The holy month of Ramadan, celebrated by over a billion Muslims worldwide, began Wednesday night, with a month-long observation full of fasting, charity and community services. Here are some key facts about the sacred month.

When does it begin?
The first of Ramadan is likely to fall on Wednesday evening March 22 with fasting to begin Thursday morning — all depending on if the moon is sighted. The month runs by the Islamic Lunar calendar which begins at the sighting of the crescent moon.

Why is the month sacred?
Muslims believe that the Quran, the sacred text, was first revealed to the last Prophet Muhammad over 1,400 years ago.

What do Muslims do in Ramadan?
Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, abstain from food, water and actions that pollute the soul. It is also a time where people prioritize prayer, spiritual reflection, charity and other acts of goodness. Fasting is known as one of the five pillars of Islam, the other four being declaration of faith, prayers, charity and the Hajj pilgrimage. According to Al Jazeera, many in Muslim-majority countries, working hours are cut and many restaurants are closed during fasting hours.

What marks the end of Ramadan?
Ramadan is observed for roughly an entire month, ending when the new moon is sighted which is estimated to fall on April 21, marking the celebration, Eid.

Want to learn how you can support Muslim friends and colleagues during Ramadan?
Muslim people love when their holidays are acknowledged. If you have a Muslim friend, wish them a happy Ramadan, or "Ramadan Mubarak." When Ramadan concludes after 30 days with the Eid al-Fitr celebration, it’s appropriate to say, “Eid Mubarak,” which means “Happy Eid.”

Did You Know?
Employees in the Planning Office helped find space for programs and people who had to move out of the Hopkins Center prior to its closure in December. They serve as the liaison between the Provost, who ‘owns’ the space, and departments who have specific space needs that support college programs.

A good example is the recent collaboration of the theater department—along with the Hop project team, project manager Chad Morig, and the planning team—to transform Wilson Hall 301 from rehearsal space into a 30-seat Black Box performance theater with support space for costumes/make-up and stage entrances and exits. A similar, 60-seat Black Box theatre is being constructed in the lower floor of 4 Currier.

The EL Shop had a very small window to complete the install before the ice went back in. The entire crew got involved and finished ahead of schedule.” According to Betsy, “the new West Gym upgraded lighting uses 60% less energy than the old system, saving >32,000 kWh in electric usage and $3,800 per year. New LED lighting in Thompson Arena uses 65% less energy, saving 200,000 kWh and $24,000 in electric costs EVERY year. Upgrades in Topliff are likely to result in >80% energy savings, and exterior lighting & controls upgrades like the one on Observatory Road should result in >75% energy savings. These are great projects — as always the EL shop did high quality work in a timely fashion with minimal interruption to operations.”

Employees in the Planning Office helped find space for programs and people who had to move out of the Hopkins Center prior to its closure in December. They serve as the liaison between the Provost, who ‘owns’ the space, and departments who have specific space needs that support college programs.

A good example is the recent collaboration of the theater department—along with the Hop project team, project manager Chad Morig, and the planning team—to transform Wilson Hall 301 from rehearsal space into a 30-seat Black Box performance theater with support space for costumes/make-up and stage entrances and exits. A similar, 60-seat Black Box theatre is being constructed in the lower floor of 4 Currier.

“The holy month of Ramadan, celebrated by over a billion Muslims worldwide, began Wednesday night, with a month-long observation full of fasting, charity and community services. Here are some key facts about the sacred month.

When does it begin?
The first of Ramadan is likely to fall on Wednesday evening March 22 with fasting to begin Thursday morning — all depending on if the moon is sighted. The month runs by the Islamic Lunar calendar which begins at the sighting of the crescent moon.

Why is the month sacred?
Muslims believe that the Quran, the sacred text, was first revealed to the last Prophet Muhammad... over 1,400 years ago.

What do Muslims do in Ramadan?
Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, abstain from food, water and actions that pollute the soul. It is also a time where people prioritize prayer, spiritual reflection, charity and other acts of goodness.

Fasting is known as one of the five pillars of Islam, the other four being declaration of faith, prayers, charity and the Hajj pilgrimage. According to Al Jazeera, many in Muslim-majority countries, working hours are cut and many restaurants are closed during fasting hours.

What marks the end of Ramadan?
Ramadan is observed for roughly an entire month, ending when the new moon is sighted which is estimated to fall on April 21, marking the celebration, Eid.”

Want to learn how you can support Muslim friends and colleagues during Ramadan?
Muslim people love when their holidays are acknowledged. If you have a Muslim friend, wish them a happy Ramadan, or “Ramadan Mubarak.” When Ramadan concludes after 30 days with the Eid al-Fitr celebration, it’s appropriate to say, “Eid Mubarak,” which means “Happy Eid.”

Did You Know?
Employees in the Planning Office helped find space for programs and people who had to move out of the Hopkins Center prior to its closure in December. They serve as the liaison between the Provost, who ‘owns’ the space, and departments who have specific space needs that support college programs.

A good example is the recent collaboration of the theater department—along with the Hop project team, project manager Chad Morig, and the planning team—to transform Wilson Hall 301 from rehearsal space into a 30-seat Black Box performance theater with support space for costumes/make-up and stage entrances and exits. A similar, 60-seat Black Box theatre is being constructed in the lower floor of 4 Currier.