AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
W A S H I N G T O N , D C

AU Newsmakers
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Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories

Afghanistan President Ghani's Trip to Washington

Media sought AU expertise and analysis during Afghan President Ghani's Washington visit to ask President Obama and Congress to freeze U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** appeared on **Fox News Channel's *Shepard Smith Reporting*** to discuss President Obama's decision to keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through 2015. **Goldgeier** said that the decision is a demonstration of support for Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani. (3/24)

For their **War on the Rocks** column, international service practitioner-in-residence **Lt. Gen. David Barno** and scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel** wrote a preview of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's visit to the United States and the Obama administration's decision to alter the drawdown of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. **Barno** and **Bensahel** also spoke to the **Hill**. Separately, **Bensahel** spoke to **CNN**, **Washington Times** and **U.S. News & World Report**. (3/24 - 3/25)

Additional Features

Fukushima Power Plant News Coverage

CounterSpin featured sociology professor **Celine-Marie Pascale's** research about the news media's downplay of public health risks following the Fukushima, Japan, nuclear power plant disaster in 2011. **Pascale** surveyed more than 2,000 U.S. news articles and found that only 6 percent focused on public health risks. (3/24)

Pianist Yuliya Gorenman Takes on Russian Composers at Katzen Center

The **Washington Post** featured a review of a piano recital by Department of Performing Arts musician-in-residence **Yuliya Gorenman**. The article noted her performances of late have had a national focus (Gorenman grew up in the Soviet Union), as the recital ended with a compilation of Russian composers' pieces. (3/22)

Serious Games Scoring Big In Government

Government Computer News featured director of the AU Game Lab and Studio **Lindsay Grace's** government gaming presentation delivered at the South by Southwest conference. He discussed how the use of game technology can help solve problems and educate the public. **Grace** was also quoted by **International Business Times** about the future of video game consoles as a result of his SXSW seminar. (3/20 - 3/25)

The Hillary Backer Who Will Pose Problems for Her 2016 Bid

The *Hill* featured Freedom of Information Act expert and law professor **Daniel Metcalfe** in an article highlighting his comments about Hillary Clinton's private email account. **Metcalfe** characterizes Clinton's explanation as "laughable." Metcalfe, a self-identified Clinton supporter, in the interest of fairness, said he calls the fouls as he sees them. (3/26)

History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke to **McClatchy** about Hillary Clinton's email controversy and the effect that it could have on her expected presidential campaign. **Lichtman** said that voters are more likely to care about policy issues regarding the economy and terrorism. (3/15)

Expertise

For President Obama, Camp David Often Ranks as the Venue of Last Resort

For a *Washington Post* article about Camp David, SPA executive-in-residence **Anita McBride** discussed the range of activities Camp David offers a sitting president and his guests. (3/20)

Obama Promised to Curb the Influence of Lobbyists. Has He Succeeded?

The *Washington Post* cited Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director **James Thurber's** research on the number of registered lobbyists in Washington. While the number of registered lobbyists shrunk from 13,367 to 11,509 since President Obama took office, the drop may be attributable to lobbyists deregistering taking advantage of the federal threshold rules on registration. (3/22)

Calling It Quits

For **Allure**, psychology professor **Laura Juliano** discussed helpful tips on how to reduce and eventually eliminate caffeine from one's diet. **Juliano** explained that quitting cold turkey could cause flu-like symptoms and that gradually reducing caffeine intake is a more effective method. (3/25) *Link not available

Discourse of 'Don't'

For **Inside Higher Ed**, Department of Literature senior lecturer **Lacey Wootton** discussed her own position as chair of AU's Faculty Senate as an example for adjunct professors to not keep their heads down. **Wootton** said that not all non-tenure-track faculty members feel disenfranchised and it depends on context. (3/23)

Abortion Politics Threaten Bipartisan Bills in Congress

For *USA Today*, Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** explained the standoff on pending bills in Congress with bipartisan support, because some members of the Republican Party have attached unrelated, divisive abortion language to them. (3/25)

Ted Cruz Announces Presidential Candidacy

Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke to **WTOP** about Ted Cruz's announcement to seek the GOP presidential nomination. **Steinhorn** said that Cruz's aspirations depend on a very traditional Republican base and hawkish foreign policy. (3/23)

Marines Could Lead the Charge Against Boko Haram

International service professor **Carl LeVan** spoke to **_USA Today_** about the assistance that the U.S. Marine Corps could provide the Nigerian government and refugees, in the wake of Boko Haram and the Islamic State joining forces. (3/21)

"Crack Cocaine for the Pentagon": Meet the Secret Slush Fund That's Getting Hawks High

International service professor **Gordon Adams** spoke to **Salon** about the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget, saying that "it's basically crack cocaine for the Pentagon." **Adams** compared OCO's original intent to how it's currently being used. **Adams** also spoke to the **_Washington Post_**, **_Stars and Stripes_**, **Politico** and **Hearst Newspapers**. (3/22 - 3/24)

Lobbyists Press for U.S. Dollar Coin Despite Public Resistance

Economics professor **Robert Blecker** appeared on **Voice of America Television** to discuss the possibility of the U.S. dollar coin replacing the paper dollar, saying that dollar coins would need to be a different size and thickness from current dollar coins that resemble a quarter. (3/24)

The U.S. Supreme Court Hears Free Speech Case: Walker v. Sons of Confederate Veterans

For **WAMU's _The Diane Rehm Show_** on **NPR**, Law and Government Program director **Jamin Raskin** spoke about a recent U.S. Supreme Court case in which the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles rejected the design of a Confederate flag vanity plate. **Raskin's** First Amendment legal analysis explained why the government cannot define the meaning of a symbol and label one as acceptable and another unacceptable. (3/24)

The Future of the United Nations

International Service professor **David Bosco** appeared on **WAMU's _The Diane Rehm Show_** on **NPR** as a panelist to discuss the U.N.'s 70th birthday and its relevancy and ability to confront 21st century challenges such as ebola and the war in Syria. (3/26)

Bonus Clip

D.C. Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier Urges Empathy in Policing

Local media including **WRC-NBC4**, **WUSA-CBS 9**, **WAMU 88.5 News**, and the **_Washington Post_** covered the town hall on police-community relations post-Ferguson and also included student reaction. The panel featured, among others, Metropolitan Police Chief, Cathy Lanier, Justice Law and Criminology professor, **Ed Maguire**, and AU alumnus and former chief of police for Greenville, North Carolina, **Hassan Aden**. American University SPA's Justice, Law and Criminology Department, in partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, sponsored the event where Lanier suggested police academy training include empathy. (3/25 - 3/26)