AU Newsmakers
February 19 – February 26, 2015
Prepared by University Communications
For prior weeks, go to http://www.american.edu/media/inthemedia.cfm

Top Story
AU Experts Analyze the 2016 Election
Richard Benedetto, communications professor, penned an article for The Hill on the demise of Jeb Bush’s campaign. Benedetto sees Bush’s fall from front-runner status and his eventual exit from the race the result of Donald Trump’s strategy of putting Bush on the defense about former President George W. Bush’s Iraq War record. Bush would likely still be in the race and a front runner if not for Trump, Benedetto wrote. (2/23)

Bloomberg
Campaign Management Institute Director Candice Nelson spoke with Bloomberg about campaign finance and the monies of candidates whose candidacies have ended. Nelson said that at the end of June, Jeb Bush’s super-PAC had raised $100 million. Pundits predicted Bush would take front runner status until Donald Trump became a force in the race. (2/21)

Additional Features
An Investigation of Oscar-Shortlisted and Nominated Documentaries (2014-2016)
Center for Media and Social Impact Co-Director Caty Borum Chattoo penned a feature in Documentary Magazine about her research into shortlisted and Oscar-nominated documentaries. Chattoo investigated trends in topics, distribution methods and demographics of films. Chattoo found that the marketing campaigns that get documentaries shortlisted and Oscar-nominated are insular, costly and that recognition of non-white or female documentary directors is rare. (2/23)

Women’s Artwork is Never Done
Washington Post featured a review of exhibits on display at American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The exhibits, all featuring women artists, are on display through March 13. The reviewer notes connections between the exhibits, in that “Circle of Friends,” curated by museum Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen, shows work by artists influenced by Washington artist Renee Stout. The reviewer noted of Stout, whose “Tales of the Conjure Woman” is on display, is an artist who “contains multitudes.” (2/25)
**Faculty Author**

Real Recipes for Forging Peace

Johanna Mendelson-Forman, professor in the School of International Service, wrote an article for the Italian publication, Dialogue, about food diplomacy. Mendelson-Forman argued that cuisine is an important way in which immigrants share their stories of conflict and history with their host community. Mendelson-Forman teaches a course called Conflict Cuisine: War and Peace Around the Dinner Table. (2/19) *Link not available.*

**Puerto Rico Needs the Right Kind of Financial Control Board**

School of International Service Professor Arturo Porzecanski wrote an article for The Hill about Puerto Rico’s fiscal situation. Porzecanski asserted that Congress is moving in the right direction by beginning to discuss the details of a financial control board for Puerto Rico. Porzecanski believes the board’s goals and specific powers need to be determined. (2/24)

**Why We Still Need the Draft**

For War on the Rocks, David Barno, distinguished practitioner-in-residence, and Nora Bensahel, distinguished scholar-in-residence, both of the School of International Service, wrote about why the draft is still necessary. According to Barno and Bensahel, Selective Service not only connects citizens to their military, but also to the fundamental responsibility of defending the country and protecting American security. (2/23)

**Expertise**

Guantanamo Bay: What You Need To Know About the Notorious U.S. Detention Center

Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program Director Chris Edelson spoke to CBC News about the closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention center. Edelson said closing Guantanamo is an important campaign promise President Obama must fulfill before he leaves office. (2/24)

The Staggering Numbers That Prove Hollywood Has a Serious Race Problem

Distinguished Artist-in-Residence Russell Williams II spoke to the Washington Post about the dynamics behind the lack of diversity in films in Hollywood. Williams indicated that many studio leaders are risk-averse and therefore rely on the same faces and names, which often precludes newer and more diverse projects. Williams also spoke with The Root about the upcoming Oscars, saying that the problem is the voting process and less so the lack of recognition of the work of black actors. (2/23, 2/25)

Tax Season Brings Fear of Audits

Kogod Tax Policy Center Executive Director Donald Williamson spoke with Sinclair Broadcast Group about tax season and the odds of getting audited. Williamson said that the odds are extremely low and an urban myth that the Internal Revenue Service is like some kind of Gestapo is not true. (2/23)

The U.S. Promised Refuge to 10,000 Syrians- We’ve Let in 841

Constitutional Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke to The Nation about Syrian refugees. Vladeck indicated that state legislators and governors have no power by which to ban specific groups of refugees because federal law leaves refugee resettlement up to the purview of the federal government. (2/22)
As Cuba-U.S. Relations Thaw, Travel Biz Sees Speed Bumps

Government Professor William LeoGrande spoke to Travel Weekly about normalization between the United States and Cuba and the effect on tourism and investment. LeoGrande said that the Cuban government may be hesitant to work on the infrastructure needed for an increase in tourism because some recent gains in normalization could be reversed if a Republican president gets elected. (2/21)

Microsoft Says Tech Companies ‘Whipsawed’ By Conflicting Laws on Global Data Transfer

For IT World and IDG News Service, Law Professor Jennifer Daskal spoke about tech companies and global data transfer laws. Daskal said that Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties need reform. Daskal also spoke with Al Jazeera about the Apple encryption case. (2/23, 2/26) (2/23)

Supreme Court Forecast: Experts Predict 5 Blockbuster Case Outcomes

Political Science Professor Karen O’Connor spoke to Media General about the upcoming cases facing the Supreme Court, including those on affirmative action, unions and immigration. Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program Director Chris Edelson also weighed in on the cases involving affirmative action and immigration. (2/24)

Bonus clips

Meaningful Metrics


LOL, Internet Slang Around the World Is More Similar Than You’d Think

Center for Teaching, Research and Learning Director Naomi Baron spoke with the Huffington Post about Internet slang. Baron discussed the use of acronyms and how the practice dates back to Roman times. Baron also indicated that the acronyms transcend language in many cases. (2/15)

Dorm Room CEO: Meet Aviva Kamler, Who Launched a Beauty App During College

NBC News’ College Game Plan featured Kogod School of Business alum Aviva Kamler who created SHELF Cosmetics, an app that tracks your and your friends’ favorite beauty products, as a student at American University. SHELF Cosmetics is apart of the Kogod Entrepreneurship Incubator that mentors student ventures from the idea stage to investor pitches to become sustainable. The NBC article highlights Kamler’s inspiration to start the cosmetics app and her work ethic that pushed her to successfully juggle school and work demands. (2/25)