

AU Newsmakers

September 4 – September 11, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

For prior weeks, go to <http://www.american.edu/media/inthedia.cfm>

Top Stories

Fossils Found in African Cave Are New Species of Human Kin, Say Scientists



Multiple outlets including [NPR's Morning Edition](#), [PRI's The World](#), [Washington Post](#), and others featured stories about the announcement that scientists discovered a new species of human, *Homo naledi*, stemming from the largest hominin fossil find of its kind in Africa over 21 days in November 2013 and seven days in March 2014. AU Anthropology Ph.D. candidate **Becca Peixotto**, a member of the excavation team, discussed her experience, saying "We had a lot of spectacular moments, and a few stand out: a fragment of a skull from the center of the chamber. It took days to excavate, and the removal of this fossil was complicated by overlying fossils. Late one evening, it was finally free from the soil and packaged in a box big enough to hold the fragment and small enough to fit [through the narrow cracks of the cave].There was huge cheering as it reached the light of day." (9/10)

Additional Features

Women Who Mean Business



The [Washington Business Journal](#) named Kogod School of Business executive-in-residence and special assistant to the dean **Rebecca Cooper** to its Women Who Mean Business 2015 list. WBJ featured **Cooper's** multifaceted career and highlighted her arrival to Kogod where she will help oversee the school's Business in the Capital initiative and launch a news program similar to "Washington Business Report." (9/11)

D.C. Olympics Backers Tout Regional Playbook for Future Economic Development



Kogod School of Business special assistant to the dean **Bob Sweeney** spoke to the [Washington Business Journal](#) about his role as President of the Washington 2024 group that backed the D.C. Olympic bid. **Sweeney** talked about the challenges of regionalism in the D.C. metropolitan area, lessons learned from the 2024 Olympic bid and how the region should continue to work towards improved economic development for a chance of hosting future large international events. (9/10)

Bridging the Divides: Muslims in Europe



[Huffington Post Religion](#) reviewed School of International Service's Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies **Amb. Akbar Ahmed's** documentary film *Journey Into Europe*. The film explores the contemporary dimensions of Islam in Europe and Islam's contribution in European history and civilization. The reviewer says, "Amid the cacophony of Islamophobic and extremist discourses, *Journey into Europe* presents insights on cementing understanding between Islam and the West. Never has the need for a redefined and updated *La Convivencia* been so urgent" (9/10)

Faculty Authors

Puerto Rico Needs an Effective Financial Control Board--Meaning, Not a Local One

Forbes

For [Forbes](#), School of International Service distinguished economist in residence **Arturo Porzecanski** argued in an op-ed that Puerto Rico cannot effectively deal with its fiscal and economic emergency on its own. Instead, **Porzecanski** warns that any Financial Control Board must be a U.S. “federally appointed Financial Control Board—the only kind that could get the job done.” **Porzecanski** also spoke to the [New York Times](#) about the consequences of a solely locally controlled Financial Control Board. (9/4, 9/10)

35 Years, Two Rangers, and the End of the Brass Ceiling

WAR ON THE ROCKS

In their [War on the Rocks](#) column, School of International Services’ distinguished practitioner in residence **Lt. Gen. David Barno** (USA Ret.) and distinguished scholar in residence **Nora Bensahel** made their case for women’s full integration into the U.S. Armed Services reflecting upon the recent graduation of two women from Army Ranger School. **Barno** and **Bensahel** predict that, “their remarkable individual achievements have made it far more likely that the military will remove the last formal barriers to women’s full advancement — a long-awaited decision that will inexorably strengthen the U.S. military and the nation’s future security” (9/8)

Expertise

Deal Gives Fox Majority Stake in National Geographic Media

AP Associated Press

The [Associated Press](#) spoke with Center for Environmental Filmmaking director **Chris Palmer** about National Geographic’s deal with 21st Century Fox that gives Fox a majority stake in *National Geographic* magazine and other media properties. **Palmer** expressed his concern about the future of National Geographic’s educational mission in media if control is turned over to commercial interests. **Palmer** also discussed this topic with the BBC World Service. (9/9)

After Ashley Madison, How to Cope with Infidelity

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

In the wake of the Ashley Madison online dating site hack, Psychology prof. **Barry McCarthy** talked to the [Wall Street Journal](#) about how couples can address infidelity issues. (9/7)

Obama Visits with Top Newspaper Executives Raise Questions about Media Fairness

The Washington Times

Journalism Department director **John Watson** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about President Obama’s continued friendship with some powerful figures in the media and whether these relationships impact fair and nonbiased coverage. **Watson** said, “...for the average person, it looks bad because most people don’t make a distinction between publishers and owners [and journalists].” (9/7)

The One Major Weapon Terrorists Have Lost in the 14 Years Since Sept. 11

WASHINGTON
Examiner

For the [Washington Examiner](#), School of International Service distinguished scholar in residence **Nora Bensahel** explained how terrorists have lost the element of surprise since the events of 9/11 fourteen years ago. **Bensahel** also observed that young people who don’t remember 9/11 “don’t remember the terror we all felt.” (9/8)

I Scream, You Scream for Slow-Melting Ice Cream

npr

With [NPR](#), Chemistry assistant professor **Matthew Hartings** discussed a finding by researchers that a bacteria naturally present in foods acts as a binding agent that slows ice cream melting. (9/9)

Forget the Redistribution of Wealth: Let's Redistribute Neighborhoods

FAST COMPANY For [Fast Co-Exist](#), Metropolitan Policy Center director **Derek Hyra** discussed how gentrification has led to a micro-segregation phenomenon in mixed income neighborhoods. **Hyra** said, "We need to facilitate social interaction, and grease the wheels of micro-level integration. And that's not something that federal housing policy has really tackled." (9/8)

Stephen Colbert CBS Debut: A More Political 'Late Show' Could Mean a 'Colbert Bump' for 2016 Candidates

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES Communication professor **Jane Hall** spoke with [International Business Times](#) about Jeb Bush's appearance on the *Late Show with Stephen Colbert*. **Hall** explained how the opportunity gave Bush a platform to make a great first impression to Americans who are not following the election coverage closely. (9/8)

Is Insulting Women's Looks the Same as Mocking Trump's Hair?

BBC Women & Politics Institute director **Jennifer Lawless** spoke to [BBC Magazine](#) about Donald Trump's disparaging remarks aimed at GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina. "Fellow opponents are not condemning his hair. Late night comedians are," **Lawless** said, "Jimmy Fallon is not running for president."