



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 1980

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

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?

Today was a quiet day - only 1 Zoom meeting. Also, I was the only person in the Registrar's Office. Summer took the day off, Steve and Marlene have been working from home as "nonessential" workers. I hate that term.

At that Zoom meeting we were discussing major decisions - whether to alter the academic calendar for the Fall 2020 term (and maybe for the year). Those kinds of meetings - trying to decide how the college will respond to the COVID-19 pandemic - have been the norm for the past two months. It has been stressful.

I started the day walking around campus and have taken another walk or two since. It has been a rainy day, but there are still community people who have found their way to campus. Otherwise, it is a ghost town, except for the contractors who are working on various buildings on campus - with the hope that we will have students and classes on campus in the Fall like normal.

As part of my rounds, I checked out the theatre in The Other Place. We had a fire there on New Year's Eve in 2018, and there are still a few projects that have not been completed. One of those - installing the laundry hook ups in the backstage closet so we can wash costumes - was being completed today. Ironic. We are not sure we will be able to do live productions in the fall. But we will eventually, and the space will finally be (nearly) finished and restored.

As I left the theatre, I noticed that someone left a painted rock on The Other Place's sign. It is a small rock painted with blue sky and white clouds. It was a nice spot of hope. I will send a picture of it.

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

As a student, in my spring term of my senior year, 1980, I took Dr. Bob Rosenthal's philosophy class Utopias and Communal Experiences. On one of our trips we visited an Amish farm, the St. Meinrad Monastery, and the Padanaram commune near Bedford, IN. I also played a piano recital for my music minor. It was a busy spring term, but I remember feeling a mixture of satisfaction about completing my degree and sadness at leaving friends.

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