

**A Day in the Life of Hanover College Students, Faculty, and Staff  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020–21**

The following prompt was given to students, faculty, and staff of Hanover College in the fall of 2020 by Professor Sarah Vosmeier and Hanover College Archivist Jennifer Duplaga with the intent of creating primary source material for future use. The select responses shared below do not reflect the views of the *Hanover Historical Review* nor were the responses influenced by the *HHR* Board. These replies appear as they were received, without further editing by the *HHR* Board.

“The *Hanover Historical Review* and the Duggan Library Archives are collecting material to help future students understand how Hanover students, faculty, and staff are experiencing this historic year. This fall, we're asking volunteers to describe their circumstances on just one day – November 15, 2020.”

Dustin Wilson  
Student  
Class of 2024

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

My last Sunday morning in 2020 on Hanover's campus was started nearly in the afternoon. My roommate and I drug ourselves out of bed after 11 to walk to the Campus Center for breakfast with the absence of the rest of our friend group, who had yet to even wake up. The scrambled eggs and chocolate milk of the Campus Center are probably the same breakfast served to the gods of Mount Olympus; so it's the only real way to start the day. The two of us walked back across a windy campus to Wiley Hall - the sky showed promise for a rainy Sunday afternoon. My roommate took off for the library to start conquering the weekend homework load while I FaceTimed my friend, who is a Marine currently stationed in San Diego. I hopped off that call and onto my homework while the sweet melodies of the late poet Lil Peep bumped in the background, as today also marks 3 years since his passing. As a History and Spanish double major, I get an afternoon full of an unfamiliar language and documents that have aged like a king's whiskey. A relatively uneventful day doesn't necessarily mean a wasted one... it just leaves you well rested for the crazy ones.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

Not to give the most generic answer, but the Coronavirus has the largest influence on my operations as a freshman on this campus. Fraternities were open for no more than a month accumulatively this semester, and that was with capacity restrictions. I have to wear a mask for absolutely any activity outside of my dorm room, and cannot have any more than four people in my dorm room. All semester, the number of people walking the sidewalks of the campus has become less and less as more and more of them have been contact traced and sent home. It is definitely a robbery of the experience, but the space we have to leave between each other is an observant, but a necessary damper on the daily functions of Hanover College.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

A very good friend and I had a conversation on FaceTime this morning. He is a Marine stationed in San Diego, and we made our rounds talking about pretty much the same things we do every phone call. He and I live very different lives in terms of function and coordination. And while we usually talk about that, today we talked about his possibility of getting leave for Christmas before he begins Infantry School.

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*During the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020–21*

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Jace Lichtefeld  
Student  
Class of 2024

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

I woke up around 9 and I looked over to my roommate's bed expecting to see her then remembered she left for home yesterday since Hanover has gone online. I ate applesauce and mini wheats for breakfast and then I started working on school work. I edited my reflection for my FY101 class. I read over it and ran it through *Grammarly* to find all my missing commas. I forget to put commas a lot in my writing. Then I tried to work on my article presentation in my history class or my English paper but I didn't really want to work on either of them. I walked over to the Campus Center to mail some letters to my friends from high school. When I got back to my dorm, I laid down on my bed and watched some Grey's Anatomy specifically the hospital shooting episodes. I stopped with twenty minutes to go around 12 pm and walked over to the Campus Center for lunch. When I asked for scrambled eggs and hash browns that was the first time talking to another person today and at 4 pm I have only talked to three people total. Two people to ask for food and I said hi to one of my hall mates on my way back to the dorm. After lunch I went on a walk and it started raining near the end of the walk. I listened to music while on the walk and two songs stood out to me during it. "I'm just a kid" by simple plan and "Lost Boy" by Ruth B. I've not been doing the best mentally lately and the first song I connected with for how I was in high school where I felt alone and that no one cared. The second song connects to how I feel now. I feel connected and supported here at Hanover. When I got back from my walk, the sun started to break through the clouds and I smiled. I did my physical therapy exercises while listening to music and then I tried to figure out what I want to work on next. I jumped around and prepared for a couple things but I decided to work on my article presentation for history and I decided what I was going to discuss for slides 1 and two. I then watched the last 20 mins of my grays anatomy episode and then did my assigned problems for my stats class on Tuesday. After I finished those, I went to go do a brief assignment for history and found the email from Professor Vosmeier about this and decided to fill this out. My plans for the rest of the day are pretty simple. I'm going to do my brief assignment and then around 5:30 I'm going to get a burrito from the CC and eat before my Templeton Cohort meeting at 6:30. Honestly at the moment I am unsure if we are having that meeting but I do know I will be playing DnD or among us with my high school friends at 7 pm. That will likely finish around 9 pm and then I will start getting ready for bed. I'll journal before bed and then I'll turn on a PopularMMOs challenge games video on YouTube to fall asleep too. This is how I spent November 15th 2020.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

