



# "One Day in May"

(May 15, 2023)

**Name:** Ethan Geraci

**Class Year:** 2025

**Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?):** Student

**Describe your day on May 15, 2023. 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? Who did you spend time with? Did you cook or eat anything special? Did you work or do chores?**

I woke up this morning in Abiquiu, NM on Ghost Ranch as a part of a geology field course. It's not every day that I get out of bed and walk outside to see an impressive mesa off in the distance (Pedernal), but that is how life is out here in New Mexico. After a breakfast served in Ghost Ranch's dining hall, I went on a hike with my field partner, Katie White, to map Section 1 of the Abiquiu Quadrangle. This particular section comes with its own unique challenges, as there are multiple dense patches of juniper trees, which makes it quite difficult to see the different rock units we are supposed to map. With about six different layers of pastel deposits, it is no wonder that Ghost Ranch was once home to Georgia O'Keefe, the well-known American Painter. Our morning hike ended around 11:00 AM, just as the sun began to shine down from directly overhead. After lunch, we proceeded to draw deposit boundaries on our map. This office work was followed with a well-needed nap (for our hike was approximately 6 miles). We have less than a week left here on Ghost Ranch, which is a thought that I do not enjoy thinking about. My professor, Dr. Heyo Van Iten, seems to have a liking for this place that is evidently contagious, as I am dreading our departure this coming Sunday.

**We'd also like to hear about what learning looks like for you. When you think of the Hanover classes that have mattered the most to you, what do you see? A specific classroom, lab, or studio? your favorite late-night study location? What about lessons learned at Hanover outside of the classroom -- do you see conversations over meals? locker room celebrations? shared community service? the streets of a foreign city during an off-campus class? If you're no longer on campus, what does learning look like now?**

Learning for me is rather fickle, as it all depends on the discipline. As a dual major, I often find myself split between book learning (English) and hands-on field learning (geology). When it comes to homework, I find that I work best when in the Duggan Library, either on the third floor or in what we call the "study nook" on the first floor (near the emergency fire exit facing Crowe Hall). Whenever I am in my dorm room, Crowe Hall this past year, I find that I cannot accomplish much unless I am wearing a pair of shoes (which tricks my mind into thinking I must complete all of my work before I have to go somewhere). I do not do well with rote memorization and prefer to

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immerse myself as much as possible in the subject material.

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