

## Spring Fling at Washington College!

By Zhou Yuanqi

Spring Fling is a big event to greet the arrival of spring at Washington College. It was held on Hodson Green, one of the most spacious lawns at our college. This year, Spring Fling was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. It was a sunny day without whistling wind, so I took part in Spring Fling with my friend Emily.

There were many activities on the Green, including

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
<i>Professor Interview</i>	3
<i>Who Has My Candy?</i>	4
<i>Gone Fishing</i>	5
<i>Life at Washington College</i>	6
<i>Student Interview</i>	8
<i>Miami &amp; Key West Tour</i>	9
<i>Magic Kingdom in Orlando</i>	10
<i>Mother's Day</i>	11

club advisory booths, inflatable games, fundraisers, a pie-eating contest, a dancing performance, and food. I thought the most prominent club advisory booth was for the Career Center, because there was a big colorful turntable in the booth. The turntable was divided into sixteen red, yellow, green, blue and white parts. After we turned the dial, we needed to answer a question that depended on which color we gained. If we answered correctly, we could get a present. There was only one-sixteenth of the possibility to the white color, and the prize of white color was a small bust of George Washington. I wanted this prize so I tried the game. I landed on red and then they asked me my future career plan. I answered editor and they gave me a chocolate. My friend Emily landed on blue and they



Spring Fling Information Table on Lyme Disease

(Continued on page 2)

## April Fool's Day

By Li Guo



April Fool's Day is held on the 1st of April each year. The day became popular in the 19th century, became very popular, but hasn't become a legal holiday in any country. On this day people will tease and deceive others in various ways, often these jokes and deceptions are without malice, but some jokes have larger influence and can lead others to panic.

The origin of April Fool's Day is a lovely story. In 1564, France adopted a new law making January 1st New Year's Day. The old law in France, April 1st was the first day of the new year. Some people were not aware of the new law and they still gave gifts to each other on April 1st and made New Year celebrations. Other people laughed at the practice of the "old school" people; they send fake holiday gifts to them on April 1st and invited them to join fake holiday parties. And then, April Fool's Day spread to England in the eighteenth century, and then the early immigrants brought it to the United States.

(Continued on page 2)

## Spring Fling (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

asked her the location of career center. Emily told them the right place and won a small notebook with the logo of Washington College. I really wanted to get the small bust of George Washington and I came back to the Career Center booth again. I tried for two times but I still did not land on the white; I just got some chocolates and candies.

Many fundraising clubs were also on the Green, such as Alpha Chi Omega, Washington Fund, Washington College Service Council, and so on. The most interesting booth was AOII Blue for Arthritis and this was an Arthritis Foundation. There was a red board standing in front of Arthritis Foundation's stall, which a cute panda picture printed on it. The panda's face was an empty oval, people could stand behind the board and put their face in the oval. The one who put his face in the oval and then another person put a cream pie on his face. This regarded as a donation for Arthritis Foundation. I considered it a very interesting as well as meaningful event in the Spring Fling.



Residence Life provided many different kinds of food for students. There were three barrels of smoothies and a variety of soft drinks and teas. Residence assistants made fresh cotton candy and popcorn for us. I took a strawberry cotton candy and some popcorn; they tasted good. There was also a booth for a pie-eating contest in front of

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the food court. At first, I did not realize it was a pie-eating contest. A girl called out loudly, "Come on! Come on! We have enough pies for you. We have strawberry, blueberry, lemon and apple flavors." Thus, I thought the pies were free and there was not a sign write with "pie-eating contest." I chose a half of the lemon pie and Emily took a half of the blueberry pie. Then we walked to the chairs under the shade of a tree, and I was confused why the pie was not cut into more pieces. It was a difficult task for me to finish such a big half of pie because I did not

(Continued on page 12)

## Fool's Day (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)



Image courtesy of [www.happyholidays2014.com](http://www.happyholidays2014.com)

You only can make a joke before 12 pm. It is an April fool's day rule. When some people make jokes after the noon, will give others reason to laugh at you. In April fool's day, people are usually a family gathering, with daffodils to decorate a room. On April 1st, some families invite friends visit. They will prepare a lot of fish food, they do a lot of cookies and candy, these cookies and candy are in the form of fish. Some families will also make a few interesting games. After the meal they will make some joke with each other.

