



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AU Newsmakers

July 1 – July 20, 2012

Prepared by University Communications

For prior weeks, go to <http://www.american.edu/media/inthedia.cfm>

Top Story

Inaction in Syria Repeats Failures from Past



In an op-ed for [The Hill newspaper online](#), which Senator John McCain tweeted as a 'Must Read,' **Lori Handrahan**, professional lecturer in the School of International Service, examined the failure of the United States and the West to implement the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine in Syria. "Vice President Joe Biden, a man of courage who once stood shoulder to shoulder with Senator McCain on the R2P in the Balkans has been largely silent," she observed. Handrahan also published op-eds in the [New York Post](#), [Foxnews.com](#), and the [Detroit Free Press](#) online and appeared on [CTV](#) (Canada). **Benjamin Jensen**, assistant professor in of international politics, explained to [CTV](#) the military options, threat of chemical and biological weapons located in Syria, and what he sees as the likely bifurcation of Syria based along historical lines. "Most of the massacres are occurring along an Alawite corridor of predominantly Alawite and Christians indicating a Plan B—the possibility of actually holing up in a break-away Alawite enclave along the coast," said Jensen. (7/3 - 7/13)

Additional Features

Irish Angst and Mexican Stereotypes at the Katzen



[Washington Diplomat](#) reviewed "Mexico Expected/Unexpected" and "Patrick Graham: Thirty Years—The Silence Becomes the Painting," two exhibitions at the **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. "It's all too easy to get lost meandering around Mexico in all its guises, or roaming County Westmeath and Graham's murky ruminations on life and faith. But in return you find a bounty of rewards, and the only thing you've lost is a lot of time well spent," read the review. The [Washington Post](#) and [InTowner](#) also reviewed the museum's summer exhibitions. (7/1)

STEMming the Tide



[Washington Post Express](#) interviewed American University alumna and NIH research fellow **Meredith Fox** about more women earning graduate degrees and launching successful careers in the traditionally male-dominated STEM fields. "Being a woman is part of who you are, but being a scientist is part of who you are, too. It [being a woman] shouldn't be something that holds you back in any way," said Fox, who holds a PhD in behavioral neuroscience. (7/9)

Comics: Not Just for Fanboys Anymore



Amanda Berry, assistant professor of literature, participated in a [Postmedia Networks](#), Canada's largest publisher of English-language daily newspapers, live web discussion about the growing popularity of Comic-Con, the annual gathering of comic book and fantasy entertainment enthusiasts. [CBS Newsradio WNEW-99.1](#) also interviewed **Berry** on the popularity of comic book movies, which she attributed to comic fans being "super invested in the characters." (7/5)

Expertise

Can Women 'Have It All?' U.S. Writer Stirs Debate



Meredith Persily Lamel, executive in residence in the Kogod School of Business, talked to the [Associated Press](#) about the career changes most working moms have to make. "Most of us who chose to raise a family have had major career changes since we graduated.

We all moved to a more flexible work environment. The men on the other hand haven't made the same shifts," said Persily Lamel. More than **200** outlets, including *Huffington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, republished the article. (7/1)

Campaign Cash Fuels Speculation of Weiner Comeback



Jennifer Lawless, Women and Politics Institute director, spoke with the [Associated Press](#) about former congressman Anthony Weiner's renewed interest in running for political office. On the issue of regaining constituent confidence, Lawless said, "The resilience of

Weiner's marriage could help persuade voters to trust him." More than **175** outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, republished the article. (7/18)

Land: Paraguay's Ticking Political Bomb



Miguel Carter, School of International Service scholar-in-residence, spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about events leading up to the Paraguayan president impeachment. "It's amazing how that land question again has become the Achilles' heel of Paraguayan politics

and of this government in particular," said Carter. More than **170** outlets, including *San Jose Mercury News*, *Yahoo! News*, and *Huffington Post*, republished the article. (6/29-7/1)

Local Wars Blur al Qaeda's Threat to West



Stephen Tankel, assistant professor of justice, law and society, talked to [Reuters](#) about Al Qaeda's shift in tactics from planning grand attacks overseas to keeping the battlefield more local. "The global jihadist genie has not been put entirely back in the bottle, but

militancy is returning to its roots in local-level campaigns driven by local factors," said Tankel, referring to the uprising of these groups in Africa and the Middle East. (7/5)

