



# "One Day in May"

(May 15, 2021)

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Class Year: 2012

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Alumnus/alumna

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*Describe your day on May 15, 2021. Tell us whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate hearing about concrete details -- What can you see and hear from where you are right now? What did you do for fun today? Did you cook or eat anything special? Did you work or do chores? Who did you spend time with? What did you learn?*

May 15, 2021 was the first time I went out with friends since the pandemic started! I met several friends in Louisville, including 5 Hanover alumnae, to celebrate the upcoming wedding of a fellow 2012 Hanover graduate. We were all fully vaccinated so we felt comfortable spending time with one another. We took a tour of Louisville, visiting Churchill Downs and Museum Row, among other classic Louisville sites (although I must say, the view of the Ohio the tour guide treated us to was nothing compared to the Point!). It was a wonderful day among friends and fellow Hanoverians, made even more special because we had been unable to meet in person, or go out on the town, in over a year!

*What do you think you'll remember most about surviving the pandemic? Tell us what whatever you'd like at whatever length you'd like. We think future students will especially appreciate memories that help them picture your life and relationships -- Have you taken up any new leisure activities in the last year, or have you changed how you eat, or cook? If you're on campus, what was it like in classrooms or dining spaces or locker rooms or offices? Have you been able to stay in touch with family or friends (including classmates and other Hanoverians)? How? What have you missed the most in the past year?*

The pandemic has been challenging for me, especially since I'm an extrovert and I love being around people. However, this year held so many changes for my family, pandemic or no - my husband changed jobs, we moved, I got pregnant and quit my job, we bought a house, and in February we had our first child, a daughter. I think a lot of that was even more challenging due to the pandemic - for example, I became basically a hermit because I needed to be extra careful due to the pregnancy, and once our daughter was born she was not able to meet many family members for quite a while. We are still being very careful with her, and anyone not vaccinated has to wear a mask if they want to hold her - we aren't taking any chances!

We also went through two instances where my husband had to quarantine, after exposure to an infected person at his work. The first was during my pregnancy, and he actually got Covid (thankfully not too bad, although he had some lingering effects including weakness for over a month). The second time was even more difficult because I had a 2-month-old to care for all by myself. There were a lot of tears, but we made it through!

I have missed my connections with friends, and also potential connections with other new moms. I have hope that soon there will be some fully-vaccinated mom groups I can join! I've always wanted to have those friendships, and I want my daughter to connect with other babies her own age as well. I also miss

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one of my favorite hobbies, singing in a choir. I was a part of the Columbus Philharmonic when we lived there, and what would have been my last concert with them before we moved, was cancelled due to Covid (and of course I have not joined any other groups yet in our new city). As a four-year member of Concert Choir and Chamber Singers at Hanover, and a six-year member of the Philharmonic after my college years were over, this is such an important part of my life, and I hope that someday soon I can find this connection again.

I am grateful, however, that we did not experience some of the side effects of the pandemic that many have faced. We are still comfortable financially, my husband did not lose his job (the only reason I quit mine was to be at home with our daughter), and we have not lost any of our close family or friends to the pandemic. I acknowledge that many have had it much worse than we have, and I feel very lucky that we came through fairly unscathed. This will be a time we will always remember as a difficult one, but we are thankful for our many blessings.

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