In the United States, regardless of whether to know each other, in April fool's day will make joke, such as the others did not tie the shoelaces, students might lie to the classmates that no class today. As long as each other believes, mischievous person would say happy April fool's. In China, people will send some fraudulent text or do some prank. In 2014 April fool's day, I put a lot of wasabi in my mother's toothpaste. That was very interesting,

(Continued on page 12)



## Interview: Professor Sean Meehan

By Han Caiyun



SEAN MEEHAN

Director of the Writing Program, Dr. Meehan has taught at Washington College since 2008. He earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Iowa in 2002.

Q: What classes do you teach?

A: This semester I am teaching English 101, as you know. I also teach other classes for the English department. Right now I am teaching a course called “Introduction to Nonfiction”; also, I am teaching “Environmental Writing.” Every year I teach English 101, that is my job at Washington College.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: I started teaching when I graduated from college in 1991. My first teaching job was in a high school. Then I went back to school for graduate studies. After that I started to teach college. I have been teaching at Washington College for 7 years. Overall, I’ve been teaching for 15 years.

Q: Why did you become a professor?

A: Because I like teaching; also I want to learn different things. For me, it is interesting to learn new things and to work with students.

Q: When you were in college, which subjects were difficult for you to learn?

A: Everyone encounters difficulties in college. In my memory, I never had confidence in science. It was interesting and scary; when I took an exam, I felt uncomfortable. I thought I failed the course. There were many questions I did not understand.

Q: Why do you teach at Washington College? Do you like small classes or large classes?

A: I like college more than university. Before teaching, I studied in a university, which was too big. I would not enjoy working there. For teaching, I want a smaller class. A large class for me would be 25 students, but in a university that is a small class. So, I like teaching in college.

Q: Why did you choose to be the director of the writing project?

A: I studied English. Also, I studied writing in graduate school. I am interested in teaching. In addition, I enjoy writing and reading. I like to work with students to develop different ways of writing essays.

Q: What is the reason to write?

A: To connect with your audience. Like I said in class, someone who is not inside my head, but I want them to understand a story I have.

Q: How do you like your work?

A: I enjoy my work. I really like working with students. The reason that I like working with students is because they are really interested in learning—such as myself, I am a student. I never stopped being a student. Although I am a teacher now, I am still learning.

Q: How do you keep your teaching alive?

A: Here are a couple things. One thing is learning. I like to read something I do not know or that I want to know. This is an important way to keep teaching alive. The other thing is to try new classes and develop new classes. This is another important way to keep teaching alive.

Q: How do you socialize with your students?

A: I like teaching. In terms of socializing with students, here mostly it is in class. Also I am an advisor for first year students. I enjoy going to sports games, it likes tennis games. Sometimes, I play tennis or basketball with students.

Q: What do you think of having international students in your classes?

A: I am excited to accept international students in my class. One thing is I can learn about different cultures. The other thing is that I like challenges. An international student’s first language are not English; this is a big challenge. However, in English class, everyone is learning English—I am still learning English. Overall, I am excited and I think it is going to be a good thing as we provide opportunities for international students in college.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My hobby is tennis. Also I coach my son with tennis. I wish that I had time for more hobbies. In the past, I was a photographer. I like to take pictures.

Q: What are your favorite sports?

A: My favorite sport is tennis. I also like to play basketball. When I was young, I played soccer.

Q: What kinds of food do you like?

A: My favorite food is Italian. I like pasta and pizza. Also I like to try different Asian foods.

Q: Do you like cooking?

