



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## AU Newsmakers

June 28 – July 12, 2013

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### **Billionaire Koch Brothers Have Extensive Political Influence**



[The New Yorker](#) highlighted the **Investigative Reporting Workshop's** two-year study which tracks the political influence of billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch, whose influence has culminated in some Congressional support of their pledge to vote

against legislation relating to climate change unless it is accompanied by an equivalent amount in tax cuts. More than 25 outlets, including **Columbia Journalism Review**, **MSNBC.com**, and **Huffington Post**, also highlighted the study. (7/1)

### Additional Features

#### **More Fast Food, Fewer Fat Teens**



[New York Post](#) highlighted sociology professor **Michael Bader's** new research that suggests neighborhood retail environment may impact public health, as indicated by Bader's discovery that in New York City, public high school

students with more fast food outlets in their neighborhoods are less likely to be obese. Bader discovered the same relationship between NYC teen obesity rates and banks. (6/30)

#### **Around Town: Washington Art Matters 1940s–1980s**



[WETA's Around Town](#) reviewed *Washington Art Matters 1940s–1980s*, now at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. Critics praised the use of vibrant colors and wide variety of artists in the exhibition. (7/6)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### **In Greece, a Case Study on Islam in Europe**



With the [Washington Post](#) and [Al Jazeera Online](#), Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Akbar Ahmed**, based on his recent trip to Greece, explained the growing anti-Muslim feelings in the country which is symbolized through the

opposition to building a proper mosque in Athens for the large Muslim population to worship. (7/8, 7/9)

#### **'Fate of the States: The New Geography of American Prosperity'**



In an opinion piece for the [Washington Post](#), government professor **Dante Chinni** takes the author of the book *Fate of the States: The New Geography of American Prosperity*—

about the 2008 collapse of the American economy—to task for her selective use of statistics to prop up her analysis and conclusions. (6/28)

## Beauty Queens Become Trophy Wives of Drug Cartel Heads in Latin America

THE HUFFINGTON POST  
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

becoming trophy wives of the leaders of Columbian and Mexican drug kingpins. (6/28)

In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), scholar in residence **Johanna Mendelson Forman** wrote about the trend of Latin American beauty queens

## First Ladies Michelle Obama and Laura Bush Show American Compassion in Africa

THE HUFFINGTON POST  
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

*Strengthening Africa* where First Lady Michelle Obama and former First Lady Laura Bush discussed the importance of empowering African women from a health, economic, and leadership perspectives. (7/3)

With the [Huffington Post](#), executive in residence **Anita McBride** wrote an op-ed about the *African First Ladies' Summit: Investing in Women:*

## Expertise

### In Worldwide Surveillance Age, U.S. Has Big Edge

**AP** Associated Press

*Charlotte Observer*. (7/2)

Journalism professor **Andrew Lih** spoke to the [Associated Press](#) about the contrasts between the U.S. surveillance and the Chinese surveillance states. More than **260** outlets republished this article, including *San Jose Mercury News*, *Fresno Bee*, and

### Public Rage Catching Up With Brazil's Congress

The New York Times

corrupt Brazilian politicians. (6/28)

International service professor **Matthew Taylor** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about Brazilian protestors spilling out into the streets in protest partially due to the inability to remove and prosecute

### Six Reasons Why Tax Reform Won't Happen

The Washington Post

preparers and buy tax accounting software. (7/2)

**David Kautter**, managing director of the **Kogod Tax Center**, talked to the [Washington Post](#) about the impact of tax complexity on the average American and small business that is reflected in the high percentages of people who hire tax

### Toxic China Lake Spurs Next Generation as Xi Eases GDP Focus

Bloomberg

consideration. (7/12)

International service professor **Judith Shapiro** spoke to [Bloomberg Businessweek](#) about China's struggle to maintain growth while trying to implement a new and more durable economic model that takes environmental risk factors into

### Media Boost Same-Sex Marriage Rulings



Communication professor **Jane Hall** appeared on [CNN's Reliable Sources](#) to talk about how the vast coverage of the same-sex marriage rulings demonstrated the media's bias on this issue and prematurely stopped discussion of all previous rulings. (6/30)

## Egyptian Military and the Need for Change



**Diane Singerman**, co-director of Middle East Studies, spoke to [AP Radio](#) in *two* separate interviews about turbulence in Egypt following the popular uprising and military removing Mohamed Morsi as president. (7/6, 7/8)

## In Case after Case, Big Wins For Big Business This Year at the Supreme Court



Law professor **Stephen Wermiel** talked to [NBCNews.com](#) about the Supreme Court's consistent lean towards rulings for big business during the past year. (7/7)

## U.S. Spying on Allies?



International service professor **Jordan Tama** appeared live in studio with [WTTG-TV Fox5](#) to discuss U.S. spying allegations on its European allies as part of the Snowden NSA leaks. Tama added that the practice of allies gathering intelligence on allies is not unprecedented. (7/2)

## Bonus Clip

### Playing Music While the Nationals Play Ball



The [Washington Post](#) spoke to music wonk and professor **Matthew Van Hoose** about his role playing popular songs on the organ with 'Natitude' at Nationals Ballpark when Washington plays home games. (7/2)