



AU Newsmakers February 13 – February 20, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

D.C. Area Universities Among Top Providers of Peace Corps Volunteers

The Washington Post

The [Washington Post](#) featured American University's rise in the Peace Corps rankings to claim the number two spot for top volunteer-producing schools in the medium-sized schools category.

AU produced 41 volunteers. (2/18)

The Art of War

The Washington Post

A two-page review for the [Washington Post's Weekend Going Out Guide](#) featured two current exhibits at the **American University Museum** that explore themes of war and loss. The reviewer noted

the personal viewpoints of the artists in their approach and wrote "Their art ponders historical violence in ways that are deliberate yet immediate...Although their methods and inspirations are quite different, Plattner's 'Gods of War!' and Levenson's 'Identidad' are equally vivid and personal." (2/20)

Additional Feature

Not-So-Great Expectations



For [Inside Higher Education](#), executive director of AU Abroad **Sara Dumont** spoke about the pros and cons of extremely short-term study abroad programs that take place during breaks versus academic-year programs. **Dumont** explained that students often choose short-term programs because they are easier. (2/18)

Op-Eds

Beat ISIS – Export Israeli Water to Jordan

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

In an op-ed for the [Times of Israel](#), School of Professional & Extended Studies (SPExS) professor **Jeffrey Sosland** argued that it is in Israel's best interest to support Jordan with water diplomacy, as Jordan is experiencing its worst draught in decades. **Sosland** explained that water diplomacy would permit Jordan to prevent unrest from ISIS. (2/12)

How to Save Ukraine: Accelerate NATO Military Modernization

ROLL CALL

In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#), international service scholar-in-residence **Benjamin Jensen** argued that Eastern European NATO members should supply Ukraine with its surplus Soviet era weapons with which Ukrainians are familiar. (2/19)

Why Reading on a Screen Is Bad for Critical Thinking

THE HUFFINGTON POST In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), linguistics professor **Naomi Baron** argued that on-screen reading is harmful to critical and deep reading. **Baron** cited her research showing more than 90 percent of college students surveyed found concentration and digital screens weren't "a good mix." (2/17)

Making Together Better for Scotland and the UK

The Washington Post In an op-ed for the [Washington Post's Monkey Cage](#), government professor **David Lublin** discussed the proposals that devolved more power to Scotland rather than giving it more power in the center. Lublin says this solution will likely yield success based on his research. (2/18)

Fifty Years After Medicare Desegregated Hospitals, Blacks Still Fighting for Health Care Access

THE HUFFINGTON POST In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), sociology professor **Judy Lubin** examined the progression from the Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). **Lubin** argued that the ACA has the potential to reduce racial healthcare inequalities if every state expands Medicaid. **Lubin** also spoke to the [Huffington Post](#) for a separate article on healthcare. (2/16 - 2/17)

Expertise

How Libya May Become a 'Breeding Ground' for ISIS Recruits



School of International Service dean **James Goldgeier** appeared on [Fox News Shepard Smith Reporting](#) to discuss the threat of ISIS expanding into Libya and Egypt's call for intervention. **Goldgeier** explained that ISIS won't be stopped until citizens rise up against the group. (2/16)

Authorization for the Use of Military Force Request



Law professor **Jennifer Daskal** appeared on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) to discuss President Obama's proposal to Congress for a new Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) to combat ISIL worldwide. **Daskal** explained the shortfalls of the current proposed AUMF and the need to repeal the outdated 2001 AUMF. International service professor **Shoon Murray** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about complications with Guantanamo detainees if the 2001 AUMF is repealed. International service distinguished scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel** spoke to [Federal News Radio](#) about Obama's AUMF request. (2/17)

Republican National Committee Pressed to Dump NBC from Hosting GOP Debates

The Washington Times Journalism professor **Richard Benedetto** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about the reputations of MSNBC and Fox, saying that there is "more of a perception that Fox News is conservative than MSNBC is liberal." (2/16)

Foreign Government Gifts to Clinton Foundation on the Rise

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies (CCPS) director **James Thurber** spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about Hillary Clinton's role at the Clinton Foundation and whether foreign donations to the Foundation presents liabilities should she run for president. The article syndicated more than 40 times. CCPS academic director of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute **Patrick Griffin** spoke to [McClatchy](#) and explained that Hillary Clinton would have to "separate herself from the foreign donations" if she seeks the Democratic nomination for president. The article syndicated more than 30 times. (2/17 - 2/18)

Faulted for Avoiding 'Islamic' Labels to Describe Terrorism, White House Cites a Strategic Logic

The New York Times

Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Akbar Ahmed** spoke to the [New York Times](#) about President Obama's strategic word choice when talking about ISIS extremist groups rather than "smear all Muslims". However, **Ahmed** cautioned that Obama needs to avoid his academic approach to the politically charged subject. **Ahmed** also appeared on [WAMU's The Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, [BBC World News TV](#) and [Al Jazeera English](#) to discuss the growing concern over ISIS. (2/17 - 2/19)

What Low-Income Areas Can Teach Silicon Valley about Tech



For [How We Get To Next](#), Metropolitan Policy Center director **Derek Hyra** discussed the difficulty African American small businesses face having experienced a 50 percent decrease in Small Business Administration loans since 2009. (2/17)

Volkswagen Might Have Found a Fix for America's Youth Unemployment Problem

THE HUFFINGTON POST Economics professor **Robert Lerman** spoke to the [Huffington Post](#) about the advantages of apprenticeships and the "strong sense of occupational pride" that they convey. (2/13)

Why Won't Political Aides Watch What They Post on Social Media?



In an article for the [Hill](#) about political aides posting embarrassing, inappropriate and offensive comments on social media, communication professor **Scott Talan** explained that we are still getting used to social media and that "in another decade or two we'll have a much better sense of what is to be done with the web." (2/15)

John Kitzhaber Resignation



For [CBS Radio](#), communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** discussed Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's future in politics, saying "he has no future." (2/14)

Fifty Shades of Grey



American studies professor **Stef Woods** appeared on [WTTG-Fox5's Good Day DC](#) to discuss the film *Fifty Shades of Grey* and the message the film conveys. **Woods** had taught a class on the book. (2/16)

UMKC to Open Food Pantry for Students



For NPR affiliate [KCUR-FM](#), **Anastasia Snelling**, associate dean of the School of Education, Teaching and Health, spoke about food insecurity among college students. **Snelling** explained that colleges don't provide the food assistance benefit that some students received in primary and secondary schools. (2/13)

Tattoos, Prescription Drugs, Obesity Hinder Army Reserves Recruitment Effort



International service distinguished practitioner-in-residence **David Barno** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about the recruiting difficulty that the military will face in the coming years because of the improving economy and decreased chance to see major military action. (2/16)

The Decline of the Nightly News Anchor

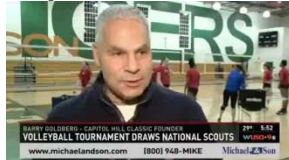


CBCradio

Communication professor **Andrew Lih** spoke to the [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation](#) about the Brian Williams controversy and the "super-star" reputation of nightly news anchors. (2/14)

Bonus Clip

Capitol Hill Classic



[WUSA-CBS9](#) featured American University volleyball coach **Barry Goldberg** and the 3-day Capitol Hill Classic volleyball tournament that he founded 9 years ago. The tournament is a great recruiting event for colleges and scholarship opportunity for players. (2/13)