AU Newsmakers
February 21 – February 28, 2014
Prepared by University Communications
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Top Story
Analysis of Ukraine Turmoil
Executive director of the Initiative for Russian Culture, Anton Fedyashin, international service professor Keith Darden, chair of Russian History and Culture Eric Lohr, and School of International Service assistant dean Anya Schmemann provided analysis and discussion surrounding Ukraine’s unfolding political crisis. Fedyashin appeared twice on CNN International and on CNN Newsource. Fedyashin also spoke to McClatchy Newspapers, PolitiFact and Global News online (CA). Darden spoke to New York Times and appeared on WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show, while Schmemann and Lohr wrote an op-ed for National Interest. (2/21, 2/23, 2/24, 2/26)

Additional Features
AU’s ‘Rent’ Community Focused
DCMetroTheaterArts.com reviewed the Department of Performing Arts’ production of ‘Rent,’ directed by performing arts professor Carl Menninger. The review highlighted the production’s strong sense of community throughout the show, and Menninger’s decision to use actors’ natural voices over mics. (2/23)

Op-Eds/AU Authors
The West Needs to Get Over the Cold War
In an op-ed for The Guardian’s Comment is Free (US), Anton Fedyashin, executive director of the Initiative for Russian Culture, wrote about how the Sochi Olympics boosted Russians’ self-confidence but received Cold War style treatment from the majority of western media and governments. (2/24)

Expertise
Proposed Pentagon Budget Cuts Would Shrink Army, Retire Aircraft
International service professor Gordon Adams provided comment and analysis to Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, PBS Newshour, and Public Radio International’s To The Point about the effects of the newly proposed five year defense budget. (2/24, 2/26)

G.O.P. Leaders Draw Re-election Challenges From the Right
History professor Allan Lichtman spoke to New York Times about Tea Party leader Katrina Pierson’s effort to become the first black Republican female in Congress, as she mounts a primary challenge against Texas Rep. Pete Sessions. (2/24)
After First-Term Caution, Obama Dives Deeper on Race

*USA Today* spoke to government professor Julian Bond about President Obama’s cautiousness in elevating race and civil rights issues until his second term. More than 30 outlets republished this article. (2/26)

Supreme Court Hears States’ Objections to Greenhouse Gas Rules

With *McClatchy Newspapers*, law professor William Snape discussed the Supreme Court case challenging the Obama administration’s greenhouse gas regulations. More than 25 outlets, including the *Fresno Bee* and *Charlotte Observer* republished this article. (2/24)

America in 25 years: Here’s What to Expect

American Communities Project director Dante Chinni spoke to CNBC about how immigrant communities after a few generations assimilate to U.S. culture. (2/27)

Obama’s Icy Relationship with Congress: Can it Ever Thaw?

James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, talked to the *Christian Science Monitor* about the deep, partisan polarization in Congress and messaging targeting President Obama which leaves little prospect for resolving the immigration issue. (2/24)

Republicans Struggle to GROW Women in Recruitment Drive

Women and Politics Institute director Jennifer Lawless spoke to *Time* about Republican efforts to support more female congressional candidates. Lawless points out that Republicans still have work to do since they are supporting just over a dozen female candidates. (2/27)

House Ways and Means Chairman Camp Releases Tax Reform Proposal

Don Williamson, executive director of the Kogod Tax Center spoke to *Accounting Today* about whether the Tax Reform Act of 2014 is really a simplification of the tax code, and how it reduces overall rates. (2/26)

“What We’ve Lost is Nothing”

Literature professor Rachel Louise Snyder spoke to WAMU’s Kojo Nnamdi Show about her latest book and first novel, “What We’ve Lost is Nothing,” and how her life experiences influenced the story. (2/24)

‘El Chapo’ Arrest Success

International Service professor Daniel Schneider appeared on *Al Jazeera America Television’s Inside Story* in a discussion about drug lord “El Chapo” Guzman’s arrest. (2/24)

Nigeria’s Central Bank Governor Suspended

*Al Jazeera Television* spoke to international service professor Carl LeVan about Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan’s suspension of Nigeria’s Central Bank Governor Sanusi Lamido for mishandling the bank’s budget. (2/24)