Top Stories

D.C. Area Universities Among Top Providers of Peace Corps Volunteers

The Washington Post featured American University’s rise in the Peace Corps rankings to claim the number two spot for top volunteer-producing schools in the medium-sized schools category. AU produced 41 volunteers. (2/18)

The Art of War

A two-page review for the Washington Post's Weekend Going Out Guide featured two current exhibits at the American University Museum that explore themes of war and loss. The reviewer noted the personal viewpoints of the artists in their approach and wrote “Their art ponders historical violence in ways that are deliberate yet immediate...Although their methods and inspirations are quite different, Plattner’s ‘Gods of War!’ and Levenson’s ‘Identidad’ are equally vivid and personal.” (2/20)

Additional Feature

Not-So-Great Expectations

For Inside Higher Education, executive director of AU Abroad Sara Dumont spoke about the pros and cons of extremely short-term study abroad programs that take place during breaks versus academic-year programs. Dumont explained that students often choose short-term programs because they are easier. (2/18)

Op-Eds

Beat ISIS – Export Israeli Water to Jordan

In an op-ed for the Times of Israel, School of Professional & Extended Studies (SPExS) professor Jeffrey Sosland argued that it is in Israel's best interest to support Jordan with water diplomacy, as Jordan is experiencing its worst draught in decades. Sosland explained that water diplomacy would permit Jordan to prevent unrest from ISIS. (2/12)

How to Save Ukraine: Accelerate NATO Military Modernization

In an op-ed for Roll Call, international service scholar-in-residence Benjamin Jensen argued that Eastern European NATO members should supply Ukraine with its surplus Soviet era weapons with which Ukrainians are familiar. (2/19)
Why Reading on a Screen Is Bad for Critical Thinking

In an op-ed for the Huffington Post, linguistics professor Naomi Baron argued that on-screen reading is harmful to critical and deep reading. Baron cited her research showing more than 90 percent of college students surveyed found concentration and digital screens weren’t “a good mix.” (2/17)

Making Together Better for Scotland and the UK

In an op-ed for the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage, government professor David Lublin discussed the proposals that devolved more power to Scotland rather than giving it more power in the center. Lublin says this solution will likely yield success based on his research. (2/18)

Fifty Years After Medicare Desegregated Hospitals, Blacks Still Fighting for Health Care Access

In an op-ed for the Huffington Post, sociology professor Judy Lubin examined the progression from the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Lubin argued that the ACA has the potential to reduce racial healthcare inequalities if every state expands Medicaid. Lubin also spoke to the Huffington Post for a separate article on healthcare. (2/16 - 2/17)

Expertise
How Libya May Become a 'Breeding Ground' for ISIS Recruits

School of International Service dean James Goldgeier appeared on Fox News Shepard Smith Reporting to discuss the threat of ISIS expanding into Libya and Egypt’s call for intervention. Goldgeier explained that ISIS won’t be stopped until citizens rise up against the group. (2/16)

Authorization for the Use of Military Force Request

Law professor Jennifer Daskal appeared on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal to discuss President Obama’s proposal to Congress for a new Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) to combat ISIL worldwide. Daskal explained the shortfalls of the current proposed AUMF and the need to repeal the outdated 2001 AUMF. International service professor Shoon Murray spoke to the Washington Times about complications with Guantanamo detainees if the 2001 AUMF is repealed. International service distinguished scholar-in-residence Nora Bensahel spoke to Federal News Radio about Obama’s AUMF request. (2/17)

Republican National Committee Pressed to Dump NBC from Hosting GOP Debates

Journalism professor Richard Benedetto spoke to the Washington Times about the reputations of MSNBC and Fox, saying that there is “more of a perception that Fox News is conservative than MSNBC is liberal.” (2/16)
Foreign Government Gifts to Clinton Foundation on the Rise

Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies (CCPS) director James Thurber spoke to the Wall Street Journal about Hillary Clinton’s role at the Clinton Foundation and whether foreign donations to the Foundation presents liabilities should she run for president. The article syndicated more than 40 times. CCPS academic director of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute Patrick Griffin spoke to McClatchy and explained that Hillary Clinton would have to “separate herself from the foreign donations” if she seeks the Democratic nomination for president. The article syndicated more than 30 times. (2/17 - 2/18)

Faulted for Avoiding ‘Islamic’ Labels to Describe Terrorism, White House Cites a Strategic Logic

Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies Akbar Ahmed spoke to the New York Times about President Obama’s strategic word choice when talking about ISIS extremist groups rather than “smear all Muslims”. However, Ahmed cautioned that Obama needs to avoid his academic approach to the politically charged subject. Ahmed also appeared on WAMU’s The Diane Rehm Show on NPR, BBC World News TV and Al Jazeera English to discuss the growing concern over ISIS. (2/17 - 2/19)

What Low-Income Areas Can Teach Silicon Valley about Tech

For How We Get To Next, Metropolitan Policy Center director Derek Hyra discussed the difficulty African American small businesses face having experienced a 50 percent decrease in Small Business Administration loans since 2009. (2/17)

Volkswagen Might Have Found a Fix for America’s Youth Unemployment Problem

Economics professor Robert Lerman spoke to the Huffington Post about the advantages of apprenticeships and the “strong sense of occupational pride” that they convey. (2/13)

Why Won’t Political Aides Watch What They Post on Social Media?

In an article for the Hill about political aides posting embarrassing, inappropriate and offensive comments on social media, communication professor Scott Talan explained that we are still getting used to social media and that “in another decade or two we’ll have a much better sense of what is to be done with the web.” (2/15)

John Kitzhaber Resignation

For CBS Radio, communication professor Leonard Steinhorn discussed Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber’s future in politics, saying “he has no future.” (2/14)

Fifty Shades of Grey

American studies professor Stef Woods appeared on WTTG-Fox5’s Good Day DC to discuss the film Fifty Shades of Grey and the message the film conveys. Woods had taught a class on the book. (2/16)
UMKC to Open Food Pantry for Students

For NPR affiliate KCUR-FM, Anastasia Snelling, associate dean of the School of Education, Teaching and Health, spoke about food insecurity among college students. Snelling explained that colleges don’t provide the food assistance benefit that some students received in primary and secondary schools. (2/13)

Tattoos, Prescription Drugs, Obesity Hinder Army Reserves Recruitment Effort

The Washington Times

International service distinguished practitioner-in-residence David Barno spoke to the Washington Times about the recruiting difficulty that the military will face in the coming years because of the improving economy and decreased chance to see major military action. (2/16)

The Decline of the Nightly News Anchor

Communication professor Andrew Lih spoke to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation about the Brian Williams controversy and the “super-star” reputation of nightly news anchors. (2/14)

Bonus Clip

Capitol Hill Classic

WUSA-CBS9 featured American University volleyball coach Barry Goldberg and the 3-day Capitol Hill Classic volleyball tournament that he founded 9 years ago. The tournament is a great recruiting event for colleges and scholarship opportunity for players. (2/13)