



AU Newsmakers

April 3 – April 10, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Stories

Laura Bush Named American University's Wunk of the Year



AU presented former First Lady Laura Bush with [AU's 2015 Wunk of the Year Award](#). [GretaWire.com](#), official blog of Fox News Channel's *On the Record with Greta Van Susteren*, shared the AU homepage story recapping the event. Additionally, AU distributed a news release about the event that syndicated to more than 140 news outlets. This Sunday's *ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos* will include Laura Bush receiving the award for her dedication to education and public health issues. (4/9)

Rolling Stone Retraction



For [BBC World News](#), communication professor **Jane Hall** discussed the retracted *Rolling Stone* story, *A Rape on Campus*, and the failure of "journalism 101" practices. **Hall** said that though the intention of the story was to shine a light on sexual assault, they seized on a single-issue story and didn't verify the facts within the story. Journalism division director **John Watson** and journalism professor **Richard Benedetto** spoke to [USA Today's Off the Record](#) podcast and [CBS Radio](#), respectively. (4/5 - 4/7)

Budget and Staff Cuts at Local Universities



For [WAMU's The Kojo Nnamdi Show](#), vice president of communication **Teresa Flannery** joined *Washington Post* education reporter Nick Anderson and *Chronicle Higher Education's* Goldie Blumenstyk to discuss local university budget challenges. **Flannery** discussed the importance of AU's graduate student enrollment numbers. (4/9)

Preview to the Summit of the Americas

Media called on AU's Western Hemisphere experts for a preview of the Seventh Summit of the Americas where for the first time Cuba will participate in the hemispheric event gathering leaders from across the Americas. AU experts discussed President Obama's likely encounter with Cuba's Raul Castro to major issues facing the countries within the hemisphere from flailing economies to instability in Venezuela.

Bloomberg Center for Latin American & Latino Studies director **Eric Hershberg** spoke to [Bloomberg](#) about the Summit of the Americas. **Hershberg** pointed out that the United States accepting Cuba's participation in the summit was a lynchpin to the summit even taking place. **Hershberg** also spoke to Southern California NPR affiliate [KPCC](#). (4/8 - 4/9)



Distinguished diplomat-in-residence **Anthony Quinton** spoke to the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about the likely resistance President Obama will face in Panama despite efforts to mend relations with Cuba. (4/9)



For an opinion piece in [Foreign Affairs](#), government professor **William LeoGrande** argued why President Obama should act on removing Cuba from the state sponsors of international terrorism list to remove roadblocks for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana.

LeoGrande also spoke to [La Opinión](#) and [Fox News Latino](#). (4/8 - 4/9)



news leadership." (4/8)

International service economist-in-residence **Manuel Suarez-Mier** spoke to the [Washington Examiner](#) about the Summit of the Americas and the United States normalizing relations with Cuba, saying that "the U.S. is wise to re-engage with Cuba because eventually the Castro regime will give way to a



In her article for [World Politics Review](#), SIS scholar-in-residence **Johanna Mendelson-Forman** discussed President Obama's meeting with Caribbean leaders in Jamaica on the eve to the Summit of the Americas where he is encouraging the region to choose sustainable energy options over cheap, subsidized Venezuelan oil. (4/10)

Words Onscreen



students prefer reading in print so that they can concentrate better. (4/8)

Center for Teaching, Research and Learning Director **Naomi Baron** spoke to NPR affiliate [WYPR-FM](#) about her book, *Words Onscreen: The Fate of Reading in a Digital World*, and her research on the advantages and disadvantages of print vs. digital books. **Baron** discussed her research findings that show college

Data Analysis Spells Crunch Time for Leaders

FINANCIAL TIMES [Financial Times](#) featured the **Kogod School of Business'** online Masters of Science in Analytics program in an article about marketing and "big data" analyses becoming a popular subject. (4/5)

Op-Eds

Obama's Weak Approach to Pardons



Obama has granted and the existing backlog. **Lardner** wrote, "President Obama keeps referring to the Justice Department as though it were in charge of the process while he remains a frustrated bystander." (4/9)

In a co-authored [Washington Post](#) op-ed, American University's Investigative Reporting Workshop scholar-in-residence **George Lardner Jr.** discussed the lack of presidential pardons President

Al-Shabab Poses No Threat to U.S. Interests



In an op-ed for [USA Today](#), Department of Justice, Law & Criminology professor **Joseph Young** argued that al-Shabab is a "local or regional problem with local or regional solutions," explaining that U.S. airstrikes have had little effect on the group's operation. The article syndicated more than 100 times. (4/4)

Science Denial Is Bipartisan



In an on-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#), government professor **Elizabeth Suhay** cited her research on the "politics of science." **Suhay** argued that conservatives and liberals exhibit anti-science bias depending on the topic—climate change for Republicans and fracking and nuclear power issues for Democrats. The result is that those in politics who are most aware of science and policy debates are most likely to allow their values to influence scientific findings. (4/6)

Expertise

Is PBS Neglecting Its Mission?

