AU Newsmakers
March 18 – March 25, 2016
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories
AU Experts Offer Analysis Following Brussels Terror Attacks
School of International Service Professor Akbar Ahmed spoke on the Diane Rehm Show about the terror attacks in Brussels. Amb. Ahmed discussed the integration of Muslim communities in the European Union.

Department of Justice, Law & Criminology Assistant Professor Tricia Bacon spoke to Bloomberg Business about the communications ability of the Islamic State. Bacon said ISIS seems confident that it can go the encrypted route and many agencies have been unable to track, for instance, communication about imminent attacks. Bacon also spoke about the Brussels attacks and counter-terrorism efforts with NBC News 4. (3/23)

With WTOP Radio, Dan Arbell, Center for Israel Studies scholar-in-residence, discussed Tel Aviv’s airport security and how it keeps Israel safe from terror attacks in airports or on aircraft. (3/23)

AU Experts Weigh In on Obama’s Historic Cuba Visit
For the Wall Street Journal, William LeoGrande, government professor, spoke about the competition between China and the United States for development and business opportunities in Cuba. LeoGrande discussed how U.S. efforts to undermine the Cuban government through telecommunications have led Cubans to distrust American companies’ infrastructure. LeoGrande also spoke on KCRW’s To The Point, wrote an article for the Huffington Post, and appeared on Sky News UK to discuss the president’s historic visit. (3/18, 3/23, 3/20, 3/21)

History Professor Max Paul Friedman wrote an op-ed for NY Daily News about what Obama could learn from the last presidential visit to Cuba, which took place nearly 90 years ago. Friedman also appeared on CCTV in a segment and provided historical context. (3/20, 3/21)

Eric Hershberg, director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, spoke on CCTV News about Obama’s time in Cuba. President Obama is attempting to cement his legacy as having improved relationships for the United States in Latin America, Hershberg said. (3/23)

School of International Service Professor Philip Brenner talked with WVON Radio about the historic trip. (Interview starts at 4:20) (3/24)

Additional Feature
Nelson Uses Critical Race to go Above and Beyond the Law
Diverse Issues in Higher Ed featured Camille Nelson, newly appointed dean of the Washington College of Law. Nelson’s long-time commitment to and interest in critical race theory were examined. Nelson’s commitment even predates her time studying under critical race theory scholars at Columbia University. Nelson said,
“I like to talk about diversity, inclusion and the third step no one is talking about, which is empowerment.” (3/21)

Faculty Authors
Will Republicans Pass The Trump Litmus Test?
The Hill ran an article by Chris Edelson, director of Politics, Policy and Law Scholars Program. The article focused on presidential candidate Donald Trump and the Republican establishment. Edelson argued that Trump is a dangerous demagogue that must be disavowed on bipartisan terms. (3/21)

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Anatomy of “The Blackfish Effect”
Center for Media & Social Impact Principal Investigator and Creative Director Caty Borum Chattoo wrote an article for the International Documentary Association’s Documentary Magazine. Chattoo wrote about the impact of the documentary Blackfish (2013), which played a role in galvanizing activists and led to SeaWorld phasing out shows and ending breeding of captive orca whales. (3/23)

Expertise
Primary Voting Nearing Record Turnout, with Republicans Holding the Edge
Jan Leighley, professor of government, was interviewed for a McClatchy article about the Republican primaries. Leighley argued that the high voter turnout for the Republican primaries is due partly to Trump offering a different brand of anti-establishment politics and partly to the ground game of the other candidates to get their supporters to the polls. (3/18)

John Kasich's Delegate Math Keeps Voters Largely Out of Equation
History Professor Allan Lichtman spoke to NBC News about John Kasich’s campaign. Lichtman offered historical analysis on the lack of precedent in the modern era for dark horse candidates to upend a political convention and get the nomination, as seems to be Kasich’s plan. Yet, Lichtman also pointed out that history has not been the best predictor of events in this election cycle. (3/18)

Brazil’s Petrobras Scandal, Explained
School of International Service Professor Matthew Taylor spoke to Vox about Brazil’s Petrobras scandal. Taylor discussed how corruption in Brazilian politics has become normalized. (3/18)

Can Snowden Come Home?
With WNYC, Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke about whether or not Edward Snowden would receive a fair trial in the United States. Vladeck offered legal analysis on the potential case, saying that whistle blower laws do little to protect people like
Snowden in the intelligence community. Vladeck also discussed the ongoing Apple case with New England Public Radio. (3/18, 3/21)

**This Tiny Island Shelters a History of Human Rights Abuse**

Law Professor Ali Beydoun spoke with Takepart.com about the tiny island of Diego Garcia and the human rights abuses that have taken place there. Beydoun spoke about secret agreements that conceal the terms of the exchange of the island, which was confiscated in 1966 as a U.S. military base. (3/18)

**How Does Donald Trump Get so Much Air Time? Media Ethics under Fire**

Aram Sinnreich, professor of communication, spoke to the Christian Science Monitor about the media and Donald Trump, saying news organizations have to balance their public service mandate to inform the electorate with the need to grow audiences. Sinnreich pointed out how political journalism’s principle of fairness, or giving leading candidates at least comparable coverage, has been altogether abandoned this cycle. (3/21)

**Contraception Case: On Divided Court, Spotlight Shifts to Female Justices**

Political Science Professor Karen O'Connor spoke to the Christian Science Monitor about female justices emerging as a strategic alliance on the Supreme Court. School of Public Affairs Associate Dean Jessica Waters also spoke about the importance of decision makers in the middle on the court. (3/22)

**8 Financial Decisions You’ll Regret Forever**

Kogod School of Business Finance Professor H. Kent Baker spoke to Kiplinger about financial mistakes. Baker weighed in on the money management regret of paying the minimums on credit cards. He stressed the importance of living within your means saying, “It can take years and years and years to potentially pay off that credit card debt with the amount of mounting interest costs.” (3/23)

**Trump Faces Daunting Gender Gap**

Karen O’Connor, political science professor, was interviewed for The Hill about Donald Trump and recent polls by CNN and Reuters that found female voters in the U.S. had an unfavorable view of him. Prof. O’Connor said this is a large number of voters and Trump will have to find a way to close that gap. (3/24)

**Beyond Chicken Soup’ Exhibit Spoons out Flavorful Look at Jews and Medicine**

Alan Kraut, history professor, discussed an art exhibit on Jews and medicine at the Jewish Museum of Maryland with Jewish and Israel News Service. Kraut described the significance of the exhibit within the context of Jews’ quest to defy stereotypes, saying, “Jews had to refute charges that they were inherently diseased or physically inferior in other ways to gentiles. In the United States, becoming a physician was very prestigious and a path toward assimilation.” (3/24)