



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

Name: Dr. Anthony J. Miller

Class Year:

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): New Faculty

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?

So the day is May 15, 2020 and my connection to Hanover College is bit odder than most at this point in time. Currently, I am professor of World History at Miami University, living in West Chester, Ohio just outside Cincinnati. In the fall, I will join Hanover as a member of the History Department. But on this day right now---my life is boiled down to just two jobs---teaching 2nd Grade to my 8 year old son and finishing my grading at Miami University. Dr. Sarah McNair Vosmeier asked if I might write about my day and I thought it would be a lot of fun. Here goes:

Today started much like most of my weekdays have for the last 2 months---I walked our hound-dog at 6 am and then returned to make breakfast for my son. Today he had breakfast sausage, half a banana, and yogurt. My wife woke at 6:30, dressed and made her way out the door by 7:30 am to her job in Dayton, Ohio. She works as the Executive Director for a Nursing Home there called Carisle Manor, which as one might imagine is stressful now given the epidemic. Today was an unusual day for her though as she drove to Ashland, Ky for her corporate team to pick some materials up at another building in their health care system. Many of the corporate staff have been exposed to COVID 19, so she was tasked with going in their place.

James---my son---and I watched cartoons and read until about 8:30 when we went for a walk. After coming back inside, we said the Pledge of Allegiance together, did 15 push ups, and started his homework. Each week his teacher assigns homework in reading, math, writing, spelling, and art. Almost all of it is completed online on websites or applications like Epic, XtraMath, Seesaw, Scholastic, Epic, Dreambox, Brainpop Jr. and many others. Additionally, on Thursdays he meets with his class on Zoom, and three times a week with a reading/math specialist. Like everyone else right now our life is built around screen time and Zoom. By Friday, neither of us really wants to look at a computer for at least 24 hours.

Today for a break in between assignments, I let him watch Steven Universe and Adventure Time. Before lunch and after we played soccer and jogged around the lake. We live in a small two-bedroom apartment, but the lake for the apartment complex is very quaint and quite these days. For lunch he had a bratwurst and the other half of the banana. I had a scrambled egg and sweet potato hash. My wife and I just started an intermitten fasting routine, because we are very bored right now I guess. So, we only eat in a window from 1 to 9 and the list of foods is limited to things that are rather dull.

Most of my day after getting through his homework is spent catching up on email, grading exams for HST 354 Modern China or HST 296 World History Since 1945. I spent 45 minutes writing a lecture on Wine and Ancient Greece as a kind-of light hearted lesson for my summer class. While I was doing that James got bored and started to paint paper plates he found stashed in the kitchen. Yesterday, he found an avocado seed in the trash and pulled it out to plant as a tree. After watching a Youtube clip from a British botanist, it now sits in a cup held slightly out of water by some well-placed toothpicks. 8 weeks from now, we might have a tree. Wait and see I guess.

Tonight, we plan to watch movies on a project in our bedroom like we do every Friday night. James was

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going to pick the new Scooby Do movie but suddenly decided after watching a commercial he was too old. So, I am not sure what we will do. On Friday's since the quarantine began in Ohio in March we order out from a local restaurant. It is a nice change of pace from my cooking---which is pretty much limited to curry and Chinese noodles. Hopefully, the weather is nice soon and things can safely open up in the coming months. Our favorite thing right now is weekend hikes along the Little Miami Trail. But we badly want to come to Hanover and Madison to see Clifty Falls and look for a place to live.

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

N/A

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