



ISMO April Newsletter

Inside this issue:

NDU Updates	1
Outdoor Activities	2
Holidays	3
Celebrations	4
Sponsor Program Outreach	5
Alumni Promotions	6

April at NDU

- Tuesdays at 1000 - Ruth's English Conversation Class
- Fridays - SplICE
- 4 April - Easter
- 22 April – Earth Day



Easter Sunday, April 4



Easter is a Christian holiday that occurs on the first Sunday of April. Preparation for this holiday begins with Lent, a 40 day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice, and ends with Holy Week. The Friday before Easter is called Good Friday. Many Christians observe Good Friday and Easter Sunday by attending a worship service.

In the United States, parents often set up Easter egg hunts for their kids to find colorful plastic eggs filled with chocolate or coins around the yard. It's also common to dye or paint hard-boiled eggs with water colors. Without a doubt, you will see a lot of chocolate, flowers, and easter bunnies this April.

*If you have any suggestions or recommendations for next month's newsletter,
email ISMO@ndu.edu!*

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Disclaimer: Due to COVID-19, many events might be canceled, postponed, or changed, sometimes with short notice. Please check with the event's website for the latest updates, as things change frequently.



National Park Week

April 17 - 25

National Park Week is a wonderful time to celebrate national parks, get outside and experience the great outdoors. There will be a theme each day of the celebration including Park Rx Day (Fee Free Day), Military Monday, Friendship Friday, and National Junior Ranger Day. All information can be found by using [this link to nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

Use [findyourpark.com](https://www.findyourpark.com) to locate the park and activities closest to you! Please use COVID-19 safety precautions as you explore outside with your friends and family.



National Gallery of Art's Sculpture Garden

While the museum may be closed, the Sculpture Garden is not! The Garden is open from 1100 to 1600 daily at limited capacity. This is a wonderful outdoor activity for one of these sunny days. Visit their website [here](https://www.nga.gov) for current information.



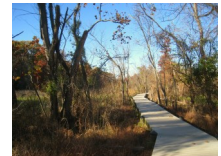
Hirshhorn Sculptor Garden

Open daily from 1000 to 1630, the Hirshhorn Sculptor Garden is a wonderful place to walk around and appreciate art. Learn more about the garden [here](https://www.hirshhorn.org)!



Smithsonian Gardens

The [Haupt Garden](https://www.si.edu) is open daily from dawn to dusk. It is located by the South side of the National Mall next to the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building.



Get Outside with All Trails

All trails is a great resource to find walks and hikes near you. It is an app and website that you can use to find trails for all levels of hikers. Use it to explore places like Theodore Roosevelt Island, Monuments and Memorials, the Georgetown Loop, the Potomac Heritage Trail and the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. Use the website [here](https://www.alltrails.com) or download the app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.



Mount Vernon

Visit the historical estate of George Washington located in Virginia. Open daily from 0900 to 1600. Tickets range from \$15 - \$30 with children under the age of 5 being FREE. Book your tickets [here](https://www.mountvernon.org)!

Additional Resources

FREE Activities

There are so many fun and FREE activities to do in and around DC. Use [this link](https://www.visitdc.org) to learn more about these activities.

What is open near you?

This website [here](https://www.visitdc.org) is the **best resource** for current information on the reopening of museums, attractions, parks, and more!

HOLIDAYS

Disclaimer: As you celebrate these holidays please do so following all CDC and local guidelines so you and those around you stay healthy! Continually check websites for updates on events as they change frequently.

April Fools

Thursday, April 1

April Fools Day is a custom of telling practical jokes on April 1 and shouting "April Fools!" Many speculate this annual custom began back in 1582 when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. The news that the new year began on January 1 and no longer with the spring equinox on April 1 didn't reach everyone.

The holiday also has origins during the 18th century, in Scotland during a two-day event filled with phony errands and pranks. Since then, this holiday has continued as large companies, newspapers, websites, and TV stations participate in elaborate pranks. Visit [this website](#) to learn more about this day.



Easter

Sunday, April 4



On April 22, 1878 the White House hosted the first Easter Egg Roll. Annually, this event includes games, live entertainment, story time, and the traditional egg roll on the White House lawn. While there is no in person event this year, visit [this link](#) to learn about their exciting online activities!



Emancipation Day

Friday, April 16

On April 16, 1862 the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act was signed by President Abraham Lincoln. This act freed over 3,000 slaves in the District of Columbia prior to the broader Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln eight months later during the American Civil War.



