AU Newsmakers
March 4 – March 11, 2016
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories

'Justin Fever’ Hits American University

The Huffington Post Canada, Politico, Toronto Star, CTV News and Maclean's reported on the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to American University's School of International Service. Prime Minister Trudeau answered students’ questions after an introduction by AU President Neil Kerwin and remarks by Dean James Goldgeier, School of International Service. Goldgeier also spoke to U.S. News and World Report about the visit and the excitement from students, noting that the RSVPs filled up within 30 minutes of the announcement. (3/11, 3/8, 3/11, 3/9)

Remembering Nancy Reagan

Executive-in-Residence Anita McBride shared her reflections on Nancy Reagan with WUSA 9. McBride recalled an event held by First Ladies Laura Bush and Nancy Reagan, in support of women’s heart health, which featured an exhibit of red dresses. This event was one of a number of instances in which Mrs. Reagan’s humor and determination had influenced her, said McBride. McBride also spoke to the Dallas Morning News about the potential first spouses of each of the presidential candidates. (3/6, 3/7)

Allan Lichtman professor of history, spoke to CNBC about Nancy Reagan’s legacy. Lichtman said that Nancy Reagan’s legacy is significant because she played an important role in the personnel decisions of the Reagan White House in steering President Ronald Reagan through the Iran- Contra crisis. (3/7)

Additional Features

Changing the Game: Playing for Social Good

The Charleston Chronicle featured a story about Lindsay Grace, director of the Game Lab and Studio, noting how he is one of the most influential African-American social impact game developers in the world. As a game developer, programmer and artist, Grace has been the sole developer for over 20 games. Additionally, he now oversees over $450,000 in federal contracts for game development. The Chronicle mentioned Grace will speak on the research findings between gaming and journalism at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco on March 14, 2016. (3/10)

Maggie Michael: ‘A Phrase Hung in Midair As If Frozen’

Maggie Michael's exhibit at the American University Museum, ‘A Phrase Hung in Midair as if Frozen’, was featured in the Washington Post. The exhibit is a survey of Michael's work since 2002, when she received a Master's in Fine Arts from AU. An Abstractionist, Michael's exhibit is described as “pictures [that] contrast hard-edged shapes, sometimes stenciled, with looser gestures, and employ a variety of pigments, including ink, acrylic, latex and spray paint.” (3/4)
Facility Authors
Pursuing Drugs and Guns on Scant Evidence, D.C. Police Sometimes Raid Wrong Homes-- Terrifying the Innocent

The Washington Post
Investigative Reporter-in-Residence John Sullivan co-authored an investigative piece about D.C. police in the Washington Post. An investigation of 284 police raids found that 40 percent of the time, police left raids empty-handed. Officers also often invoked their training and experience as a basis for search warrants, where no criminal activity had been observed. (3/5)

Police Detained Brazil’s Ex-President On Friday. Here’s What You Need to Know.
The Washington Post
School of International Service Professor Matthew Taylor wrote an article for the Washington Post about the Lava Jato investigation in Brazil, involving Petrobras, Brazil’s state-owned oil company. Taylor wrote that the investigation is important, partly because it could be the largest corruption investigation anywhere, in terms of the amount of money involved. Taylor also spoke with The Daily Beast and Nasdaq about Brazil’s scandal. (3/5, 3/9, 3/6)

Seriously, the Gridiron Club Dinner Matters
The Hill
Communications Professor Robert Lehrman contributed an article to The Hill on the Gridiron Club dinner. Lehrman noted that the dinner, and other Washington institutions like it, are important because they give politicians an opportunity to show another dimension of themselves and can provide useful commentary on significant events and controversies. (3/5)

Trump Supporters Not Fools, Just Angry
Richard Benedetto, communications professor, authored an article for the Utica Observer-Dispatch on presidential candidate Donald Trump’s supporters. Benedetto wrote that this election, unlike others, is marked by voters’ frustration, anger, bombast and volatility. Benedetto argues that the key to understanding Trump’s success is to understand the voters who support him, not to dismiss them as fools. (3/10)

Expertise
An Evangelical Movement Takes On Climate Change
Evan Berry, professor of philosophy and religion, spoke to Newsweek about the religious tone of the early conservation movement in America. Berry’s book, Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism, was also highlighted. (3/9)

Another Hitler? How World Leaders See Donald Trump
For the Associated Press, Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies James Thurber spoke about how presidential candidate Donald Trump has alienated many people with his statements on immigrants, Spanish-speaking countries, trade, the war in Syria and Muslims. (3/10)

Muslims in Europe
For PBS, School of International Service Professor Akbar Ahmed spoke about the Muslim community in Europe in the context of the larger culture. Ahmed’s study on Muslims in Europe examined different European cultures to find a uniquely European solution to the current multicultural and security challenges. (3/4)
Why Borrowing in Dollars Is Central To the Business Cycle in Developing Countries
Finance Professor Valentina Bruno's research on firm-level finances was featured in The Economist. Bruno's research suggests that financial risk-taking is often the motivation for borrowing. This conclusion goes against a tenet of corporate finance, which states that firms only borrow to invest once they have exhausted internal sources of funds. (3/4)

Why Chocolate Chip Cookies and Milk Taste So Good Together
With Quartz, Matthew Hartings, chemistry professor, discussed the scientific reasons behind why chocolate chip cookies and milk taste good together. Hartings explained it's partially due to the chemical compounds that interact on people's tongues. (3/11)

Police Departments Implement Body-Worn Cameras
Law and Government Fellow William Yeomans spoke to the NPR's The Diane Rehm Show about police use of body-worn cameras. Yeomans said that police had been experimenting with body-worn cameras for a decade, but the role of video in the recent high-profile deaths of African-Americans has ratcheted up the need for this technology. (3/9)

Ted Cruz Says the Media is Waiting to Publish its Most Damaging Donald Trump Exposés. That Doesn't Make Sense.
John Watson, professor of journalism and journalism ethics, spoke to the Washington Post about Senator Ted Cruz. Watson said there are many reasons to doubt Cruz's claim that the media is hiding damning information on Donald Trump. Watson also said that voters should be skeptical of Cruz's self-serving assertions. (3/7)

Kanye West Supports Streaming, So Why Aren't You Paying For Your Music?
Aram Sinnreich, professor of communications, spoke to Mashable about Kanye West's new plan to offer his music solely through streaming services. Sinnreich said that the overall declining revenue in the music industry has led to a battle for who gets what slice of the pie. In contrast, streaming services offer greater transparency and have led to greater revenue for some artists. (3/8)

Colonial, Shippers to Face Off Over Pipeline Congestion
For Reuters, Law Professor Elisabeth Meyers spoke about the Colonial Pipeline, which runs the main fuel artery for the U.S. Atlantic coast. Meyers said that although Colonial does not profit from shipper-to-shipper trading, it does benefit from the efficiency created by it. (3/8)

Why Hillary Clinton Is Unlikely To Be Indicted Over Her Private Email Server
Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke to the Washington Post about why Hillary Clinton will most likely not be indicted. Vladeck discussed distinguishing between the case's unattractive facts and the lack of criminality. Vladeck also noted that this controversy is a political firestorm but not a criminal case for Clinton. (3/8)

A Disconnect Over Customer Service
Director of the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation Bob Tobias spoke to Federal News Radio about federal agencies and customer service. Tobias said there's an assumption that federal
agencies collect the right metrics for serving customers, but survey respondents often disagree. (3/10)