The New York Times

Iconic television producer and writer Norman Lear in his [New York Times](#) op-ed cited the **Center for Media and Social Impact's** 2014 study showing that PBS' "Independent Lens" has more diverse characters — over 80 percent had at least one minority character, and 30 percent had at least one minority director — compared to documentaries on cable that on average have fewer than 13 percent. (4/7)

What's in a Name? 'Hillary' By Any Other Name Would Still Be Controversial



History professor **Allan Lichtman** spoke to [McClatchy](#) about possible gender inequality stemming from the use of Hillary Clinton's first name in political campaign references. **Lichtman** noted several past presidents referenced by their first names including Teddy Roosevelt as Teddy, Calvin Coolidge as Silent Cal and Dwight D. Eisenhower as Ike. The article syndicated more than 30 times. (4/7)

Arab Nations' Donations to Clinton Foundation: Curing World's Ills or Currying Favor?



Patrick Griffin, Center for Congressional & Presidential Studies academic director of the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, spoke to [McClatchy](#) about controversial foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation. **Griffin** said donations from foreign governments to the foundation are of less concern than money going directly into the pocket of former presidents. **Griffin** also said, knowing Hillary Clinton, that he finds it "not credible to believe that she would be influenced by a donation to the foundation." (4/6)

For Military Millennials, 'Duty or Child?' Is Not Just an Issue for Women



For [Christian Science Monitor](#), international service practitioner-in-residence **Lt. Gen. David Barno** spoke about the values that appeal to Millennials in the military, citing quality of life and flexibility as being increasingly important. (4/4)

Student and Shipbuilder



Economics professor **Robert Lerman** spoke to [Inside Higher Ed](#) about how few colleges offer apprenticeship programs that lead to degrees. **Lerman** predicted that more colleges will adopt degree-producing apprenticeship programs because "the logic is inexorable." (4/6)

When to Ditch Online Tax Prep and Hire a Tax Pro



For [KTSA-AM](#), Kogod Tax Center executive director **Don Williamson** discussed the importance of attempting to file taxes without help of an accountant, saying that Americans should understand tax law in order to respect it. **Williamson** also spoke to [MarketWatch](#) about IRS audits. (4/6 - 4/8)

Defense Budget Update



International service scholar-in-residence **Nora Bensahel** appeared on [Defense News with Vago Muradian](#) to discuss the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund, saying that Congress can't plan long term with the one-year budget, but defense funding will inevitably come through OCO. **Gordon Adams** and **Lt. Gen. David Barno** spoke to [Defense News](#) for an article about the defense budget. **Adams** also spoke to [Stars and Stripes](#) about Sen. John McCain's influence on defense issues. (4/3 - 4/7)

Justice Department to Assist in Investigation of South Carolina Cop

Los Angeles Times Law professor **William Yeomans** spoke to the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the South Carolina police officer charged with the murder of an unarmed man, saying that the “video is just so overpowering.” (4/8)

Why Are Christians Around The World Being Persecuted?



Department of Philosophy and Religion professor **Martyn Oliver** appeared on [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) to discuss recent targeted attacks on Christians in countries in Africa. **Oliver** noted that religion is rarely the sole reason for such attacks. (4/6)

Argentina’s Fight with America’s Courts: Sympathy with the Vultures



[Fusion.net](#) spoke to SIS distinguished economist-in-residence **Arturo Porzecanski** about how Argentina should handle its creditors having exhausted legal options in a highly charged battle with U.S. hedge fund bond hold-out creditors. (4/10)

New Battle Over ‘Mein Kampf’



Director of Center for Israel Studies **Michael Brenner** spoke to [The Jewish Week](#) about the re-publication of Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* in Germany after a 70 year copyright ban, saying that “when you study the historical period in college, you should have this available.” (4/7)

Rand Paul Candidacy



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** spoke to [WHAS-AM](#) about Sen. Rand Paul’s presidential candidacy and political strategy, saying that Paul wants to create a big-tent Republican Party including a base of Republicans, Independents and younger voters. (4/7)

Bonus

EMTs Injured on the Job Find Second Family in Their Rescuers



[NBC-WRC4](#) featured AU student and EMT **Sydney Marshall** and her colleague in a story about their return to serving the Glen Echo community after recovering from serious injuries sustained while responding to a medical emergency on the Beltway in February. (4/8)