



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 2012

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Alumnus/alumna

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

This May is very different from recent years, for obvious reasons. I am a high school science teacher, so normally I'd be wrapping up the year with my students by doing labs, and even with a few field trips (my Zoology course visits the Cincinnati Zoo in May, normally). Instead, I'm sitting at the dining room table with my laptop, fielding emails from my students, calling parents, and grading e-learning assignments. It's been difficult, especially since my husband and I are moving, and this was to be my last quarter with my students. I've shed a few tears realizing that I won't get to say goodbye to "my kids" in person, although talking with them over Zoom (which I'd never heard of before this pandemic!) has been nice. My days have fallen into a pattern lately. A silver lining is that I get to sleep in a little bit - my commute used to be 45 minutes long - and I don't have to dress business casual. Leggings and a t-shirt are the new uniform! I make myself a cup of tea and sit down to start working, Spotify music on for background noise (my husband preferred NPR when he was teleworking, but the news makes me anxious lately). I take the dog out and he promptly goes back to sleep while I work (what a lazy coworker he's turned out to be!). At lunch I take more time than I used to get at school - my lunches were only 25 minutes long! - but I try to stick to an hour, tops. Then it's back to work until at least 3, if not longer - calling parents about missing e-learning assignments is time consuming! After work I try to take the dog on a walk if it's not raining - getting some exercise is important, especially because I'm sitting so much - at school I would be on my feet most of the day. Then cleaning the house or relaxing until my husband comes home from work, make dinner, watch a TV show (or seven - thanks Netflix!), and bed.

I'm a social person, and I'm really missing the opportunities to visit with friends. However, technology has afforded us ways to connect that I am very grateful for! On the weekends we have been socializing via different platforms - Zoom, Google hangouts, Duo, and Discord (hubby is a gamer). I've had brunch with friends from Hanover, cocktail hour with an ADPI sister, played Bloons (an old childhood favorite) with my brother, and videochatted with my parents - all without seeing them in person. We even had a virtual board game night with friends! Tonight I have a Duo call scheduled with my mom and her wife to toast the weekend.

Being at home so much has had its ups and downs, for sure. There have been days I have felt very discouraged. But there are also days when I've been able to enjoy the down time to play around with hobbies that fell by the wayside in the past, like genealogy, puzzles, and cross-stitch (yes, I'm a grandma at heart!). This has been such a strange and difficult time for everyone, but I try to remind myself how lucky we are that my husband and I both still have jobs, and our family is healthy right now. I know many others are not as fortunate.

I wonder what the world will look like next May. I hope that we will be able to look back on this time and say "thank goodness it's all over". But we will definitely never forget the pandemic of 2020!!

What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

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My senior year at Hanover was a wonderful time. I will always remember my time at Hanover as so important in molding my adult personality, thoughts, and values, and I still think of it as my home. During my last May term, I took a forensics course with Dr. Philipp, spending my mornings in the lab (I still remember his crazy "crime scene" setup with a life-size dummy, and a lot of powdered sugar "cocaine"), and my afternoons roaming the campus and woods with friends. We took lots of hikes down in Happy Valley or Crowe Falls, enjoying the warm weather and the beautiful surroundings. We also visited Dr. Karns' grave several times - he had passed away the previous summer, and he was a very important professor to me - in fact, one of the big reasons I went into science education was because of him. I remember one particular hike with a friend where we actually climbed up one of the falls in Happy Valley to get back to Scenic Drive, instead of walking back on the trail! (Future students - FYI - I would not recommend it!) I can't imagine another campus where nature could be so integral and accessible.

Lots of evenings were spent hanging out and watching movies, whether in my sorority house, ADPi, or one of the many places my friends lived - Theta, Greenwood, or Ogle. Sometimes we would use the oven in the ADPi house (with cook Heidi's permission, of course) and whip up chocolate chip cookies or some other goodie to eat and share. And of course we enjoyed the parties as well! We spent lots of time at Sigma Chi, where we had many friends, and while we did sometimes get a little crazy, I always felt safe.

It was so hot during my graduation that we relocated from the Point into Horner Center - but I couldn't bring myself to care too much - it was over 100 degrees that day! Air conditioning was a must in those heavy black robes. I sang with the choir one last time during Baccalaureate, and I cried after graduation. Hanover had become so central to my life that leaving was a terrifying prospect to me, and unlike many, I was NOT ready (emotionally) to graduate. However, I am happy to report that many of the amazing friends I made at Hanover are still with me today. Three of them were bridesmaids in my wedding in 2018! The connections I made have stood the test of time, and the memories of Hanover will be with me forever.

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