



# AU Newsmakers

## July 20 – July 27 2012

Prepared by University Communications

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### Top Story

#### The Best 4—Or 3 Years in Your Life?



In a trend story on three year degree programs, [USA Today online](#) featured the School of International Service’s Global Scholars Program and its accelerated international service track. **Leeanne Dunsmore**, associate dean of Graduate Admissions & Program Development, distinguished AU’s program suggesting that unlike other three year degree programs, “Our goal was to build a cohort of students

who would engage in community-based learning, service and research through their living-learning community and co-curricular activities.” (7/20)

### Op-Eds/AU Authors

#### Alawi Split from Syria Would Spell Disaster



In an op-ed for [Financial Times](#), **Benjamin Jensen**, assistant professor of international service, warns of the implications of establishing an Alawi break-away state in Syria. “The international community should be mindful of the risks inherent in the fragmentation of Syria. Any intervention, whether diplomatic or military, that further splits Syria is liable to end with the creation of a rogue Alawi state,” said Jensen. (7/22)

#### A Five Star Global Investment in Women: The Power of Mentor Relationships



In a [Huffington Post](#) column, **Constance Morella**, ambassador-in-residence in the School of Public Affairs, discusses her advocacy for and personal involvement in mentoring women to run for political office domestically and internationally. “My experience with The Women & Politics Institute, The 2012 Project and the Global

Ambassadors Program exemplifies the outstanding influence that mentoring can have on promoting the skills and resources necessary for developing women into progressive, effective leaders, regardless of where they call home or what their goals are for the future,” wrote Ambassador Morella. (7/26)

#### Sharing is Caring: Containing Terrorism in South Asia



**Stephen Tankel**, assistant professor of justice, law and society, in his third in a series of four columns on [Foreign Policy online](#), addressed terrorism in South Asia and the importance of countries sharing information in combatting terrorism. “In the absence of a policy that succeeds in convincing, cajoling or compelling Pakistan to change its behavior, it has become essential to devise mechanisms to mitigate the external threats from

Pakistan-based and Pakistan-supported militants,” observed Tankel with respect to Pakistan’s unwillingness to share information.

### Expertise

#### We’re All Climate-Change Idiots



The [New York Times](#) talked to **Matthew Nisbet**, associate professor of communication, about people’s perception of climate change. “Research also suggests public health is an effective frame: few people care

passionately about polar bears, but if you argue that closing coal-burning plants will reduce problems like asthma, you’re more likely to find a receptive audience,” he said. Nisbet also discussed the science of communication in his op-ed for [The Scientist](#). (7/22, 7/23)

## Boot Camp Teaches Girls How to be Politicians



[Jennifer Lawless](#), director of the Women and Politics Institute, spoke to *Medill News Service* about a workshop designed for teenage girls with a passion for pursuing political office. "Political recruitment is another way we can get women involved in politics. When women receive the perception they should run, they are more likely to respond favorably to that recruitment," said Lawless. The story syndicated to more than 20 newspapers, including the *Miami Herald*, *Charlotte Observer*, and *Sacramento Bee*. Lawless also talked to the *Huffington Post* online about increasing women candidates in the state legislature. (7/24, 7/26)

## A Different Road to Work, Bypassing College Dreams



[Robert Lerman](#), professor of economics, spoke with NPR's *All Things Considered* about his research on apprenticeships in the American workforce. The discussion brought up the idea that young adults can reach new career goals without the high costs of higher education. "I do not understand why there isn't a much bigger push toward shifting funding toward apprenticeship programs," said Lerman. (7/26)

## Virginia Receives a Failing Grade in Access to Public Information



On *WAMU 88.5's Kojo Nnamdi Show*, [Daniel Metcalfe](#), professor of law, discussed freedom of information laws and public access to police records in Virginia. "There's a basic principle that is applicable in the federal law, in state laws, just across the board that, although there are privacy exemptions that an agency can withhold information, the disclosure of which could reasonably expect to damage the personal privacy interests of the individual, you'd never invoke that exemption, an agency would not, to protect the individual from him- or herself," said Metcalfe. (7/23)

## Obama Counts on Virginia's Black Voters



The *Washington Examiner* quoted [Jan Leighley](#), professor of government, on African-American support for Obama in Virginia. "What's different this year is with the economy, and as much as the white population is unhappy about their economic fortunes, African-Americans are probably hurt more," said Leighley. (7/22)

## African Union Elects First Woman Chair



Baltimore's *Afro-American* newspaper quoted [Carl LeVan](#), assistant professor of international service, about the African Union's election of its first female chairperson and the challenges she faces. "(Her) election comes at a critical time for the African Union as they're dealing with a number of immediate, pressing concerns including the conflict in Mali and the very unusual historical development of a new state, Southern Sudan," said LeVan. (7/24)

## This Week's Bonus Clip

### DC Monuments: Monumental Mysteries



[David Johnson](#), assistant professor of communication, appeared on the *Travel Channel's DC Monuments: Monumental Mysteries* documentary. He spoke about his background as a Mason and the masonry of monuments in Washington, D.C. (7/19)