



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 1998

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?

Richmond, IN: It's Friday. The plant is even quieter than usual. Orders are down enough to allow us to go back to the four day work week in production like they are supposed to be, so only a couple of people are here to run one line. Hadn't realized until this morning how much more co-ordination it takes to ship out reports without customer service. I should check and see if Mercie has put it into the system. Hope Matt doesn't think anything of all the long phone calls from Bruce on my cell. With no receptionist to forward the calls, that's the only way he can call in to check on the progress of that complaint. Isolation must really be getting to him as long as he talks now. May go out and pick up lunch -- I'm not sure I can handle all the peas in that school lunch again! Maybe I'll pay the sitter in cash this week. I should remember to ask when the other kids are coming back. Still feels a bit early to send them back. I'll check the hospital and state COVID numbers and see if they have leveled yet. And I should see if kindergarten round up has been rescheduled yet. I just don't think Nate could do online. He needs to learn to function in a big group.

Came back from lunch. Didn't realize how long it had been since I had been on that side of town -- two buildings have been torn down. Less mobility must be why I seem to have more money now -- there's no place to spend it! Thankful to still have a job though with all the furloughs being done in industry. How different my life would have been if I had continued on the path to med school or went back to school in 2001 to do epidemiology!

(For context: I was a chemistry/Spanish double major with a minor in history. I work as an R&D Chemist at Holland Colours in Richmond, IN. We are considered an essential business because we provide materials to light protect food and medicine bottles and the color coding for infrastructure piping. My husband (Matt) is an Indiana high school science teacher and has been off school since March 13 with online instruction restarting on April 13. School ends May 21. My second grade son gets a bit worried about the coronavirus but it is encouraging him to bathe more often to avoid it. My five year old is oblivious to anything going on. We spend our days at my mother-in-law's as she has no other family and is finishing chemotherapy. It is rougher on all of them mentally with all the changes. I struggled the first three weeks with fear, but now everything is so routine that it feels like nothing has changed because I can still socialize at work.)

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

My last May as a student flew by. So much time was spent with friends as we didn't know if and when we would see each other again. Many nights, rain or not, were spent outside in order to have co-ed groups. We walked every where, talked about everything, ate out when we could afford it. And tried not to worry about finding jobs.

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