A: Yes, I like cooking. But I do not do it too often. It depends on how much time I

(Continued on page 4)

## Who Has My Candy?

Meehan (Cont'd)

Easter is the one of the most important days for American, according to Harper (2015), “80 percent of Americans celebrate Easter.” The Easter Bunny is one of the vital features of Easter, he is “a long-eared, short-tailed creature that delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday” (History.com, 2009).

While many people believe that the Easter Bunny is the only animal that could deliver the Eggs, but the truth is not, For example, “in Australia, where rabbits are considered pests, the small marsupial resembling a rabbit called the Bilby has increasingly taken on the role of the Easter Bilby and now takes care of the Easter gifts” (Babel.com). Different places have their culture and fairy tales. Like any other fairy tale, the Easter Bunny is a mythical creature that exists in American culture for many generations, but not too many people know where it came from.

There are many different theories about where the Easter Bunny comes from. According to Babcock (2015), “One theory of the origin of the Easter Bunny goes back to the Pagans. In the spring, the Pagans held a ritual to their goddess *Eostre* or *Eastre*. This goddess represented fertility. The goddess *Eostre* was also associated with both rabbits and eggs.” He mentioned that *Eostre* represented fertility. Back in ancient Roman period, crops and fields were extremely important for the survival of human beings. Therefore, they used Easter to celebrate or hope their crops would be more fertile



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than the previous year, and the Easter Bunny was a symbol to represent their idea, just like the Chinese using auspicious sentences or words written on the door as symbol in order to make evil stay away from their home in Chinese New Year.

The original tradition of Easter comes from Europe, but it has evolved into a real American culture. From Babcock (2015), “The Easter Bunny had evolved through the centuries and once it reached America, another part of the Easter Bunny’s and the holiday of Easter history was created. Chocolate.” Chocolate is the special feature and the result of their own evolution. According to Babcock (2015), “The reason why chocolate became a symbol of Easter is that a Pennsylvania man named Robert L. Strohecker created a 5-foot tall bunny made out of chocolate and displayed it in the window of his pharmacy during and Easter promotion.”

The Easter Bunny is not the only feature of Easter, other inseparable parts like Easter Candy, Easter Eggs and Easter parades also play vital roles in Easter. There is a funny question when people talk about Easter Eggs and the Easter Bunny, “Which came first, the Bunny or Eggs?” It is a simple question, but no one can really answer it.



Retrieved from <http://newscentral.exsees.com>

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(Continued from page 3)

have. I am lazy about food.

Q: What do you like to do during summer vacations?

A: One thing, I like to travel, even on a short trip or driving with my family. Another thing is staying home, having time off from teaching classes.

Q: Do you like to travel? Which countries do you like?

A: Yes, I do. I have traveled to Ireland and a couple of places in Europe. I have not gone to Asia. I want to go to China, Japan and India.

Q: What are your family activities?

A: I have two children who are in middle school. They have a lot of activities at school. They have games and we practice. Also we have a dog; we take care of him and walk him. We spend time organizing and keeping the house clean. A lot of activities with my sons.

Q: What was your dream when you were child?

A: I don’t know. I know some people had a specific dream when they were a child, like wanting a specific job. I don’t think I had one. When I was in high school, I wanted to work in a school. When I got to college, my dream was something I figured out.