My schooling is the most significant aspect of my life in 2020. It's always changing. For 2 and 1/2 months of 2020 my senior year of high school was exactly like I expected it to be but in the middle of March that changed. We were going online for the next two weeks before spring break. I told

### *During the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020–21*

my friends on March 13th that this would be our last day in person at Mercy but no one believed me. For two weeks we followed our normal online school guidelines. On each day, our teachers would assign us something to do and it would be due at 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm, or midnight depending on the teacher. After spring break that changed and instead we got all out assignments on Monday. On Monday we had to check in to all of our classes. On Tuesday, we would have zoom meetings for 4 of our classes. On Wednesday the same four classes would have office hours and if those classes had tests they would be on Wednesday. On Thursday we had zoom meetings for our other four classes. On Friday, the same four classes would have office hours and if those classes had tests they would be on Friday. Over the summer I took a five week course offered by Hanover called Navigating the pandemic. Each week 2-3 professors discussed the pandemic from different perspectives. In August, I started my first year at Hanover. I moved in on August 19th 2020 and I did not believe I would be on campus for more than a few weeks. I was wrong about that. I'm currently taking five courses. One course is fully online and the other four where in-person till the entire school went online. Going all online is an adjustment but it is easier the second time.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I've only texted one person today and I was updating a mentor about my mental health and that I have been productive this weekend and feeling better.

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James T. Moll  
Student  
Class of 2022

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

I woke up at 8 am on November 15, 2020. I rolled over and went back to sleep and woke up again at 9 am. I actually got up this time, making myself a Chai Latte from my Keurig. I sat down at my desk and began working on a paper due Friday, November 20. I was finishing up my research, realizing that I was going to be short a couple sources. We are being officially kicked off campus in a few days (the 20th) and it's hindering my paper. I need books from other libraries, but there's not enough time to get them, use them, and return them. I worked on this until maybe 11, and then went back to bed. One of my roommates woke me up knocking on my door around 12. He wanted food, so I got up and followed behind him and another roommate. We ate at the Campus center, what we all call the CC. The other roommate is leaving today. She's from Georgia, so she won't actually be home until sometime on Monday. After lunch, the roommate that woke me up went to the Point, like he's done at least once a day, everyday, since our first night on campus, September 2018. The Georgian and myself went back to the room, catching her mother (here to pick her up) on the way back and getting a ride. The temperature outside was 55 F but the wind made it feel much colder.

After we all said our goodbyes to her (we live in Ogle, so there's a total of seven of us, including the one at the Point), I went into my room and read for my history class and listened to music. The time now was roughly 1 pm, and I read about Tudor and Stuart England and Charles II until about 6. I wasn't quite done, but I was hungry and so were the other roommates. We went to dinner, my girlfriend and I leaving first so we could talk on the way, everyone else trailing behind. We ate dinner at the Ug since they close the Campus Center at 1:30 pm on the weekends. Don't be fooled, the food's no better in the Underground than in the CC. I had two day old, premade wraps, "Best By 11/14." We hung out and talked and shared funny memes and videos until almost 8 pm. Once we got back to the room, we all split into our respective rooms, minus the Point kid, he always commandeers the living room with the larger tv. I played Skyrim the rest of the night, finished my reading homework around 2 am, and then I went to bed. It was hot in our room that night, and it turned out to be a very restless night.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

The most significant part of my life in 2020 is finding my place in the world, and really working on what I value. It's an interesting world we're living in: an invisible virus, riots that are "justified," a botched presidential election, online classes for high school and college, the list goes on. I will say, as much as I despise online classes, what's affected much of my grades this semester is just subject matter. All my grades are on par except my French lit class, and this is because literature and I don't get along.

*During the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020–21*

As a History major, I encourage students of all generations to do a little research, do a little reading. Much of what is happening can be directly related to a lack of education.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I'll tell two, because I keep my conversations brief, and it represents something that I can explain better after I show.

