting’ are Different

The Washington Post

In an op-ed for Washington Post’s Monkey Cage blog, government professor Jan Leighley argued that voters who are politically active beyond the polls have different policy views than low-engaged voters. (12/28)

Mario Cuomo: An Appreciation from a Scribe

Real Clear Politics

In a Real Clear Politics op-ed, journalism professor Richard Benedetto argued that reporters don’t have the opportunity to get to know politicians as people, as they once did. Benedetto recalled his time reporting alongside Mario Cuomo, saying that it wouldn’t happen today because of “a fog of mutual distrust” between reporters and politicians. (1/2)

The Case for Protected Status for Central American Migrants

Roll Call

In a Roll Call op-ed, Eric Hershberg, director of the American University Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, and Washington College of Law professor Jayesh Rathod, argued that the White House should apply Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to migrants from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Hershberg and Rathod explained that the TPS wouldn’t be a long-term solution, but it would alleviate criticism about immigration. (12/22)

Expertise

Christmas Traditions Explained: Caroling

USA Today

Daniel Abraham, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, spoke to USA Today about the tradition of caroling, saying it dates back to the 8th or 9th century. (12/21)
Crude Oil and Hedging  
Finance and real estate professor Jeffrey Harris spoke to NPR’s Marketplace about Continental Resource’s hedging against crude oil prices. Harris said being on the wrong side of the market could destroy the value of any company. (12/19)

Inconsistency of Pakistani Policy  
International service professor Akbar Ahmed spoke to NPR about the grant of bail of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, alleged mastermind of the 2008 attacks of an army school in Mumbai. Ahmed discussed the inconsistency in policy. (12/19)

Boston Bombing: Trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev Begins with Jury  
Law professor Ira Robbins appeared on NBC to discuss the process of jury selection for the Boston Marathon bombing trial. Robbins also spoke to NBC News online. (1/5)

Why Do Cable News Shows Use So Many Celebrity ‘Experts’?  
In a Washington Post interview, communication professor Joseph Campbell discussed the issue of cable networks using celebrities as experts, saying “the practice usually doesn’t elevate or enrich the discussion.” (12/23)

Twenty Years On, a Penetrating Look at Media Missteps  
Communication professor Joseph Campbell spoke to the Washington Times about the release of his new book, 1995: The Year the Future Began, which depicts many important events from that year. (12/31)

College Hunt Looms for First Daughter Malia Obama  
Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies executive-in-residence Anita McBride spoke to the Chicago Tribune about Malia Obama’s college search, saying that she can’t imagine Malia not getting in whichever colleges she applies. The article syndicated more than 30 times. (12/27)

Michael Grimm Resignation  
Communication professor Leonard Steinhorn spoke to CBS and WTOP radio about Michael Grimm stepping down from Congress after he pled guilty to tax evasion. (12/29)

Some Maryland-Based Businesses Look to Cuban Frontier  
For a Baltimore Sun article, international service professor Philip Brenner discussed U.S.-Cuba restrictions, saying that tourism restrictions will likely be the first to end. (1/4)

The Next Battle for Ukraine  
International service professor Keith Darden spoke to the New York Times about Ukraine and its ability to reform its government successfully. (1/3)
Caffeine Withdrawal Explained

KPLA-FM featured psychology professor Laura Juliano’s research for a segment about caffeine withdrawal. Juliano noted how people often visit doctors for chronic headaches or flu-like symptoms and in some cases find they are suffering the symptoms of withdrawal. (12/23)

Hourly Wage Increase

Management professor Mark Clark appeared on WKEF-ABC22 to discuss a federal minimum wage increase. Clark explained that a state-to-state minimum wage increase would capture the nuances of what states need. (12/28)

Is Greece heading for the "Grexit"?

International service professor Miles Kahler spoke to CBS News online about financial “contagion” in Europe and Greece’s attempts at reform. (1/5)

Sony Hack Could be Game Changer

Department of Justice, Law & Criminology professor Andrew Borene spoke to the Hill about the Sony hack, saying that an info-sharing bill may be a possibility in the future. (1/4)

Why Islam forbids images of Mohammed

International service professor Akbar Ahmed spoke to CNN online about the Charlie Hebdo cartoon depicting Mohammed and the controversy of the cartoon. (1/8)

Update on U.S. Relations with Mexico

For WAMU’S The Diane Rehm Show on NPR, director of the Center for North American Studies Mauel Suarez-Mier spoke about U.S.-Cuba relations. Suarez-Mier discussed trade, security and immigration. (1/7)

Bonus Clip
Top Holiday Videos for 2014

Examiner.com named American University’s “Clawed’s Gift” video as a top holiday video of 2014. (12/25)