



## AU Newsmakers

### August 19–August 26, 2011

Prepared by University Communications

### Top Story

#### Lack of College Completion Could Cost States Billions



Provost Scott Bass discussed with [Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#) a new report that finds that students who do not finish college impact the greater public good by costing states billions in lost income taxes. “There was a time historically when higher education was viewed as a public good for the local

citizenry and that it would improve the economy of that region or state. It has shifted to a private good and something that you purchase on your own,” Bass said. (8/22)

### Additional Features

#### Libyan Rebel Wears American U. Blue Crew Shirt



Washingtonpost.com’s [DC Sports Blog](#) raved about the enthusiasm and well-documented global travels of AU’s Blue Crew, including a “member” who appears to be a Libyan rebel as seen in footage from a [CNN Anderson Cooper 360](#) segment (see 2:55 mark). “That’s unique,” wrote columnist Dan Steinberg. (8/25)

#### The Root of a Good Math Teacher



Sarah Irvine Belson, dean of the School of Education, Teaching and Health, talked to [LiveScience.com](#) about the importance of Math for America—D.C., a partnership between AU and the Carnegie Institution for Science that seeks to improve math education in D.C.’s high-needs schools by providing teachers with intensive training.

“Students need to have the opportunity to engage in high-level mathematics so they can go to college—so careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are options,” she said. (8/19)

#### The Top 10 Colleges for Social Media Savvy



[Bizjournals.com](#) reported that Boston-based Her Campus Media, an online magazine for women collegiates, named American University one of its top 10 social media savvy schools. “No. 9, American University in Washington, D.C., has a Center for Social

Media on campus which showcases and analyzes media for public knowledge and action.” (8/23)

### Op-Ed/Editorials

#### How Many Americans Have Money on the Line amid All the Market Volatility



In an op-ed for PBS Newshour’s [The Rundown](#), Dante Chinni, adjunct professor of government, discussed the validity of the Dow Jones industrial average as a barometer of national economic health and the impact the DJIA might have on the 2012 elections. “Should the market woes continue, though, psychological impacts could play a big role in 2012 because of the communities they hit hardest: the wealthy, swing-voting Monied Burbs where the most stockholders live by far,” wrote Chinni. (8/19)

#### The Common Sense of the Fair-Use Doctrine



Patricia Aufderheide, director of the Center for Social Media, provided some fair-use dos and don’ts in her op-ed for [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#). “Many scholars, as well as members of various

professional, creative, and research communities, simply misunderstand their rights, whether they seek to use or protect a work,” wrote Aufderheide. (8/21)

#### Communicating Chemistry for Public Engagement

**Matt Hartings**, assistant professor of chemistry, and **Declan Fahy**, assistant professor of communication, coauthored a [Nature Chemistry](#) article about the need for chemists to improve how they communicate with the public. They suggest most people have a negative view of chemistry. "Chemists should draw on the reservoirs of knowledge from research in science communication to better communicate their work in a way that fosters trust, builds relationships, and creates a dialogue with multiple audiences," they wrote. (8/23)

## Human Rights Irony for the U.S. and Arab world



**Shadi Mokhtari**, assistant professor of international service, argued in her op-ed for [Al-Jazeera English](#) that 10 years after the September 11th attacks, the United States has declined in the area of human rights, whereas the Middle East has improved, as evidenced by the Arab Spring. "An unprecedented embrace of the language of

human rights has been an unmistakable feature of not just Egypt's revolutionary moment, but the tide of protest and change that has swept much of the region," wrote Mokhtari. (8/25)

## Quotes

### Some See Trade Deals as Threatening States' Powers



**Sean Flynn**, professor of law, told the [Associated Press](#) that a free-trade agreement between the United States and other countries in the Pacific Ocean region could impact prescription drug prices. According to Flynn, the

agreements "could open an avenue for drug companies to try to appeal a state decision to exclude a drug from a list of preferred drugs and the expense of defending against such appeals could weaken states' abilities to negotiate lower prices." (8/21)

### President Obama Goes for a Reset on Jobs



**Allan Lichtman**, professor of history, explained to the [Los Angeles Times](#) why President Obama's jobs plan will likely face opposition from Republicans. "Conservatives don't want

everything to get better right now. They want to hold out, elect Republicans to Congress and the White House, and then solve things their way. I can't imagine why conservatives in Congress would do anything to help the president right now," Lichtman said. (8/19)

### Arlington Memorializes Deep Throat Spot in Rosslyn



[Washingtonpost.com](#) highlighted one of journalism professor **W. Joseph Campbell's** media myths about Deep Throat's role in the Watergate scandal. Campbell noted that the marker gives Felt too much credit, because his

information didn't really expose the Nixon administration's obstruction. (8/23)

### Gender Bias in Politics



**Jennifer Lawless**, director of the Women & Politics Institute, discussed gender bias in politics, Sarah Palin as a feminist political role model, and gender disparity in Congress on [MSNBC's The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell](#). "There's no question that Sarah Palin opens up the political process for women. She demonstrated you don't have to be part of the political establishment to succeed in politics," Lawless said. (8/19)

### Ramadan's Impact in Iran, Libya



In an interview with [CBS Radio](#), **Akbar Ahmed**, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, said that in the spirit of Ramadan, Iran may decide to release the two American hikers who were recently sentenced to eight years in prison for alleged spying. **WBAL** and **WTOP** radio also aired the interview. In addition, Ahmed talked

to [CNN.com](#) about why rebels in Libya redoubled their efforts during Ramadan to topple Gadhafi's regime. (8/20, 8/22)

### College Students Need to Check Digital Security



**Cathy Hubbs**, chief information security officer, advised [msnbc.com](#) on what college students should do to protect their computers and other digital devices from security threats. "At a minimum, make sure you have anti-virus and anti-spyware [software] installed [and that] your operating system firewall is turned on," she said. Hubbs also recommended that students

contact their schools' IT help desks for advice. (8/22)

## Federal Agencies' Progress on Implementing Sustainability



**Dan Fiorino**, director of the Center for Environmental Policy, discussed on [Federal News Radio](#) his report *Implementing Sustainability in Federal Agencies* about the progress of federal agencies two years after the implementation of Executive Order 13514, also known as the “green” memo. “Establishing the baselines and doing the

calculations is difficult because some of these agencies have lots and lots of installations, very diverse operations and so on. Just keeping score is difficult. But, I think they're moving in the right direction,” said Fiorino. (8/22)

## Global Land Grab



[In These Times](#) cited research by **Deborah Brautigam**, professor of international development, about China's motivation to acquire land in Africa. According to Brautigam, China's “embrace of [Africa] is

strategic, planned, long-term and still unfolding” and China is more concerned with economic expansion than food security. (8/22)

## Notable Alumni

### Behind the Project: Breaking Things Down



School of Communication alumnus **Michael O'Connell**, editor at [Connection Newspapers](#), describes in how his training in the Interactive Journalism Program helped him develop a multimedia review of homelessness in Fairfax County. “I was eager to incorporate some of the multi-platform skills that I had

been learning in the Interactive Journalism Program at American University. Wherever possible, I wanted to use video, audio and graphics to tell the story on the web,” wrote O'Connell. (8/22)