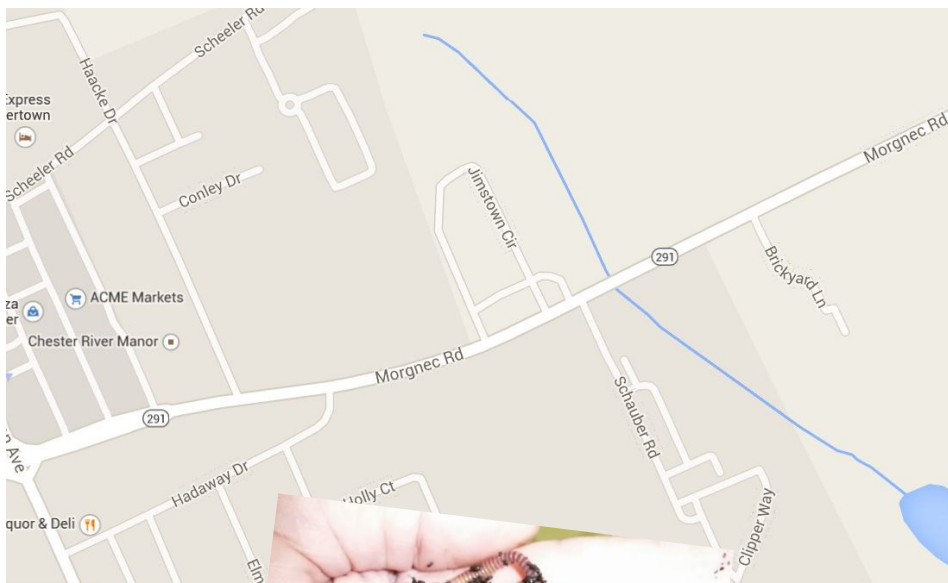
Q: How can people be happy?

A: My experience tells me, I cannot speak for everyone, just for me. Having people in my life, not being alone, like friends and family. I think happiness comes from being able to have contact with people. It does not matter what kind of relationship with you guys.



# Gone Fishing!

By Zhu Jiahui



Spring in Chestertown has dressed a nice colorful dress. The trees are dressed with green; the flowers are dressed with red, purple, and orange. Spring was painted by the weather, because when the spring comes, the temperature will be much higher than winter, and the animals start to go outside and find food. People wear light color clothes, looking like butterflies when they go across the town.



the river, and let us out. We walked near the river, and it is very beautiful, some wild ducks were swimming in the river, and light from the sun gave them orange coats. The wind

from the river made us awake; the wind covered the smell of the grass and flowers. We applied for our fishing license online, and we were ready for fishing on weekend.

Last Saturday, my friend drove me to Delaware, and on the way just past the Acme, we saw the yellow light beside the road. We were so confused, why people stopped the car beside the road. We thought that maybe they just wanted to park the car and make a phone call, but after we left, we still felt confused why they stopped beside the road. On the way back, both of us focused on the location of the car yesterday, because we thought maybe that was a car accident. We were very surprised when we saw it, it was a small river, and people were fishing beside the river.

We were very lucky, because the weekend had very nice weather, and no wind; it was very helpful for me to practice my fishing skills. We were ready for our fishing rods, fishing line, and fishing hooks. I pushed my fishing rod into the soil, and I used my fishing line to make a knot at the top of my fishing rod, and I made my fishing line keep straight on my fishing rod. Then I made a knot for my hook, and I caught

an earthworm, and I was really ruled to use my hook go through earthworm body. I threw my hook into the water, but not very deep, and it had a very short distance from me. So I picked up my hooks again, and used my arm to cast my hooks fly to another side of the river, and my hooks scared the wild ducks, they flew away.

Fishing is not an easy thing for me, because I had to keep my eyes on the fishing rod. Even if it had a little shake, I needed to pick it up, and cast it again. The weather had changed, and it turned heavy, my fishing rod was shaken by the heavy wind. And I really liked to observe and consider my fishing line, because I could know the fishes' actions under the water from my fishing rod. Suddenly, I felt something bite my bait, and it wanted to run away. So I quickly took my fish line, and held on my rod, and my friend was helping to reel in the wire. Sadly, it was just a small size fish, and the size like my hand, so I decided to let it go back to the river.

Fishing made me feel happy, and I stayed there at night. It was really hard for me to focus on my fishing line during the night time. I was cold and hungry, and I still hoped to catch a big fish for dinner. Even though I really worked hard on fishing, I still got nothing. We came back to the car, and



we saw still some people, and their car lights on the surface of the river. I hope they had the good night.