Earth Day

Thursday, April 22

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 in response to the deteriorating environment in the United States. This holiday quickly caught on and by 1990 Earth Day had gone global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. 51 years later, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world.

Visit [earthday.org](#) to learn more about its history, impact it has had, ways to get involved, and ways to celebrate the beautiful Earth we live on!



CELEBRATIONS

Use these websites for current and updated information on the 2021 Cherry Blossom Festival

nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or washington.org

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



March 20 - April 11, 2021



Peak Bloom

[Peak Bloom is predicted](#) to occur April 2-5, 2021! The Tidal Basin area may be closed as these dates approach to mitigate overcrowding. Use [this link](#) for updates. Cherry Blossoms can also be found in East Potomac Park and throughout the area.



Chalk Walk

Visit Downtown DC to see Cherry Blossom inspired art! The #chalkwalkdc will occur March 20 - April 30, 2021 from 0600-2300. Use [this link](#) for more information

Cherry Blossom Virtual Run

Whether you like to run or walk you can join in the Cherry Blossom Virtual Run where ever you are located. Use [this link](#) to register for the event. The virtual run goes through Apr. 11.

Art in Bloom Flourishes across the Districts

Art is an important part of this festival. Reference pages 12-13 on [this digital guide](#) for more information on the events and various locations.

Cherry Picks Restaurants

As the seasons change, over 180 restaurants around D.C., Virginia, and Maryland introduce exciting spring inspired menus. For the duration of the Cherry Blossom Festival [visit these](#) restaurants and ask them about their new flavors or uniquely inspired dishes. View page



JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

April 1 - 30, 2021

About



Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) was created at the National Museum of American History in 2001 to celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz music.



History



Jazz is a music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans, Louisiana. It brought together sounds from blues and ragtime in the late 19th century and early 20th century. A unique characteristic of jazz is its improvisation, where musicians will create the song on the spot. This requires incredible skill.

Music to Listen to



Explore different Jazz musicians including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, and Duke Ellington.

Ways to Celebrate



[This link](#) has many different suggestions of ways students, parents, fans, and anyone else interested can celebrate.

Learn More



Jazz is a very important aspect of American culture. Use [this link](#) to learn more about its history, jazz musicians of the past and present, concerts, recordings, and more!



Community Sponsor Program

When you think of America, you think of Apple, Facebook, F-35, Freedom of speech, and probably Hollywood. Without George Washington, very little of it would have been possible in the form we know today. As an immigrant, I took great interest in discovering what shaped this nation, the character of its leaders, their dreams, and actions that made it all happen. So, the Romanian International Fellows and I headed to Mount Vernon.

As part of American Studies, the NDU International Fellows learn about this place and its importance, but a tactile experience of what it meant to live in George and Martha's time provides a better understanding. The estate is very well preserved to its times, to include the bread and butter being made and sold on the property, by period-accurate dressed reenactors. The tour of the house is highly recommended, followed by a tour of the property. Rain did not stop this group from experiencing the beauty and history of this place.



Read ahead about all the parts of the estate, their functions, and don't forget about George Washington's love letters to Martha while away at war.

-Mihaela Smith
Community Sponsor

Left-to-right: COL Virgil Florescu, Mihaela Smith, Oana Bucur, and Captain (Navy) Silviu Bucur.

We are searching for new sponsors for next year's class of International Fellows. Have you met neighbors or members of your communities who would make great sponsors for your successors?

Please spread the word about the program and help the sponsor program grow. You may pass along the POC's information below:

Point of Contact: Laura Garvie

Email: Laura.m.garvie.civ@ndu.edu

Phone: (703) 859-5526

Alumni Promotions



**Brigadier General
Bambang Gunarto
NWC 2020**

Promotion to one star officer in Indonesian Air Force



**Brigadier General
Bagus Tayo
NWC 2020**

Promotion to one star officer in Indonesian Army



**Colonel
Hristo Georgiev
NWC 2018**

Promotion to Deputy Chief of Staff of the Bulgarian Joint Forces Command



**Brigadier General
Devendra Pandey
NWC 2008**

Promotion to Charge of the strategic Kashmir-based 15 Corps



**Major General
Hajime Kitajima
ES 2015**

Promotion to Commanding General, 5th Engineer Brigade, Western Army, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force



**Brigadier General
Krzysztof Kociuba
ES 2020**

Promotion to Deputy Chief Information Officer in Brussels