



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

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AU Newsmakers

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Prepared by University Communications

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Top Story

Ward on the Street: Hearing from D.C. Voters



Leading up to the D.C. mayoral primary, AU's SOC students took to the streets to interview residents from all of the District's Wards for **Ward on the Street**—a video series in partnership with **WRC-TV NBC4**. Communication professor **Sarah Menke-Fish** led the project aimed at identifying which issues matter most to residents in D.C.'s neighborhoods. (4/1)

Additional Features

Universities Find Pride in Alums Who Tie the Knot with Fellow Grads



In a trend piece about colleges and universities that track alumni couples who marry, **Associated Press** spoke to **Raina Lenney**, assistant vice president of Alumni Relations, about AU's Sweetheart events. **Lenney** said that the events are successful in building close-knit relationships. More than **35** outlets republished this story, including **Washington Post**, **Houston Chronicle** and **New York Daily News**. (4/1)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

Petro-Aggression: How Russia's Oil Makes War More Likely



In an op-ed for **Washington Post's Monkey Cage**, international service professor **Jeff Colgan** argued that Europeans should align their energy policy to be consistent with their political and environmental values. **Colgan** asserts Europe can help wean Russia off its energy income, and thereby reduce its leader's scope for autocracy at home and belligerence abroad. (4/1)

Expertise

Vladimir Putin Calls Obama about Ukraine Crisis



International service professor **Gordon Adams** spoke to **Los Angeles Times** about President Obama's meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah on whether the Obama administration will supply small anti-aircraft missiles to Syrian rebels. (3/28)

Marian Robinson, the White House's Not-So-Typical Live-in Grandma



Washington Post spoke to executive in residence **Anita McBride** about how First Lady Michelle Obama's mother Marian Robinson, who lives in the White House, manages to maintain privacy and only enters the public spotlight infrequently such as when she recently accompanied Michelle Obama and her granddaughters on a trip to China. (4/1)

For Women, Being a Jock May Also Signal Political Ambition



Director of the Women and Politics Institute **Jennifer Lawless** appeared on [NPR's *All Things Considered*](#) to discuss her research revealing that women who played competitive sports were 25% more likely to express an interest in running for elected political office later in life. **Lawless** also spoke to [Roll Call](#) about the challenges women interested in running for political office encounter. (3/29, 4/3)

GOP's Midterm Back-Up Plan—National Security



With the [Fiscal Times](#), history professor **Allan Lichtman** discussed why a Republican election strategy centered on national security leading up to the midterm elections may not be a winning formula. (4/3)

Is There Really a Skills Gap?



With [Inc. Magazine](#), economics professor **Robert Lerman** discussed how employers reap both financial and worker productivity dividends when they invest in on-the-job training programs. (4/1)

DC Primary Election Analysis



Communication professor **Leonard Steinhorn** appeared on [WTTG FOX5](#) to discuss low voter turnout in Tuesday's D.C. Democratic mayoral primary which Steinhorn attributed to an uninspired electorate. (4/1)

US And Russia 'Like A Divorced Couple' Onboard Space Station



Public affairs professor **Howard McCurdy** appeared on [Boston WBUR Radio's Here & Now](#) program to discuss how diplomatic tensions between Russia and the United States on Earth could be playing out between Russian and American astronauts aboard the International Space Station. (3/28)

D.C. Museums Look to Movies to Expand Their Audience



In a trend piece about museums linking collections with Hollywood movie releases, film professor **John Douglass** spoke to the [Washington Times](#) about the benefits that these museums see in increased traffic. (3/30)