



AU Newsmakers November 21 – December 5, 2014

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

Federal Ratings or Not, Colleges Publish Outcomes Data

POLITICO Pro [Politico Pro](#) discussed American University's [We Know Success](#) website launch and purpose to show the value of higher education through the metric of employment outcomes. The article also mentions that the American Marketing Association discussed [We Know Success](#) at its symposium for higher education.

American University Experts Discuss Executive Action on Immigration

Following President Obama's immigration announcement, news media sought AU faculty expertise from a historical analysis to a discussion on legal authority.



History professor **Alan Kraut** appeared on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) to discuss past presidential executive actions on immigration dating back to the Eisenhower administration. (11/24)



For the [National Constitution Center](#) podcast, government professor **Chris Edelson** appeared as part of a panel to discuss Obama's legal and constitutional authority to enforce laws without explicit Congressional authorization. (11/21)



History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke on [WJLA-ABC7's NewsTalk](#) to discuss the historical precedent for presidents acting unilaterally on immigration, emphasizing Herbert Hoover's executive action in 1930. **Lichtman** also wrote an op-ed for [The Hill](#). (11/21)



For [Voice of America TV](#), Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies director **James Thurber** said Obama's executive action plan is a defining moment in his presidency. (11/21)



In an [NBC News](#) online commentary, **Dante Chinni**, director of the [American Communities Project \(ACP\)](#), discussed an [ACP](#) poll analysis focusing on Obama's approval rating for his immigration plan in cities, suburbs and exurbs. (11/25)



NBC's [Meet the Press](#) host Chuck Todd featured the [American Communities Project's](#) analysis of a recent poll on President Obama's approval rating before announcing his immigration plan. (11/30)

Media Seeks AU Experts' Analysis on Ferguson

Media looked to AU faculty for analysis and discussion leading up to and after the Ferguson grand jury's decision not to indict the police officer who shot Michael Brown.



Law fellow **William Yeomans** appeared on [C-SPAN's Washington Journal](#) to discuss the non-indictment of police officer Darren Wilson and the role of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. **Yeomans** explained the process of both a criminal federal civil rights investigation and a civil investigation. **Yeomans** also spoke to [NPR](#). (11/28, 11/25)



Communication professor **Scott Talan** spoke to the [Boston Herald](#) about Ferguson prosecutor Bob McCulloch's comments about traditional and social media "muddying the case." **Talan** explained that social media does not create anything that would not exist on its own and questioned whether there would have even been an investigation without media coverage. (12/3)



For the [Baltimore Sun](#), journalism professor **John Watson** discussed a Baltimore police sergeant's controversial tweet concerning Ferguson. **Watson** also discussed the breadth of social media, stating, "When you go to social media, you go to the tallest building in your town and shout at the top of your lungs." (11/21)



For [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) television, international service professor **Cathy Schneider** appeared to discuss the initial riots in Ferguson and the media's response. (11/24)



Law professor **Jamin Raskin** appeared on [WJLA-ABC7](#) to discuss how secrecy in the grand jury process can lead to mistrust. (11/25)

The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe



For [WAMU's Diane Rehm Show](#) on NPR, Center for Israel Studies director **Michael Brenner** joined panelists for a wide-ranging discussion about what's behind recent acts of violence and rising anti-Semitism in Europe. (12/4)

In the Galleries: 'Sculpture Now 2014' at American University Museum

The Washington Post The [Washington Post](#) featured a review of "Sculpture Now 2014," an exhibit on display through Dec. 14 at **American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center**. The reviewer noted that "Sculpture Now 2014" director **Jack Rasmussen's** exhibit curation gives space for large works of art compared with recent showings focused on smaller, delicate works. (11/28)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Time for Obama to Get Alan Gross out of Prison

