



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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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?

Today, May 15, 2020, is overcast and calling for rain showers. After "sheltering at home" for the 10th week, I find the weather really affects my mood more than usual. I have brought my computer set up from my Newby Hall office to my home which has really helped me be most productive during these weeks. My office PC is not wireless so in order to plug into our home router for internet and to have room for my double monitors, my work station is set up on a folding table right in the middle of our formal sitting room. The positives of this spot are that I can see out my front window and have watched my neighborhood go from the barren grayness of early March to the lush green of mid May. I can see my neighbors, who have all mostly been at home, on their little walks around our quiet cul-de-sac. I have spent the morning updating the Educator Preparation Program webpage to add photos of the graduating students who received honors this year. I also added the traditional cap and gown photo of the Education seniors. Fortunately, the Education Department Chair, Dr. Dustin Bailey, arranged for this photo to be taken on the last day of classes before student were sent home from campus due to the Covid 19 virus. It makes me a bit blue that I missed saying a goodbye to students due to travelling with my husband at the beginning of the outbreak. We self quarantined when we returned and luckily did not pick up the virus returning home. I also got to do one of my favorite tasks - approving Indiana teacher licenses for three new graduates. Sadly, licensing is on hold for most of this cohort due to the closure of the Pearson testing centers where the licensing CORE exams are given. This should not hinder their employment opportunities as the teacher shortage in Indiana continues to become worse each year. Emergency permits - once rare - are very commonplace in Indiana schools. The #RedForEd movement has also come to a roadblock as the state budget is pushed by unprecedented unemployment rates. We get several updates every week at the campus leaders try to determine how we can move forward for the 2020-2021 academic year. Some campuses have announced they will hold face-to-face classes on campus and some have announce their fall term will continue to be virtual/online format with student away from campus. There are so many variables because we don't know what will happen when the economy opens back up. Will we see another surge in coronavirus deaths? It would seem that President Lambert and our new Provost Carey Adams are "preparing for the worst and hoping for the best" with five task forces for planning. Dr. Bailey is a key member of these task forces as educator preparation programs have field work components that will depend largely on what our k-12 partners do and what the Indiana Department of Education requires. The EPP has met frequently as well due to our CAEP Accreditation site visit scheduled for the first of the year. I personally have gotten a lot accomplished from my home office. Few interruptions helped! I don't have anywhere else to be, so work more. I miss my family, too! My mother (aged 85) is in an assisted living residence and they have be completely closed to visitors since the first week of March. We go talk to her through the window and she has gotten much better at FaceTime on her iPad. Most importantly, there have been no cases of the virus yet in her facility. My son is the food service director for a nursing home in Columbus which has

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taken in many of the regions elderly Covid patients. Last count was something like 54 of the 68 residents have or are recovering from the virus along with a number of staff. Several of the elderly there have died from this. Many employees have quit and I am proud of his dedication to his patients but worry about him a lot. The rest of our five children have been working from home in Indiana, Florida, and Germany. We miss our grand daughter and our friends!

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

May is usually such a busy time on campus! I always compare it to December for those who don't work on a college campus. But there is usually such an air of celebration on campus in May and of course seeing graduation each year reminds us all why we are here!