



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 1988

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?

Imagine learning that your time on the Hanover College campus would be shortened by two months. No May Term - or Spring Term as we called it - No graduation on the Point...and I could go on and on. This is exactly what happened in March of 2020. It didn't just happen at college campuses. It happened in schools, as well. This changed the way my family worked, lived, and played.

It's Friday, May 15. We have had rain, clouds, and wind most of the day. This has been true for a lot of this spring. For me, I have "office" hours today. I'm a seventh-grade middle school teacher. We began our eLearning experience on Monday, March 16th. At that time, we thought we would be eLearning for a week, taking two weeks of spring break, and returning back to Batesville Middle School. It wasn't long after that we learned school would continue online until the end of the year.

eLearning was a new experience for us. We had office hours on Monday and Friday. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, I prepared lessons for my seventh-grade students. We had a double-block, and so I was preparing a reading and a language arts lesson for students. Today, I had a virtual conference on a student with several others, and I just finished meeting with a mom and student about missing work. In some regards, it was just like "normal." Some students completed their work in a timely manner while others didn't complete their work.

I was quite pleased with two of the assignments. One of them was a demonstration speech. Students brainstormed tasks that they could demonstrate, selected one of them and wrote out the steps, and then videotaped the task. I learned how to start and drive a truck, show a goat for 4H, make a hillbilly casserole, and put my hair in a ballet bun! It was lots of fun to see how creative my students were. The students just finished writing a personal narrative much like I am doing now. They wrote about a "typical" eLearning day at home. It was really fun to read about their days. Four of the best ones were published in the local newspaper!

My husband, a Hanover College graduate, as well, works as a school counselor. Therefore, he is also working from home. Our daughter would have graduated from Butler University last Saturday, May 9. She's now at home trying to decide what she is going to do as a career. Our son, a Hanover College graduate, has been working some during the pandemic with young adults with special needs. We have developed a routine over the past two months. My day begins at 7:30 - it's a big deal for me to have two extra hours of sleep. I do school work until 12:00 noon and come back to the couch for two more hours. I try to work in an extra project here or there - cleaning out a drawer or closet, writing some old-fashioned letters, or texting friends, family, or co-workers to check on them.

Our evening meal is the start of our family time. We have enjoyed an evening meal together almost every night. The meals varied from waffles, chicken or hamburgers on the grill, tacos, enchiladas, lasagna, or one-pan chicken fajitas - just to name a few. After dinner, we would take a family walk as long as we had pleasant weather. We arrived back home around 8:00, and then we might watch a movie together. The four of us watched all of the Harry Potter movies in order; Mary Catherine opted out of the Jason Bourne movies. We are currently ready for the 4th Star Wars movie; she is skipping this series, as

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well. If we didn't watch a movie, we watched a lot of news, The Voice, or Shark Tank. We left the house only to get groceries and wore a mask when doing so. The restrictions have loosened a little; yesterday afternoon, I made a quick, extra trip to our Kroger to get apples. Mary Catherine wanted to bake an apple pie. Yes, I wore my mask! Friday nights are a big deal because we order take-out. We have tried to support different local restaurants. Tonight - I think Skyline is on the menu! We are look forward to a more normal life.

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

I could write for days about my time at Hanover College. I graduated in the May of 1988. My four Spring Terms at Hanover College were the best. The weather was usually warm and allowed for us to be outdoors. My living units were Donner, KP (Katherine Parker), and two years in the Alpha Delta Pi house. Spring Terms were for taking long walks around The Point, laying out in the quad or in front of my living unit and reading or studying, visiting Clifty Falls State Park, driving to get breadsticks from Noble Romans in Madison or a Blizzard from Dairy Queen. We socialized, visited the fraternity houses, crashed Fiji Island, and made memories to last a lifetime! My Alpha Delta Pi friends, Susan, Paula, Melissa, Shawna, Alice, Dena, Kara, and Carina, and I still keep in touch. We most recently had a Saturday morning Zoom meeting. Some of us had serious boyfriends, and some of us were looking for a significant other. We were really good friends with a group from Lambda Chi Alpha, and we enjoyed spending time with them. I'll end with a great memory from the ADPi house. The house owned a tandem bike; we had so much fun riding it around campus! Those were the days - friends, fun activities, a gorgeous campus, and of course, truly amazing professors.