AU Newsmakers
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Prepared by University Communications
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Top Stories
AU Experts Discuss the Iowa Caucus and Early Primaries
Professor of Government Jan Leighley spoke with McClatchy DC for an advance article that discussed the decline of political parties in the United States and how the Republican and Democratic parties are undergoing fundamental shifts that are threatening their impact on both elections and policy. Leighley added, "No one likes political parties anymore." This story ran in more than 25 outlets. (1/28)

History Professor Allan Lichtman spoke with the International Business Times saying that caucus results are often difficult to predict because the caucus is so dependent on turnout. Lichtman also spoke with CTV Canada, saying that the Iowa Caucus was most important for Democrats because a protracted primary race would harm their chances at keeping the White House. (1/26)

Leonard Steinhorn, communications professor, spoke with WTOP-DC about the caucus results. Steinhorn saw significance in Hillary Clinton’s close finish with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and noted that Ted Cruz was able to capitalize on a strong turnout from evangelical voters. (2/2)

Additional Features
The Fidelity of Limits
Associate Chaplain of the United Methodist Protestant Community David Finnegan-Hosey spoke with Emerging Voices about human limitations. Finnegan-Hosey discussed the importance of being open about limitations and the dangers of not honoring limits. When asked why this concept is difficult to internalize, Finnegan-Hosey said, “I think busyness is an addiction.” (1/25)

Political Drama and Its Effect on Voters
Stef Woods, American studies instructor, spoke with WTTG-Fox 5 about her course, “House of Cards, Politics, Television and Ethics,” and how political television can influence voters. Woods discussed research findings that political television shows like House of Cards reflect a certain cynicism in the electorate about the unethical nature of politics. (2/1)

Faculty Author
The Presidential Playoffs Have Begun
For the Hill, Communications Professor Tom Squitieri authored an article on the presidential primary contests. Using football playoff analogies, Squitieri discussed the likely outcomes of the Iowa and New Hampshire contests, predicting “Trump the Republican nominee, Clinton the Democratic nominee and Bloomberg as an independent. A Super Bowl of New York values, a media dream come true and overtime in the House of Representatives.” (1/26)
Why Privacy Shield Isn’t Impenetrable
Law Professor Melanie Teplinsky penned an op-ed in the Christian Science Monitor about the arrangement between the U.S. and Europe to replace Safe Harbor. Teplinsky analyzed the data-transfer deal, writing that it “still leaves US businesses with substantial uncertainty regarding the legal status of information flows that form the backbone of the global digital economy.” (2/3)

Don’t Give Up On Two-State Solution
Guy Ziv, professor in the School of International Service, wrote an article on a two-state solution as a vital Israeli interest for CNN.com. Ziv argued that although peace seems as distant as it has at any point in the past decade, there are still those in the Israeli security community who favor a two-state solution because it is a way to preserve Israel’s Jewish identity and mitigate the dangers of Palestinian despair and radicalization. (1/28)

Expertise
How We Got Here: The Many Attempts to Reform Immigration, Secure the Border
History Professor Alan Kraut contributed research to an article in The Arizona Republic on immigration reform, which has become a flashpoint for the presidential race. (1/22)

President Obama’s First Visit to a Mosque, As President
School of International Service Professor Akbar Ahmed spoke to BBC World News about the implications of President Obama’s visit to a Baltimore-area mosque. Ahmed discussed the challenging environment that Muslims face in the United States. Ahmed also spoke to Sinclair Broadcasting Group and the Associated Press about the president’s visit. The AP story ran in nearly 900 news outlets. (2/3)

“We love you!” Conservative Women Turn Blind Eye to Donald Trump’s Slurs
Director of the Women and Politics Institute Jennifer Lawless spoke with the Guardian about women voters’ acceptance of Donald Trump. Lawless called Trump an equal opportunity offender, saying “He offends immigrants and women, he’ll offend people across the spectrum.” Lawless believes that his supporters chalk up this propensity to offend to straight talk. (1/22)

