

AU Newsmakers


September 18 – September 25, 2015

Prepared by University Communications


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Top Stories

A Faculty Unites to Champion Free Speech on Campus


 [The Atlantic](#) featured the **AU Faculty Senate's** unanimous vote affirming free expression over implementing mandatory trigger warnings in the classroom. The article characterizes the **Faculty Senate's** action as striking the right balance in leaving it up to individual professors to advise students before exposing them to controversial readings and materials but also not letting students opt-out or make such warnings mandatory. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#), [Reason](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [The Daily Caller](#), and [Volokh Conspiracy](#) also reported on the resolution. (9/21 – 9/23)

Colleges Take Aim at Improving Student Success


 For an article on preparing college students, [US News & World Report Education Rankings & Advice](#) featured AU's internship program and SOC alumna **Hannah Sedgwick**, who completed six internships while at AU. Career Center director **Gihan Fernando** explained, "Internships are an integral part of the learning experience for almost everyone at American, with 90 percent of undergrads doing at least one." The article also appears in the **U.S. News "Best Colleges 2016"** guidebook. (9/23)

Additional Features

Readers Review 'The Alchemist' By Paulo Coelho


 Religion and Philosophy associate Prof. **Evan Berry** joined a panel discussion on [NPR's The Diane Rehm Show](#) about the impact of the best-selling book 'The Alchemist' and its optimistic message about power and love. **Berry** said: "I think this is a lovely book when one is approaching their life in aspirational terms. I understand its appeal for people who are on some sort of a personal journey or thinking in terms of their spirituality." (9/23)

The Evolution of Teenage Friendship in the Internet Age

 American University Game Lab and Studio director **Lindsay Grace** appeared on [WAMU's Koyo Nnamdi Show for Tech Tuesday](#) to discuss a new survey revealing that teens report meeting friends online and often never meet them in person. **Grace** observed among other features that network video gaming provides bonding opportunities and working together to accomplish common goals. (9/22)

Faculty Authors

We Must Go to War to End the Refugee Crisis

 In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#), School of International Service adjunct professor **Karl Rohr** explains why U.N. member states must back a new force to decisively end the civil war in Syria. **Rohr** argues such action will stem the refugee crisis and restore order to the surrounding region. (9/24)

Expertise

No Poverty, Hunger in 15 years? UN Sets Sweeping New Goals



School of International Service professor **Ken Conca** spoke to [Associated Press](#) about the upcoming adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations 193 member states. The story syndicated to more than 200 media outlets. (9/21)

How Publishing a 35,000-Word Manifesto Led to the Unabomber



School of Communication professor **W. Joseph Campbell** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the 30th anniversary of the Unabomber manifesto publication and its significance at the time. However, **Campbell** explained a terrorist in 2015 does not need a newspaper with the power of the Internet. (9/19)

Why You Should Upgrade Your iPhone Every 3 years



Associate professor of communication **Aram Sinnreich** spoke to [CBS MarketWatch](#) about the confusion consumers face on whether to upgrade their older generation iPhone. Sinnreich said with respect to consumers, "The costs of software, hardware and services are shuffled around so thoroughly that they can't figure out which dollars they're wasting and which are well spent." (9/24)

Congressman Boycotts Pope Over Reports He'll Discuss Climate



Religion and Philosophy Associate professor **Evan Berry** spoke to [Greenwire](#) about possible topics Pope Francis might discuss during his address to Congress, saying "People who follow the Pope's style of engagement are suggesting that he doesn't like to chastise but to take a pastoral approach and ask challenging questions." **Berry** also spoke with **Hearst TV** about the Pope's anticipated remarks. (9/18)

How Allowing Women in Combat Will Rock the Military



School of International Service distinguished practitioner in residence **Lt. Gen. David Barno** spoke to [Washington Examiner](#) about the U.S. military allowing women to serve in combat roles. **Barno** explained because 90 percent of top military leaders come from combat arms specialties women would benefit if permitted to serve in those ranks. (9/19)

Volkswagen Scandal May Put Car Maker's Survival on the Line



For [MSN Money](#), Kogod School of Business finance professor **Gerald Martin** explained how Volkswagen's alleged emissions conspiracy may be punished more harshly by the financial markets than by actual fines for which it may be liable. **Martin** was a co-author of a study examining the market imposed punishment of corporate fraud. (9/22)

U.S. to Take in More Than 10,000 Syrian Migrants in 2016



School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** appeared on [Fox News Channels Shepard Smith Reporting](#) to explain the global response and lead role the United States needs to take in Syria from the humanitarian crisis to the civil war. (9/21)

The History of Abortion Politics



School of Public Affairs associate dean **Jessica Waters** appeared on Los Angeles NPR affiliate [KCRW's Press Play](#) to discuss the role abortion plays in politics, polling on the issue, and the current effort to defund Planned Parenthood. (9/18)

What Are Conflict Cafes and Can They Actually Change the World?



For [Eater](#), School of International Service scholar in residence **Johanna Mendelson-Forman** discussed how gastro-diplomacy can bring people at opposite ends of the negotiation table together. **Mendelson-Forman** cited the recent Iran nuclear negotiations as an example of this kind of soft diplomacy in action. A separate [Roll Call](#) article also cited her culinary diplomacy and conflict cuisine expertise. (9/23)