I had a conversation on snapchat with a kid from home about whether or not we can swim over Christmas break. We came from the same high school team, and while it's usually not a question (our old coach always lets us come back and swim) this year it could create a problem. This problem is caused by the COVID-19 virus. We are concerned we won't get to stay in shape because our old high school won't want us in cause we are possibly infected with a virus that may or may not be super deadly. It's been 9 months since this all and that much is still uncertain.

I also texted a group chat with my best friends from home. I told them that the time is now, it's time to start a gaming channel. We have the ability, and we came up with the name two years ago (Relatively Professional), we just have to do it. And the conversation was mostly just agreement and suggestions.

I showed these specific two to give an idea of the weird requirements. We have to worry about whether or not we can swim and that's a common concern. In the same day, we have normal conversations about what we're gonna do when we get home.

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Catherine Knott  
Faculty/staff

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

I spent the morning sewing a dress that was made from crushed velvet material, which is obnoxious to work with. I call it the Chaotic Evil of fabrics. I was sewing to evade grading, because I knew I had a big stack waiting for me. Sunday afternoons are often grading periods, and this one was no different. The weather was wet and windy, so I didn't get my usual walk along the cross country field with my dogs. I was glad for the creative expression time, and did get some essays edited/graded as I promised myself. I rewarded myself with a glass of wine from the Trader Joe's in Louisville, and then made dinner. I had some tomatoes on my windowsill that I got from a plant given by a colleague over the summer, and they actually ripened! I made preserves out of them, and then watched two episodes of *The Crown* with my spouse.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

As Chaplain who teaches, I feel like 2020 is when EVERYTHING TAKES SO MUCH MORE ENERGY. Plans can't be made more than a week in advance, and I'm literally winging it all of the time. I am doing all of the things, while simultaneously feeling like nothing is getting done. Hanover's gorgeous campus is a big part of my sanity- getting out and getting fresh air is a life saver.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I sent an email to my class to remind them that attendance is in fact part of their grade. I feel like the morale has really been down these last few weeks.

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Melissa Eden  
Faculty/staff

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

It was Sunday, so I took a day off. I took a long walk around my neighborhood, Crescent Hill, in Louisville, KY. I read a gardening magazine and daydreamed about my spring gardening plans. I checked my email but ignored anything like work. I grocery shopped at Trader Joe's and picked up a few Christmas stocking stuffers while I was there. I warmed up leftovers for meals. I played with my cats. I watched the first two episodes of Season 4 of *The Crown* on Netflix. I read a few chapters of a Louse Penny mystery and I went to bed early.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

Handling teaching with COVID--trying to balance taking care of my students and taking care of myself and my own health issues. Learning to teach online and to teach in-class and remote students simultaneously. Dealing with technology that does not always cooperate while switching my teaching mode. Fretting over the elections and wanting to get Trump out of office and end his undermining of our democracy. Worrying that while Mitch McConnell remains in office that undermining will not cease. There are still some worries there, but it feels like a huge weight is lifted now that Biden and Harris have been elected. I can breathe again since goodness is once again a value. Wondering how, after 4 years of tremendous damage, we will put our nation back together again.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I was honestly quiet all day, blissfully so. As an introvert I value that quiet and use it to recharge.

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Elizabeth Ritchie  
Student  
Class of 2021

