AU Newsmakers
December 9–16, 2011
Prepared by University Communications
For prior weeks, go to http://www.american.edu/media/inthemedia.cfm

Top Story
When Two Are Better Than One

The Washington Post Express’ Getting Ahead (linked PDF/pg. 15) section featured several of American University’s dual degree programs. “Law school has taught me a lot about one side of the government and how we operate our society. Then the policy school fills in a lot of the gaps and speaks to a lot of the political and economic realities of how our society is organized and run,” said Winfield Wilson, a JD/MPP student. Jonathan Tubman, vice provost for graduate studies, added, “There are things a dual-degree holder can do and career opportunities they wouldn’t have [had] if they had one just one degree or another.” The article also highlighted AU’s new MA/MPA or MBA degree through a Teach for America partnership. (12/12)

Additional Features
At American U., the Next Barry Levinson?

The Washington Post profiled School of Communication student Jason Fraley whose ‘Liberty Road’ master’s thesis short film about life in a small town Maryland crab shack won him a CINE Golden Eagle award. Fraley’s advisor, professor Claudia Myers, said the film is, “very dense but in a good way. That's exactly what he wanted. He wanted to pack all this stuff in. It's a unique film. It tells a different kind of story. I think it's really strong, and it has a good chance of getting a lot of attention.” (12/9)

At American U., an In-Depth Look at Strange, Stark Spaces


Law Students Going Door-to-Door to Spread Word About Foreclosure Rights

CNS Maryland featured Take Back Your Home—a student-run outreach program at the Washington College of Law in which students educate Prince George’s County, Md. residents about their rights in regards to pending foreclosures. “One foreclosure happens, and that’s a very unfortunate thing, but it’s very matter of fact. When millions of foreclosures are happening at the same time, something is incredibly wrong,” said student founder Bradford Voegeli. (12/14)

Expertise
AU Expert Analyzes 2012 Presidential Race

Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, spoke to the Associated Press about why it is advantageous for presidential candidates to appear on late night talk shows and other news outlets. “The campaign is using free media as an amplifier and it’s smart, especially for those who don’t have much money,” said Steinhorn. More than 390 outlets including the websites of Wall Street Journal, New York Times and Washington Post, republished the article. Also, on CBS Radio and WTTG-FOX5, Steinhorn discussed Newt Gingrich’s resurgence as a serious presidential contender. (12/11, 12/10)
Supreme Court Immigration Case a Federal-State Test

Stephen Wermiel, professor of law, explained for Reuters how a controversial Arizona immigration law will test the boundaries between state and federal jurisdictions. "The argument that the state is not just helping, but pursuing its own agenda, seems a weightier argument," said Wermiel. More than 55 outlets, including Chicago Tribune online, republished the article. (12/14)

Defense Secretary to Discuss Strategic Review

Gordon Adams, professor of U.S. foreign policy, spoke to Reuters about next month’s announcement by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta about the results of the U.S. strategic review of the Pentagon’s military budget cuts. "The secretary managed to take $260 billion out of the five-year plan and still provide for growth, including some that appears to be real growth in the out years," said Adams. More than 45 outlets, including Chicago Tribune, republished the article. Adams also talked to Federal News Radio about military spending. (12/9)

U.S., Russia Resetting “Reset” Button in Relations

James Goldgeier, dean of the School of International Service, discussed with Reuters the strain on U.S.-Russia relations after the United States weighed in on Russia’s disputed parliamentary elections. "We’re looking at a less-happy period in relations, but neither side want to let things fall apart," said Goldgeier. (12/9)

The Canvas of Tom Green’s Life is Almost Complete

Jack Rasmussen, director and curator of the American University Museum, spoke to the Washington Post about the legacy of Washington, D.C., artist Tom Green, who is battling Lou Gehrig’s disease. "He comes a little bit out of the Washington color school. He was never really a part of it, but it’s obviously an influence. [He] always stayed figurative, even at his most abstract," said Rasmussen. (12/9)

Government Sanctioned Mass Protests in Moscow

On NBC’s Nightly News, Anton Fedyashin, associate director of AU’s Initiative for Russian Culture, discussed the significance of government-sanctioned protests in Russia after the highly contested parliamentary elections. "This is a sign that the government is recognizing that steam needs to be let off. That there is an enormous amount of discontent," said Fedyashin. (12/10)

State vs. Federal Law in Arizona over Immigration

On NBC’s Nightly News, Jayesh Rathod, professor of law, analyzed the battle between state and federal jurisdictions in relation to a controversial Arizona immigration law. “The Supreme Court is looking at the power that the states have with respect to the apprehension and removal of non-citizens,” said Rathod. (12/12)

Immigration Detainees Seek Prison-Rape Protection

On NPR’s All Things Considered, Brenda Smith, professor of law, discussed the call from human rights advocates for a law to protect immigration detainees from sexual assault. "Immigrant detainees are moved from facility to facility, and just from the point of view of equal protection and also for consistency, whether you are protected from abuse at the hands of someone who is supposed to be your custodian should not differ whether you are in a jail, a prison or in a [Homeland Security] facility," said Smith. (12/13)

Plan B Backlash: Women’s Groups Sour on Obama

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women & Politics Institute, spoke to HuffingtonPost.com about President Obama’s upcoming decision to limit access to Plan B, a form of birth control, despite criticism by women’s groups who supported him during the 2008 election. "When you then make a decision like this, or support Kathleen Sebelius’ decision, and you don’t alert any of these groups who mobilize your constituents for you that you’re going to do that, that undercuts the notion that you care,” said Lawless. (12/14)
Five Ways to Spot a Bad Boss in an Interview

Caren Goldberg, assistant professor of management, spoke to Forbes.com about how a job candidate can spot a bad supervisor during an interview. Goldberg said, “a key ‘tell’ is vague answers to your questions.” She added, “You should also question turnover rates, how long people stay in given roles, and what their career path has been.” (12/11)

Pakistan Prime Minister Speaks on Strained Relations with U.S.

On BBC Radio’s Newshour, Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, discussed the Pakistani Prime Minister’s statement about strained relations with the United States. “The question is how do we set about it [improving relations] if we all are locked up in this tit-for-tat, blaming each other?” said Ahmed. (12/11)

Bonus Clip

American’s Hinkle Stepping Out of the Shadows

The Washington Examiner profiled basketball player Charles Hinkle, ranked fifth in the nation for scoring—an unexpected turn of events for the senior who has been a support player most of his career. “It's something, you know. I've truly been blessed this year. I'm just trying to keep my head down, do what I'm supposed to do and try to perform,” said Hinkle. (12/10)