It was really a good weekend for me, because fishing is a good thing for people to practice their patience and watch every detail.

My friend stopped the car beside



*Life at Washington College*









## Student Interview

By Xu Jiahong

We interview a student in each newsletter and I wanted to try a different way. I decided to focus my student interview on one topic, which was food, rather than asking questions about studies and interests outside of classes.

Q: *What is your name?*

A: My name is Kellyn De-Fusco.

Q: *How are you doing?*

A: I'm good.

Q: *Where are you from?*

A: I'm from Italy, a very beautiful country.

Q: *So do you love Italian pizza?*

A: Yes, of course. It's awesome! And it is my favorite. When I was in Italy, my grandma always made delicious pizza. I really miss it!

Q: *Do you like Asian food?*

A: Yes, I do like Asian food as well.

Q: *What kind of Asian food do you like?*

A: I like Chinese food best. This semester I went to China House many times with my boyfriend. It tastes really nice.

Q: *Wow, so what the difference between Italian food and Chinese food?*

A: Chinese food has more vegetables included in it. It's healthier. But Italian food is my favorite.

Q: *You have been here for two years. Do you like America food?*

A: I love cheeseburgers only. Actually, I love to make food by myself.

Q: *It sounds like you miss your home now. What is the most traditional food in Italy?*

A: Spaghetti. It's a really good food.

Q: *How's your family? I mean, what do you usually eat in your family?*

A: My family usually eats ravioli. Although it's not as famous as

spaghetti, it's really delicious.

Q: *You have a healthy diet. Don't you eat fast food?*

A: I don't like it, because it's unhealthy. If I don't have enough time to do something, I will try fast food.

Q: *You make a good choice. What else don't you eat?*

A: I don't like Chicken either. It's too dry. I don't like dry food.

Q: *That sounds interesting. So are you a vegetarian?*

A: No, I'm not a vegetarian. I'm a total carnivore. I love meat.

Q: *What do you think about vegetarian?*

A: I respect them. But I can't live without meat.

Q: *If you had a chance to be a vegetarian, would you like to be?*

A: No, I would not be. Because I can't imagine what will happen if I don't eat meat.

Q: *Interesting. Do you think food therapy is useful?*

A: Yes, I guess it works. One of my friends had the experience like this, and she's much healthier now.

Q: *Will you take a food therapy to release yourself?*

A: Yes, I will if I need to release myself. It's a good choice.

Q: *Will you live in the country which has your favorite food?*

A: Yes, of course. I heard it was beautiful.

Q: *What if tomorrow is the end of the world, will you try food that you never wanted to?*

A: Yes, I will try. I believe it will be a precious experience that I won't forget ever.

Q: *Do you have some advice about food to teenagers?*

A: Yeah, I have a cousin so I know a little bit of teenagers. They don't like to eat vegetables and fruit. So please eat more healthy food and vegetables. And don't forget fruit. It's really important to your body.



Jiahong & Kellyn



## Miami & Key West Tour

By Li Honglu



Palm Trees and Sand on Miami Beach

During spring break, I went to Miami, Florida with my friends. One reason why I chose this city to spend my spring break is that the weather in Miami is wonderful, it's like summer all the year round. To escape the cold weather in Chesertown, I think Miami was the best choice for us.

There are a lot of fun things to do in this coastal city, enjoying the sunny beach is our favorite project. Also the ultraviolet rays are very heavy, but no way detracted our passion. Because of the heavy sunshine, we rent the sunshade and air bed, I had to say that take a nap in this nice environment is so nice and comfortable, after the short break, we swam in the ocean as well, this is



what we really need to do in this wonderful city.

To see the southernmost area of the U.S., we drove to Key West, across the sea is the capital of Cuba, Havana. The only highway to Key West is Highway 1. Lots of tourists take photos with the road sign at the end of the highway. There also is a 7-mile bridge on the way to Key West, which was built on the ocean, connecting lots of islands in Florida.