**What did you do today, November 15, 2020?**

So November 15th is a Sunday which meant the first part of my day was eaten by sleeping in! I work four days a week at our on-campus Starbucks at 6:30 AM so I really treasure the chance to sleep in. I live in Lynn in a room that has a Jack and Jill bathroom. My roommate got up to go to work at the UG, she preps single serving food. I wished her a good time at work then rolled over. Of course. I finally got up around ten, showering and tidying the room. I'm the kind of person who must tidy constantly so every day I make my bed and cleaned my desk off. Then I did some power makeup (you know, the kind of make up that makes you feel like you can conquer stuff ie. homework). After that I texted one of the partners of one of my group projects I'm in (this semester I'm in three) about whether she had seen the lab work for the week. My adulthood and aging class (PSY346) is all online this year and is asynchronous, meaning that the professor uploads the work on Saturday for the whole week. My partner and I hopped on a Microsoft Teams call and chatted about the project a little then signed off, both of us working on our parts independently. My roommate came home for work and jumped in the shower. Then we went over to the Campus Center for brunch. Brunch is definitely the highlight of Hanover College student's weekends here on campus. Less so this year due to COVID but still fun. We sat with our friend Wyatt, who was about to leave but chatted with us some before taking food back to his partner as they weren't eating in the CC today. Right now the CC has plastic dividers up between people to limit the spread of the virus but it also unfortunately limits loudness so conversation is always a bit strained. After this, we went back to the room and tried to do some work. It was painful and I had absolutely no motivation. Usually we try to study outside the room for a couple hours a day even though classes are online because I would lose my mind to be cooped up in there all day. Because of making the mistake of going back to the room, neither of us were productive, so we ended up watching a movie for my roommate's international studies class. It was on water scarcity around the world. We both drifted off during it... embarrassingly. I continued to nap until about 5PM. My roommate just kinda played on her phone until going to call her girlfriend at 5, who is living in Paris right now going to graduate school. At 6, we went over to the UG and grabbed food, just a little stuff since we were getting more later. We focused in on school work until 8:40 then ran over to the CC to grab the food provided for late night breakfast and bingo. The email said it started getting handed out at 9 but we were wanting to beat the line. Late night breakfast and bingo is an honored tradition here at Hanover. The last Sunday before finals the professors host a breakfast for the students. More recently, the tradition of playing bingo at that time has also started. It's super fun and well attended and it's really nice to see all the professors you've had in the past. This year the food service, Parkhurst, just handed the bags of food out. :( We got breakfast burritos and hash browns. We actually got our food almost immediately, grabbed our bingo boards and headed back to the room. Then from 8:50 to 9:55 we just watched music videos and chatted. At 10, bingo began and

## *During the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020–21*

my roommate did the bingo boards, while I called my family through Microsoft Teams. I usually call them Sunday nights at 9, but my youngest brother (I have two) who goes to UIndy had a hall meeting at 9 so we pushed it back an hour. But he missed the meeting so it was useless anyway. He's such a freshman. My other brother, who goes to Purdue, got on right at 10 and chatted but my parents and other brother didn't get on till 10:10. All while I'm missing Bingo!! It was terrible. We talked for a bit, then I played bingo till 11. My roommate won a prize! She got cordless earbuds and a power box for a phone.

### **What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

The most significant aspect of my life currently I'd have to say, is figuring out graduate school. I know that sounds strange, but in some ways, it feels like one day someone is going to wave a wand and COVID will stop bothering us. And being in college, it's made the pandemic feel really removed. I think when I go home for the semester it'll be more real again. Because going to grad school is a long term decision and important step focusing on me, that's just where my brain has been. I am not interested in going to online grad programs (although there are more everyday with COVID happening) and I'd prefer to stay within the Midwest and I know the degree I'm interested in. But like that's it. With the internet at my disposal, I can find so many programs that fit my criteria that it's difficult to figure out how to filter through them and find ones that will actual fit with me. And unfortunately, no one has an answer other than what I'm doing. So.

### **Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I texted my dad today about the March Madness tournament (the big 10 NCAA basketball tournament) coming to Indianapolis today. I'm from Indianapolis and knew he would know more about it, as he's really into current events. He saw the message then called me to talk about it. The March Madness tournament will happen in March 2021, and all the games will be in Indianapolis. This is a deviation from the norm and what was scheduled because of COVID. I was interested in it because although I'm not a big sports person, I recognize how much money is at stake here and how much revenue that is going to bring into Indianapolis. We talked about why it was happening (NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis and COVID), the logistics behind it (hotels and places to play the games), and the relationship between Indianapolis and NCAA. With Indiana moving back into Phase 4 right now and cases rising, I'll be interested to see how things play out.

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Hunter Wolford  
Student  
Class of 2021

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Unfortunately, I had been sent home earlier due to contact tracing with COVID-19 so I had worked on a few assignments, watched football, and played Xbox with friends at home. However, on a normal Sunday with no COVID keeping us from having fun my roommates and I would have been cooking out, playing cornhole, setting up multiple TVs in our living room area in order to watch as many of the games on as possible, and having friends over to enjoy the day with us.

**What seems to be the most significant aspect of your life in 2020?**

It is my senior year that has unfortunately been quite the opposite of what I had expected/wanted it to be. Having to switch so abruptly from in-person classes to online has not been the easiest task for the students or professors. On top of that having family issues that needed to be taken care of has made it all the more difficult to stay on top of things in the classes, especially the ones that have a new assignment every day.

**Without invading anyone's privacy, tell us about a conversation or text exchange you've had today.**

I have asked professors about assignments and upcoming exams, texted friends about working out, and spoke to my mother about dinner.

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