Top Stories

Dialogue and Diplomacy in the Reagan-Gorbachev Era

C-SPAN featured AU’s Initiative for Russian Culture’s Ending the Cold War: Culture, Dialogue and Diplomacy in the Reagan-Gorbachev Era in a three-hour long segment. Anton Fedyashin, director of the Initiative for Russian Culture, moderated as panelists regaled audience members with stories from their experiences working with American and Soviet leadership as the Cold War ended. (5/17)

Green Roofs Could be Answer to Clean DC’s Rivers

Associated Press environmental science professor Stephen MacAvoy’s research revealing that garden rooftops, or green roofs, in D.C., including those at AU, keep common pollutants out of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. Washington Post, Washington Times

and InTheCapital republished the story. (5/17)

Op-Eds/AU Authors

McConnell’s Rand Paul-Style Win

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL In his Wall Street Journal Washington Counts blog, Dante Chinni, director of the American Communities Project, examined the results of Tuesday’s Republican primaries in Kentucky and Georgia where GOP establishment candidates emerged victorious over their challengers. Chinni concludes these primary results bode well for Republican chances to take over the Senate in November. (5/22)

Six Ways to #BringBackOurGirls in Nigeria

In his co-authored Christian Science Monitor op-ed concerning the nearly 300 Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, international service professor Carl LeVan proposed six immediate action items for the Nigerian government and international community to consider. LeVan also spoke to NBCNews.com about the prospects of getting the girls back. (5/17, 5/20)

The U.S. is Really Good at Celebrating War, Peace Not So Much

In an opinion piece for the Huffington Post, Vincent Intondi, director of research for AU’s Nuclear Studies Institute, wrote about the collective culture and how compared with expressions of peace, the U.S. engages more in expressions about the virtues of warfare, specifically within the context of certain public architectural spaces and museums. (5/19)

Sex is a Team Sport, and There's No 'I' in Team

Psychology Today featured psychology professor Barry McCarthy’s opinion piece on how couples can approach improving their intimate lives as a shared endeavor and learn to embrace the many dimensions and expressions of sexuality. (5/19)

Obama Did Not End Torture

In The Hill’s Congress blog, Jeannie Khouri, assistant director of the International Development Program, and Jeff Bachman, professor of international service, explained how President Obama is continuing questionable practices in Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan that could be in violation of the Torture Convention, despite earlier promises in 2009 to cease such tactics. (5/22)
Expertise

Health Benefits of Caffeine: Brain on Caffeine Has Its Positives and Negatives

Psychology professor Laura Juliano spoke to MedicalDaily.com about the need for caffeine labels on products such as energy drinks, as manufacturers currently do have to regulate limits of caffeine in their products. (5/20)

Lawmakers Clash Over Budget Priorities in U.S. Defense Bill

International service professor Gordon Adams spoke to Reuters about the U.S. House of Representatives rejection of the Pentagon’s long-term cost-cutting plans because of election year posturing. Adams also appeared on Public Radio International's America Abroad to discuss how to cut the military budget from the fiscally expensive “back office.” (5/20)

Obama’s Focus Turns to Narrower Achievements

For the Los Angeles Times, James Thurber, director for the Center of Congressional and Presidential Studies, explained how President Obama is setting the tone for the Democrats in a series of public appearances and announcements coming from the White House. Thurber also spoke to Bloomberg News about Elon Musk's aggressive advocacy style for his company SpaceX in Washington. (5/17, 5/22)

U.S.-Russia Tensions on Space Concern Lawmakers

Following Russia’s threat to quit International Space Station cooperation by 2020 and to stop selling rocket boosters to the U.S. military, public affairs professor Howard McCurdy explained to Gannett News Service that Russia would suffer financial and prestige consequences disproportionately from its partners. (5/16)

E-books, Schools and Reading Online

Naomi Baron, executive director of the Center for Teaching, Research and Learning, appeared on WHYY Radio to discuss the pros and cons of digital reading in schools. Baron also explained her research looking at university student learning and comprehension of e-books versus print books. (5/21)

Is This the Democrats’ War on Women?

Jennifer Lawless, director of the Women and Politics Institute, talked to the Daily Beast about recent political attacks on Oregon GOP Senate Primary candidate Monica Wehby. Dismissing the attacks as being gender motivated, Lawless said in today’s political environment anything from one’s past has become fair game. She also spoke to TIME magazine about the Oregon U.S. Senate race. (5/19, 5/21)

GOP Needs a Clear Midterm Message to Counter Obama's

Journalism professor Richard Benedetto appeared on Sinclair Television to discuss the politics behind the hearings on the 2012 Benghazi attacks and to provide historical context about highly politicized investigations. Benedetto also discussed this topic in an op-ed for RealClearPolitics.com. (5/19, 5/20)