



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 1982

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

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 is Friday and during the last 10 weeks of staying at home during the Covid-19 crisis, it seems like every day is Friday...they all run together! I am the House Corporation President for Phi Mu. Today I was busy receiving boxes from Amazon as we have been purchasing supplies for the House to reopen. So far, I have a touchless thermometer, 2000 gloves, 500 masks, and several bottles of sanitizer. I ordered custom quartefoil masks for our members, new Phi's in January, employees and the members of the Board of Trustees who are Phi Mu's as well as custom Phi Mu gaiters for members to wear as needed or desired-always good to let folks know who you are behind that mask! ;-)

We are busy cleaning & sanitizing the house and hope very much that students are going to be back on campus in August. My son is a rising college sophomore and is desperate to be back at Furman University. He hated online classes; for him, as for me, the point of a small, liberal arts college is the daily engagement with classmates, faculty and staff. The community is a major part of the education. It has been rainy for days, but off and on we have been busy here with exciting things like mulching around the house, planting flowers, putting river rock in the landscaping and cleaning the pool-so much fun! Times right now are very strange. Going to the grocery seems dicey; everything (newspaper-yes I still get one, mail, deliveries, groceries) all have to be individually sanitized to come in the house. I wash my hands so often I need to buy stock in lotion companies-UGH! During the winter, my Phi Mu roommate, Susan Weimer was inducted into the Hanover College Athletic Hall of Fame. A group of us had a scrapbook made of that day and lots of athletic pix of her years on the field hockey and basketball teams from 1978 to 1982. We mailed it early this week and she received it today. We had a very fun, large group text after she opened it to celebrate her accomplishments one more time. We normally go to the Big 10 Tournament every March but had to cancel this year. We are just waiting for the time we can gather again in person to tell stories, eat, drink and enjoy our 40+ year friendship. That's what Hanover College is about. If you are reading this, things will be different and somehow they will not. The essence of what it means to be a Hanoverian will remain, HAPPILY, unchanged! I hope your Hanover years are terrific and that you return and give back of your time, talents and treasures for future generations of Hanover College.

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

May Term was always the best. On campus, one class allowed us all time to be outside and enjoy the weather and hang out together. Traveling for May classes was very special. I took the Political Science class at the United Nations. We lived in a YMCA (where the walls and ceilings were painted black - and no, I did not want to know why?!) and we visited either the UN or an embassy every day of the week for 3 weeks. It was the most educational, most fun 4 weeks of my Hanover experience. We were there the IRA was staging its hunger strikes and on May 5, Bobby Sands died-look it up if you haven't learned about this important time and the issues. They were protesting in cages very near the United

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Nations Headquarters and it was extremely moving and a little scary the day he died. We had the opportunity to meet with the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) in a secret location; they showed up in Armani suits and were very professional and informative and answered all of our questions, unlike the United States Embassy which basically gave us a 5th grade tour and ignored us. Another fascinating visit was with the SWAPO (South West Africa Peoples Organization) delegation who met with us in their full, tribal regalia. We went to the Israeli Embassy which was the MOST SECURE place I have ever been; we went thru 3 locked foyers where you would enter, have the door locked behind you and then eventually the door ahead opened to move to the next space. They were also informative and very open to dialog and questions. Professor Glen Mower had tremendous connections and this trip was the highlight of many Hanoverians' education. If you still have time, take a May term off campus, travel, see other places and people and learn from that experience. It will change you for the better. This year I simply miss being able to be on campus the first weekend in May for our Board of Trustees meeting and the Alumni Association Awards luncheon. We will give awards and we will meet but doing things by Zoom or Google Meet is not at all the same! This experience has given us all the opportunity to truly appreciate what it means to have families, friends and communities in which to participate live and in person!

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