The Miami Herald In a [Miami Herald](#) op-ed, government professor **William LeoGrande** and his co-author Peter Kornbluh argued that there is a precedent for humanitarian prisoner exchanges between Cuba and the United States regardless of the equivalence of the exchange. **LeoGrande** and Kornbluh cite several examples of such exchanges as found in their book *Back Channel to Cuba*. **LeoGrande** also spoke to the [Miami Herald](#) and [Baltimore Sun](#) about Alan Gross' imprisonment in Cuba. (12/4, 11/30, 12/1)

Expertise

Year-End Tax Moves for Small Businesses

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Kogod Tax Center executive director **Donald Williamson** spoke to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about a new tax rule for small businesses called "repair regs." **Williamson** explained the benefit that small businesses could immediately take through deducting capital investments under \$500. (11/21)


Video Games are Getting Respect — as Big Business, Entertainment, Creative Discipline

The Washington Post School of Communication dean **Jeff Rutenbeck** spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the rise of the video gaming industry. **Rutenbeck** discussed the journalism fellowship SOC launched and the developmental skills people can learn from video games. (11/22)

Do Democrats and Republicans Actually Experience the Weather Differently?

The Washington Post The [Washington Post](#) featured sociology professor **Chenyang Xiao**'s study about the relationship between a person's political affiliation and his or her views about climate change. **Xiao** and his colleagues' data suggest people's perceptions of the weather itself are subtly slanted by partisan leanings. (11/24)


Defense in Brazil's Petrobras Probe Trying to Change Court

 **REUTERS** International service professor **Matthew Taylor** spoke to [Reuters](#) about the Brazilian Petrobras scandal and its impact on changing the courts. **Taylor** explained that if the court transfers the case, it would overwhelm the Supreme Court, as more than triple the amount of defendants and witnesses would testify. (11/26)

Pentagon Imposes Strict Standards on Private Security Firms

The Washington Post **Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt**, co-director of WCL's Human Rights in Business Program, spoke to the [Washington Post](#) about the Pentagon requiring private security contractors to meet certifiable standards that she played a role in creating. (11/26)

Obama's Pentagon Pick, Ashton Carter, Known for Expertise

 **NBCNEWS.com** For [NBC News](#) online, foreign policy professor **Gordon Adams** discussed the challenges secretary of defense nominee Ashton Carter will face in balancing White House, Pentagon and National Security Council interests. **Adams** also spoke to the [Fiscal Times](#) and [Stars and Stripes](#) about Chuck Hagel's resignation. (12/5, 11/24, 11/25)

Changes to Thanksgiving Tradition



Kogod School of Business marketing professor **Cristel Russell** appeared on [WTTG-Fox5](#) to discuss Black Friday, advertising and the state of the U.S. economy. **Russell** spoke about American sociocultural norms related to Thanksgiving and a recent movement to distance the holiday from extreme Black Friday consumerism. (11/28)

Russians Protest Healthcare Reform



For [CNN International](#), Initiative for Russian Culture executive director **Anton Fedyashin** appeared to discuss political and economic issues surrounding the Russian government's attempts to modernize its healthcare system. (11/23)

International Group Explores Future of Internet Governance



In a [Globe and Mail](#) interview, communication professor **Laura DeNardis** discussed the Global Commission on Internet Governance, for which she leads research efforts. (11/23)

Protecting Data Privacy at School and at Play



For the [New York Times](#) online, communication professor **Kathryn Montgomery** spoke about the issue of data privacy and children. **Montgomery** explained that online data collection is so rampant that parents cannot do much to contain it. (12/2)

Best and Worst Political Advertisements



Communication adjunct professor **Andrew Babb** appeared on [Maryland Public Television](#) to discuss the best and worst political advertisements of the midterm elections. **Babb** and his students analyzed and ranked the advertisements purely based on advertisement criteria, such as memorability and production value. (11/21)

Drunk on Camera



For the [Chronicle of Higher Education's](#) series [Alcohol's Hold On Campus](#), communication professor **Scott Talan** explained the Internet's power in enabling social media movies of campus parties and binge drinking to be very scalable, searchable and savable, which can cause serious impacts for students in the future. (12/04)