



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

Name: Carey Adams

Class Year:

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?

I officially begin working at Hanover as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on June 1, but with campus shut down and all meetings happening via videoconferencing I have been able to begin participating in the work of the college a bit early at a distance. Today started with two Zoom meetings, first with the Academic Calendar Task Force and then the Recruitment & Retention Task Force. These groups, along with several others, are charged with planning how Hanover College will operate over the next several months in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those meetings were followed by a steady hour or so of email exchanges and then a conference call with two faculty colleagues. Everyone's attention is turned toward how do we adapt every aspect of college life to the uncertain and unfolding realities during this public health and economic crisis.

I should have mentioned that I am working from St. Louis. Here, similar to in Indiana, we have been in "lock down" since mid-March. Beginning on May 18th, a phased reopening is set to begin. Some malls will reopen, restaurants will be allowed to have indoor dining, and restrictions on the size of in-person gatherings will be relaxed. Everyone is caught between the desire to be back to normal and the fear of a resurgence of infection that will make things worse than before the restrictions were put in place.

When we haven't been working from home, my wife and I have spent most of our time packing up the house and getting read to move. When we listed our house for sale several weeks ago, potential buyers had to make appointments to view the house, could only come 1-2 people at a time with a realtor, and appointments had to be at least 30 minutes apart. We had a little basket of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and Lysol spray at the door. After every visit, we would go through the house wiping down light switches and door knobs. When the property inspector and appraiser came to do their work, only one of us could be in the house at the same time, with everyone wearing protective masks, of course.

My own guilty pleasure during the quarantine has been trips to Dairy Queen. For the past two months all restaurants have been limited to serving food by delivery, drive-through, or curbside pickup. Most evenings when I've driven to the closest Dairy Queen for a Blizzard there has been a line of cars wrapping around the building, the end of the line almost bumping up against the first car at the drive-through window.

Our dogs love that we are home all of the time. Banks (named after the great Chicago Cubs player Ernie Banks) and Jennie are both boxers and not quite two years old.

It has been both strange and wonderful to be slowly introduced to the Hanover College community via Zoom these past several weeks. Health experts talk about "flattening the curve" of infection spread, and I've experienced something of the same "flattening" with regard to getting to know people. Normally, I would arrive on campus and meet a whole bunch of people all at once; instead, I've been meeting people gradually and will continue to meet people gradually even once I'm in Hanover. Perhaps in the long run that will reduce my cognitive overload just like flattening the infection curve lowers the overload on local hospitals.

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Electronic Submission

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

I have never been on campus in May. Ask me again in a couple of years!

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