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AU Newsmakers

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Top Story

Remembering a Civil Rights Icon

Domestic and international media covered the passing of civil rights leader and American University distinguished adjunct professor of government **Julian Bond**. More than 1,400 stories recounted **Bond's** lifetime achievements and his role as an educator at American University where he shared his experiences from the birth of the Civil Rights Movement to his engagement in contemporary issues ranging from same sex marriage to the Keystone XL pipeline.



In particular, Washington-area media focused on **Bond's** influence as an educator where he held a teaching position at AU since 1991. School of Public Affairs dean **Barbara Romzek** and professor of government **Steven Taylor** appeared on [WJLA-ABC7](#) to discuss **Bond's** impact on students at American University, saying that his classes always filled up before anyone else's in the school. (8/17)



School of Communication professor **Jane Hall** appeared on [WRC-NBC4](#) to discuss **Bond's** encouragement for student activists and "gracious" challenge for them to do more. (8/17)



In an op-ed for [Tribune News Service](#), School of International Service professor emeritus **Clarence Lusane** discussed **Bond's** tenure at American University, saying that when he sat in on lectures, he witnessed that "Julian Bond the agitator became Julian Bond the educator." (8/19)

Additional Features

Philadelphia

New Exhibit Made from the Blood of Gay Men

[Philly Magazine](#) and [Huffington Post](#) featured the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center's forthcoming "Blood Mirror" exhibit, which will feature a 7-foot-tall sculpture made from the blood of gay men to protest the FDA's ban on blood donations from gay

and bisexual men. (8/18 - 8/19)

Faculty Authors

A Smarter Approach to College Textbooks



In an [Inside Higher Ed](#) opinion piece, Center for Teaching, Research and Learning director **Naomi Baron** discussed the decrease in textbook use among college students and textbook price increases. **Baron** argued that course materials should be affordable and that “There is a pressing need for meaningful collaboration between faculty members and the publishing industry to find ways of producing materials designed to foster learning that reaches beyond the test.” (8/19)

Female Rangers Should End the Debate about Women in Combat



For [TIME](#), on the occasion of the first two women to graduate from the Army’s rigorous Ranger School, School of International Service’s distinguished practitioner in residence **Lt. General David Barno** and distinguished scholar in residence **Nora Bensahel** argued that women should break the “brass ceiling” in the military and be permitted to serve in any combat roles. (8/20)

What a New Argentina Could Do for Brazil



For [Financial Times](#), School of International Service distinguished economist-in-residence **Arturo Porzecanski** argued that Argentina should normalize its financial relations that have plagued its neighbors and trading partners near and afar. “Banks and companies would again be able to obtain credit and sell shares abroad, and the resulting capital inflows would pave the way for the new government to abolish the tangled web of controls on imports, remittances, and other transactions involving foreign exchange,” says **Porzecanski**. (8/20)

Expertise

Instagram Book Clubs Hook Readers with Design



For the [Boston Globe](#), Center for Teaching, Research and Learning director **Naomi Baron** discussed the rise of online and social media book clubs. **Baron** said that people often join book clubs because they enjoy the social interaction. (8/17)

New Plea Deals as Brazil's Petrobras Corruption Probe Advances



School of International Service professor **Matthew Taylor** spoke to [Reuters](#) about the Petrobras bribery scandal in Brazil, saying that “Prosecutors are both building a case against people higher up the political food chain.” (8/14)

Caffeine Shapes Brain to Make Us Buzz



Psychology professor **Laura Juliano** spoke to [Voice of America](#) about caffeine addiction, saying that although it is not as addictive as other drugs, caffeine can produce withdrawal responses such as headaches, nausea and flu-like symptoms. (8/14)

Obama Administration Pushes for Deal to Start Flights to Cuba by Year’s End



School of Public Affairs professor of government **William LeoGrande** spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Fortune](#) about flights from the United States to Cuba, saying that if people could book ordinary flights instead of charter flights more people would visit Cuba. School of International Service professor **Philip Brenner** spoke to [Voice of America](#) about the benefits of travel to Cuba. (8/14 - 8/18)

Teacher Expectations for Students Colored by Race



For Cleveland's [WCPN Radio](#), School of Public Affairs Department of Public Administration and Policy assistant professor **Seth Gershenson** discussed the results of his new study measuring high school teachers' expectations for black students. **Gershenson** explained that "A black teacher is about 30% more likely to expect a black student to graduate from college than a white teacher is - again, when they're both evaluating the same student." (8/20)

Online Master's Degree Becomes More Widely Accepted – But Still Faces Hurdles

THE COLLEGE FIX

For [The College Fix](#) in an article about online degrees, Kogod School of Business Digital Initiatives assistant dean **Jill Klein** discussed Kogod's online MBA program and its Bridges to Business course. Speaking about Bridges to Business, **Klein** said, "It's really a terrific way for a prospective student who has maybe been out of the classroom for a while and is very anxious." Selected applicants receiving a B or better will be admitted into the online MBA program. (8/18)