

AU Newsmakers

August 28 – September 4, 2015

Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

The Hidden Economic Lessons of the Evil Eye

QUARTZ In a feature for [Quartz](#), Economics assistant professor **Boris Gershman** discussed his research on the evil eye belief, a belief harbored by many cultures around the world that a glance rooted in envy has the power to destroy. **Gershman** argues how envy can be a source of economic power and that the belief is a finely honed defense mechanism for property holders in societies where envy is more likely to result in destruction of assets. (9/3)

Additional Features

AU Community Remembers Kevin Sutherland



Members of the AU community filled Kay Spiritual Life Center to celebrate Kevin Sutherland's contributions to AU and recount the memories of a life cut short on July 4. [WRC-NBC 4](#), [WTTG-Fox 5](#), [WUSA-CBS9](#), [WTOP](#) radio and [Roll Call](#) covered the outpouring of support for the Sutherland Family. (8/30, 8/31)

Expertise

Big Hazard to Seabirds? One Word: Plastic

AP Associated Press For a story about a scientific finding of the prevalence of plastics in the world's seabirds, Environmental Science associate professor **Kiho Kim** talked to [Associated Press](#). Experts predict that by 2050, 99 percent of seabirds will have plastic in them, which Kim said "seems astonishingly high, but probably not unrealistic." (9/1)

Scott Talan on Social Media Issues



Communications professor **Scott Talan** spoke to the [Washington Examiner](#) about Defense Secretary Ash Carter's push to connect with troops on social media. **Talan** said "the lack of anonymity on social media could make service members unwilling to bring up substantial concerns in that kind of forum."

THE TIMES **Talan** also spoke to the [Times of London](#) about Facebook reaching one billion users in a single day and shared that he expects Facebook to continue to grow. "It should be no surprise. China and India are Facebook nations. The only surprise is that it's only been a decade," said **Talan**. (9/2, 8/29)

All of That Dollar Borrowing in Emerging Markets Looks Like It's Been One Giant Carry Trade

Bloomberg Business featured Kogod School of Business Finance professor **Valentina Bruno's** research that explains why firms outside the U.S. have borrowed \$9 trillion in U.S. dollars after the 2008 U.S. financial crisis. **Bruno** discovered that some countries have been using the cash to carry trades, the act of borrowing in a currency with a low interest rate and buying in a currency with high interest rate. (8/28)

Liz Warren Denounced Big Business Money – But Cashing in Now



For a [Boston Herald](#) article examining corporate contributions given to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Campaign Management Institute director and professor of Government **Candice Nelson** explained the relationship between corporate campaign contributions and winning the ear of Congressional members. (9/3)

Mexico's Economy: Rising Poverty, Inequality Undermine Peña Nieto's Economic Agenda



For an [International Business Times](#) story about Mexico's poor track record at reducing poverty, School of International Service professor **Jonathan Fox** commented, "Neither inequality nor poverty reduction have been major priorities of this administration, nor the previous administrations." (9/3)

Amb. Quainton Discusses Iran Nuke Deal



For the [Ralph Nader Radio Hour](#), School of International Service ambassador in residence **Amb. Anthony Quainton** discussed the Iran Deal that the U.S. Senate must approve. **Amb. Quainton** also reviewed the history of U.S.-Iran relations and the mutual suspicions in both the United States and Iran concerning the deal. (8/30)

What America Will Offer Israel After the Nuclear Deal



With [The Jewish Week](#), scholar-in-residence **Dan Arbell** discussed what's next for U.S.-Israel relations. **Arbell** also commented President Obama's letter addressing Israel's security concerns. (9/1)

Politics as Usual Stifles Action on Environment



For a [GVH Live](#) story about the politics of environmentalism and millennials, director of American University's School of International Service's Global Environmental Politics program **Simon Nicholson** traces the origins of the partisanship on the issue from the Reagan era. **Nicholson** said, "Environmental issues have become part of our political and cultural divisions. They have become issues of ideology instead of science." The article also syndicated to [Huffington Post's Politics](#) blog. (9/2, 9/3)

AU Expert Explains U.S. Election Process to UK Audience



For [BBC 5 U.K. National Radio](#), professor of Government **Jan Leighley** appeared as part of a panel to discuss how the U.S. political system operates. **Leighley** discussed a range of issue from front-runner candidates for president to Super Tuesday and campaign finance. (9/3)

Bonus

Spring Valley, Neighbor to American University, Getting a Tony Reputation



For a [Washington Post Real Estate Section's Where We Live](#) column featuring Spring Valley and the role American University plays in making the community vibrant, AU Communications vice president **Terry Flannery** said, "In addition to great scenery, residents of Spring Valley enjoy a close relationship with American University, which is located blocks away." (9/4)