On the way to Key West, all the landscape is ocean, island and holiday village, you will fall automatically into the vacation mood on the way to Key West.

The island of Key West is divided in two parts, old town and new town, the old town is almost all tourist parts. Duval street is the central part of Key West, it has many kinds of specialty shops and it is very lively during the night. The most famous restaurant is "Sloppy Joe's" Bar. We went there and ordered the traditional American food; it was really nice and we enjoyed it. Nevertheless, unfortunately I'm not 21 years old so I can't drink any alcohol.

We spent seven days in Miami, appreciating the mixed culture between



Duval Street, Key West

North America and Latin America. Most of the people could speak both Spanish and English in Miami; here the local languages are English and Spanish. Many restaurants offer food from south America countries, traditional tastes from their own countries. It was really good experience to taste different kind of food from different countries.

This unforgettable vacation is a good memory in my mind, and I really spent a good time with my friends there. I will be back to Miami someday in the future to experience this special city more.



## Magic Kingdom in Orlando, Florida

By Yang Xiaoka



Main Street U. S. A.

During spring break in March, I went with my friends to one of the most popular places in America, Walt Disney World, located in Orlando, Florida. It is not just every kid's dream to be there and see the movie characters in person, but also it is a wonderland for families to create amazing memories. Disney World also brought me many wonderful times to spend with my friends.

Many people think that Disney World is a place for kids. This cannot be true. Even though Disney World is designed for children and families, it still caters all kinds of people, like men, women, seniors, or foreigners from all over the world, like me. Disney World is one of the largest and most frequented amusement parks in the world. Westfall reported, "It's no surprise that Disney is still No.1 in the theme park world. The Magic Kingdom was the most visited park in the world last year, welcoming more than 18.5 million guests, a 6 percent increase from 2012." This information shows Disneyworld's extraordinary acclaim.

Once I get into the Disney World,



Beauty and the Beast Play

it is like its name, I seems like into another world which is completely separate from Orlando. Walt Disney World includes four big theme parks, which are Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Epcot and Hollywood Studio. The most popular one called Magic Kingdom, where is famous for its Main Street, USA. This street is made up of diverse architectural styles from around the USA, such as New England and Missouri. At the end of the Main Street is Cinderella's Castle, which is the most prominent building of the Magic Kingdom. When night falls, you can see the colorful lights reflecting the castle.

One of my favorites things in Disney World is the roller coaster. There are few of them in each them park, which is also a "must do" for people who come to Disney World. You can always see many peoples



Cinderella's Castle

lining for the roller coaster. Each roller coaster has its own theme, like the one in Hollywood studio called Rock n' Roller Coaster, which runs fast in the dark with loud rock music. Another one, called "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror", is based on the seminal "The Twilight Zone" television series. My favorite one is called Expedition Everest-Legend of the Forbidden Mountain. The special of this one is that at some point you realize that the tracks are destroyed by a terrible gorilla, and the train has to go back on its tracks, which made my friends and I shocked and nervous.

With a place where attracts people from all around the world, I experienced its fascination. Disney World makes me realize that there is such an amazing place where I can forget my troubles.



## Celebrating Mother's Day

By Xu Bin

The tradition of Mother's Day originated in ancient Greece. On January 8th, the ancient Greeks paid tribute to Rhea, the Mother of the Greek gods. In ancient Rome, to celebrate the greater regulation of these activities, they continued for three days (Menzel, 2014). Of course, ancient people worshipping a goddess is only a superstition; however, people today respect motherhood very differently.

Today's holiday originated in the United States. On May 9, 1906, in Philadelphia, Anna Jarvis organized a mother's day activity in memory of her mother and encouraged others in a similar way to express attitude to their mothers. Since then, she lobbied the community to appeal for the establishment of Mother's Day. She received an enthusiastic response to her appeal and on May 8, 1914, the U.S. House and Senate passed a resolution signed by President Wilson (Collins, 2014). The decision made the second Sunday of May each year as Mother's Day. The move caused the world to follow suit, until 1948 when Miss Jarvis died, 43 countries had set up a Mother's Day.