Former Ruling Party Expected to Win Mexico Vote

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. **Manuel Suarez-Mier**, School of International Service economist-in-residence, spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) online about Mexico's presidential election results and runner up candidate López Obrador's allegations of voter fraud to rally discontent. "He's [López Obrador] going to do exactly what he did six years ago," commented Suarez-Mier. (7/1)

Analyzing U.S.-Pakistan Relations



[C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#), [BBC](#) and [Al-Jazeera English](#) discussed U.S.-Pakistan relations with professors Stephen Tankel and Akbar Ahmed. In a 45-minute in-studio **C-SPAN** appearance, **Tankel**, assistant professor of justice, law and society, analyzed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's apology to Pakistan. **Ahmed**, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, spoke to **BBC** and **Al-Jazeera English** about the renewal of U.S. drone strikes since Pakistan reopened NATO supply routes into Afghanistan following a U.S. apology for strikes in late 2011. (7/7 & 7/8)

Obama and Romney: The 'Jekyll and Hyde' Candidates



James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, explained to ABCNews.com how presidential candidates grapple with raising money from wealthy donors while also trying to communicate with ordinary Americans. "It's a Jekyll and Hyde thing. They have to grab the money, grub after money, but they also have to look like they are not associated with that kind of activity," said Thurber. (7/10)

Defense Industry Says Budget Cuts May Cost 2 Million Jobs



Bloomberg Businessweek cited U.S. foreign policy professor **Gordon Adams'** online column regarding a defense industry backed report citing massive projected job losses related to defense industry cuts and the broader economy for 2013 and 2014. "This is a side show about the economy, not a straight-up argument about whether defense should be affected by deficit and debt reduction," said Adams. (7/17)

The 20 Best Paying Jobs for Women in 2012



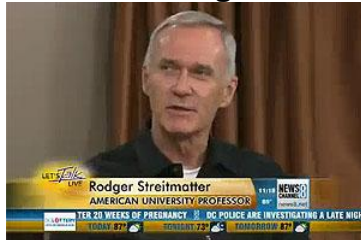
Forbes.com talked to **Caren Goldberg**, professor of management, about women's salaries in female-dominated fields. "In a large group of women you're less likely to be seen as a 'typical' female and thus less likely to experience discrimination," said Goldberg. (7/16)

Chinese Slowdown Means More Worries for U.S. Economy



US News.com spoke with **Robert Sicina**, executive in residence in the Kogod School of Business, about the global effects of a Chinese economy slowdown. "There is a knock-on effect that will affect places like Korea, Latin America, and Brazil. To the extent that a China slowdown causes a slowdown in those economies, that knock-on effect is going to be felt throughout the global economy, which is already soft," stated Sicina. (7/13)

Outlaw Marriages Making a Mark on History



On News Channel 8's Let's Talk Live, communications professor **Rodger Streitmatter** discussed his new book, *Outlaw Marriages*, about same-sex couples whose partnerships created a great impact in arts and social change, and their effects on American history dating back more than 100 years. "Lots of books have been written about the political aspect of it [same-sex marriage] and to some degree the religious element, but there hadn't been anything from the human side of it, the personal side of it," said Streitmatter. (7/10)

This Week's Bonus Clips

Award-Winning Student Documentary



Recent School of Communication graduate, **Ellen Tripler**, spoke with the Washington Examiner about her silver Student Academy Award-winning documentary, *Dying Green*. "Hopefully, having won these awards is going to open up doors and I can get some grant money. I like making films that have a positive ilk to them. There's enough doom and gloom out there," said Tripler, who also won a College Television Award. (7/7)

'Virgin Voter': This Election Isn't about Us



School of Communication junior Noah Gray, founder of Virgin Voting Project, wrote an op-ed for Turner Broadcasting's HLNTV.com about youth voter apathy. "It's hard to get young people to care about politics and voting. Trust me, I know—I've been trying to do it since I was too young to vote," said Gray.