Top Stories

Millennial Generation Reacts to Osama Bin Laden’s Death

The New York Times, WashingtonPost.com and WRC-NBC4 featured School of Communication professor Amy Eisman’s class project Growing Up in the Shadow of 9/11. The project, completed three days prior to Osama bin Laden’s death, examines the impact of 9/11 on the millennial generation. “We carry the weight of it [9/11] more because our entire adult lives have been during a time of war,” said Ashley Bright, a graduate student who worked on the project. The report is also linked on USA Today.com. In the hours following bin Laden’s death, CNN.com, CNN, and alumnus David Gregory on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, cited AU students outside the White House. (5/2-5)

Islamic Scholars Split Over Sea Burial for Bin Laden

Akbar Ahmed, chair of Islamic Studies, provided insight on the debate about Osama Bin Laden’s burial at sea in the New York Times. “If they allowed Osama bin Laden to be buried in Pakistan, his followers would show up, plant flowers, and women will say the shrine has healing powers, especially among the uneducated,” said Ahmed. C-SPAN’s Washington Journal also mentioned his comments. Ahmed also talked to BBC World News, C-SPAN Radio, and Al Jazeera, NPR.org and the Canada Courier Post about Pakistan-U.S. relations. More than 20 outlets republished the Courier Post article. (5/2-5)

Osama bin Laden’s Death and the Defense Budget

On PBS’ Nightly Business Report, Gordon Adams, professor of international relations, discussed why Osama bin Laden’s death exemplifies how the defense budget should focus on priority operations rather than on expensive, broad campaigns. “It means slowing down some hardware programs and it probably means refocusing on missions,” said Adams. (5/2)

For Obama, a Likely Boost but Economic Challenges Remain

James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, discussed how Osama Bin Laden’s demise would affect the economy and President Obama’s re-election chances with Washington Post’s Post Politics. “Jobs and the performance of the economy are still and will be the primary factors influencing 2012,” said Thurber. Thurber also spoke with Asian News International. (5/2-3)

Believers and Non-believers: Different sides to Osama Bin Laden’s Death

Leonard Steinhorn, professor of communication, analyzed the country’s reaction to Osama bin Laden’s death with the Houston Chronicle and WJLA-ABC7. “The U.S. has lived under this cloud for over a decade, so it’s an opportunity for people to feel like the U.S. got its revenge to some extent,” said Steinhorn. (5/3)
Conspiracy Theories Proliferate

Peter Starr, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, discussed conspiracy theories that dispute Osama bin Laden’s death with Politico and as a guest on NewsChannel8’s News Talk with Bruce DePuyt. “The conspiracy theories that grew up around JFK were in large part because the nation was deeply wounded. But there is no trauma in this case, quite the opposite,” said Starr, author of We the Paranoid, a Web-based, multimedia book. (5/3)

Obama: Will His Re-election hopes be realized thanks to Bin Laden’s Death?

THE CANADIAN PRESS 🇨🇦 “Overall, the economy will be the dominant issue and if it gets worse, getting rid of Osama bin Laden will not be terribly determinative,” said Dotty Lynch, School of Communication executive-in-residence, to the Canadian Press about Obama’s re-election chances. More than 20 outlets republished the article including MSNMoney and Yahoo! News. Lynch also spoke with Medill News Service about America’s reaction to bin Laden’s death. (5/2-3)

Bin Laden Coverage Had Dropped Prior to Killing

Jane Hall, associate professor of journalism, discussed with USNews.com the decline in bin Laden media coverage and public attention prior to his death. “I think that as time went on, and the U.S. did not get him, people [in the media] began to ask the question less,” she says, adding that for President Obama, avoiding the topic was a smart move. (5/4)

Shifting Focus from Afghanistan to Pakistan

Jordan Tama, assistant professor of international relations, discussed the next step for U.S. relations with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the post bin Laden world on Russia Today’s Big Picture. “There is a broader concern where Pakistan has not been a reliable partner,” said Tama. (5/3)