This year in the U.S. people will spend over \$21 billion dollars on gifts for their mothers on this special day.



The average amount Americans will spend on their moms is \$172.63, with 80% buying cards and 67% getting flowers. Many people will also buy their mothers jewelry and take them to fancy dinners to honor the day (ABC Radio, 2015).

Nowadays, Mother's Day becomes

more popular in China, with carnations popular flowers for mothers. Even though Mother's Day started in America, Chinese accept the holiday because it follows tradition of respect for elders and shows filial piety (Mother's Day Popular in China, 2001).

Maternal love is the eternal subject, it always affects people's lives; maternal love is an affectionate ode to echo forever in our hearts the world, only one of the greatest females, she is a loving mother. Mothers give us not only life, the mother's sacrifice, her selfless love lets us feel the world of the sun, warmth and emotion.

From young children we grow up. When we think shoulders that provoke responsibility also provoke fate, when we seem to have contempt for life, maybe one day, we suddenly find that we are white-haired old mothers full of infinite love, infinite care, infinite yearning eyes staring back at us. We will be in a moment, in the eyes of my mother, we never get rid of the feeling of being a baby, we are always mother's arms that are not sensible child.

I love you mother, because my mother is the only one;

I love you mother, because she loves me more than herself;

I love you mother, because she can give you regret love;

I love you mother, because she loves most your person;

I love you mother, because she also has a need for love "child."

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Last Day of Classes	1 Reading Day	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 	16 <small>232nd Commencement</small>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## Spring Fling! (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

want to waste it. Sooner, I heard a burst of cheers from the pie table. When I look toward that direction, I found a group of people were doing a pie-eating contest. I felt very embarrassed with my lemon pie because I took the pie but did not join the eating contest.

After eating pies, I played inflatable games with Emily. They were very interesting and exciting. I thought it was not common to see inflatables in Chinese universities. We first tried the inflatable wall, because it was in the middle of the Green. The color of the inflatable wall was also very bright, it consisted of yellow, blue and red. It was a



Making Cotton Candy

three-meter erected wall, which has Velcro on the front facade. When we put on the special sticky clothes, we could jump from the inflatable platform and then to hang our whole bodies on the wall. When landed upside

down or used our, it would be more exciting. Girls needed to tie up their hair when playing this game, because long hair would be very difficult to take off from the Velcro.

Spring Fling gave me a wonderful experience of campus activities. I had fun eating on the Green and playing amusing games. I was also very moved by many kinds of fundraising activities. It was a meaningful and compassionate thing to collect for the people who needed help.

## Fool's Day (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

because my mother must go to buy a new toothpaste at seven o'clock in the morning.

There are many interesting fool's day stories. In Italy, France, Belgium, and French-speaking areas of Switzerland and Canada, 1 April tradition is often known as "April fish" (*poissons d'avril* in French or *pesce d'aprile* in Italian). This includes attempting to attach a paper fish to the victim's back without being noticed.

More recently, on April 1, 2002, in the Canadian province of Quebec, two French radio announcers in Montreal decided to find a celebrity for April Fool's Day joke, so they called Microsoft, said that they were Canadian staff, and wanted Bill Gates to answer the phone. Bill Gates's assistant did not verify their identities and let Bill Gates respond to the phone call. Then, the two "liars" and Gates had a ten minute conversation. The topic was from the economy to Windows XP, they had a great conversation. In the end, they also invited Bill Gates to visit Canada and Bill Gates accepted their proposal (USAToday.com).

In northern Europe (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland) people celebrate April Fools' Day (Aprilsnar in Danish). Most news media outlets will publish exactly one false story on 1 April. Similarly, here at Washington College, the students published a joke version of the student newspaper, the *Elm*. Called "Kindling", it featured a story on the first page about a bear becoming the new president of the college!

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