



# "One Day in May"

(May 15, 2021)

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Class Year:

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Faculty/staff

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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?*

The sun was out, so I went to the Clifty Garden Center for plants. I kept a mask with me, but then as I arrived, saw that it was mostly outdoors, and decided to keep it in my car. This felt mildly transgressive, though I've been fully vaccinated now for a couple of months, and noted that the register inside of a makeshift building was in close proximity to many doors. I picked up lavender, cilantro, basil, and some dahlias, excited to start planting in the afternoon- the pandemic placed a lot more focus on my garden. After lunch and a long walk with the dogs around the cross country field, Jason and I began planting in the yard, noting that the dahlias quickly attracted a cicada, its red eyes matching the blooms. They were beginning to emerge all over the front garden, clinging to the leaves of plants, likely trying to find cover from hungry bluejays. They were early to their party.

Later on that day Jason and I drove to Louisville to see friends, and our plan was first to go to Trader Joe's (all masked customers, with a lot of U2 songs playing on the radio), and then to meet our friends at their new-to-them home in Crescent Hill, where they would host us for dinner. It was makeshift and in the process of transferring furniture from one home to another, but both residents had their home offices fully decorated at the new place- books out, new chairs purchased. Most of their work was now online: no change for the adjunct professor, but a big change for the Presbyterian minister who was serving the Center as a denominational educator. A large fake Christmas tree was up in the living room complete with ornaments and lights; the explanation that it was cheerful, and it was far too late to take it down now.

We ordered takeaway from a favorite Cuban restaurant, and sat in their backyard, drinking a beer, thinking it was perfectly natural to have hung out with them inside their home, wondering why it had been so long to see their new establishment- oh, yes. A pandemic. I wasn't sure if it had been a few weeks or a few years since I'd been to Louisville- it all blurred together.

*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?*

I learned how to sew, taking out a machine that had been sitting in my closet for two years. When

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vacation time came in June 2020, I was at my home on campus for two weeks, and had to figure out how to occupy my time (outside of gardening) when the weather got hot. I had always wanted to learn, so I pulled out some YouTube videos and slowly learned how to thread a bobbin, thread the needle, rip a seam. In the first vacation stint I made a small lap quilt with leftover fabric in the house, and then later that summer I made a second when I took my machine with us to a cabin in western NC, a favorite family retreat. I continue to love gardening and sewing, and look forward to time on the weekends to immerse myself in these things. On Friday of this week, I am going to Charlotte to see my mom, dad, brother, sister-in-law, aunt, and godparents for the first time in well over a year, and celebrate the first birthday of a nephew (my brother's first born) that I have yet to meet. I sent him a quilt (the third sewing project) a few months after he was born, but have not seen him yet. We also have tickets to an outdoor Shakespeare production, where an old friend of mine from high school will be playing Titania. I expect it will be a very emotional homecoming for me.

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