Will Growing The Network of U.S. Military Bases Help Fight ISIS?
Anthropology Professor David Vine spoke with WBUR Boston’s Here and Now about the Pentagon’s plan to increase U.S. military bases abroad to fight ISIS and other terrorist groups. Vine said that the plan would not have the desired effect and would be more expensive than projected. (1/28)

Bernie Sanders Made Jewish History, Yet No One Seems To Be Kvelling
For the Huffington Post, History Professor Pamela Nadell spoke about the history-making achievement of Bernie Sanders as the first Jewish candidate to win delegates in a presidential primary or caucus. Nadell said one reason this feat is being overlooked is that Sanders is not actively involved with the contemporary Jewish community. (2/4)

Wholeheartedly Condemning Anti-Semitism at Conference
Law Professor Tony Varona spoke to the Washington Blade about anti-Semitic protests at the recent Creating Change conference. Varona told the Blade that protesters were heard claiming participants were celebrating over dead bodies and calling for Israel’s destruction, and Varona called the protests sickening. (1/25)
30 Years After Challenger Disaster, What Have We Learned?

Professor of Public Affairs Howard McCurdy spoke to the Christian Science Monitor about the meaning of the Challenger anniversary. McCurdy discussed how the tragedy changed the course of the space program, saying “When the shuttle turned out to be not what we thought it was, all those downstream visions began to crumble.” (1/25)

The Republican Party’s Shift to the Right

For CCTV America, communications professor Leonard Steinhorn discussed the tendency of the Republican Party to shift to the right during primary season. Steinhorn noted presidential candidates Ted Cruz and Donald Trump both appeal to a sense of discontent within the party. (1/26)

Trump Spurns a Powerful Player in GOP Politics in Falling-out with Fox

Journalism Professor Jill Olmsted spoke to the Washington Post about the meaning of presidential candidate Donald Trump’s refusal to participate in the Republican debate sponsored by Fox. Olmsted asserted that due to the “unnecessarily snarky comments” made by the cable channel’s media spokespersons, “They took the low road and made Mr. Trump look like he is being targeted by Fox.” Her comments were also included in a Washington Post opinion piece. Olmsted was also a featured guest on CNN and discussed this issue. (1/27)

Is Lack of Management Training Causing Federal Employee Engagement to Drop?

Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence Robert Tobias spoke with Federal News Radio about what is behind the falling federal employee engagement scores. Tobias cited research that indicated that the more leadership training managers are exposed to, the higher their corresponding employee engagement scores. (1/29)

A Look At Federal Cases On Handling Classified Information

Law Professor Steve Vladeck spoke with Associated Press about the legal implications of Hillary Clinton’s home email server containing top-secret messages. Vladeck argued that there is not much precedent for Clinton being charged for her handling of classified information. (1/30)

Among White House Hopefuls, Trump Least Likely To Hit ‘Follow’ on Twitter

Communications Professor Scott Talan spoke to Reuters about the Twitter habits of presidential candidate Donald Trump. Talan shared that, while candidates cannot pick their followers, candidates face some political risk over Twitter users they choose to follow. (1/31)

North Carolina’s Voter ID Shenanigans

History Professor Allan Lichtman spoke to the Washington Post about North Carolina’s voter ID laws. Lichtman said that the laws disproportionately disallowed IDs carried mostly by African Americans. The law allows identification disproportionately held by whites, such as passports. (1/31)

Millennial Confession: We Do Want an Adult Life
The Chicago Tribune mentioned the Kogod Greater Washington Millennial Index in an article about how millennials are not that different compared with their Baby Boomer parents in that young people from the greater Washington, D.C., area “aspire to follow the traditional path of previous generations, including marriage, home ownership and children, but ... those aspirations are becoming more and more unreachable as the high cost of living begins to affect everyone, even high earners.” (1/28)