

Journal 5/23/2020-5/30/2020

Saturday May 23rd

We spent the day with my mom and her husband and their lake home in Minnesota. We weren't planning on being home from Idaho in May but here we are. It's so difficult to create this balance between work, internship, and seeing my family. Since Mitch is only with me in Minnesota for two more days I've been neglecting my internship work. I sat down this morning and submitted some things but once everyone was up and moving for the day I felt guilty about ignoring them all and just sitting on my computer. I know Mitch also needs to study for his COMLEX but he seems to have put that on the back burner for this week so I also put my work at the bottom of the list. I keep telling myself I'll do it tomorrow, but we'll see. My mom and her husband have decided that if we get a second surge of COVID-19 they don't want to be stuck where they were before in terms of not having food in the house. I can't really blame them for having bare cupboards, all 5 kids have moved out so they often just go out to eat or pick up what they need each night. However, when a global pandemic strikes that's not a great system. So they bought ½ a cow and it's all ready for them but they haven't been able to find a freezer anywhere to purchase. I didn't think about it until my mom had said something about it. Sure enough, I took a look at Best Buy and a few other online retailers and they're all sold out with a note saying it'll be about 2 months before they're back in stock. I've been working with the archive for a few months but I still feel kind of overwhelmed with what my role is. There's so much to take in. My students finished class yesterday and it was very bittersweet. I didn't get the proper goodbye like we should have had but I know I'll see most of them in August when school (hopefully) starts again.

Sunday May 24th

Today we traveled from Detroit Lakes, MN to Fargo, ND and then on to Sioux Falls, SD. We left Detroit Lakes very early this morning because when I woke up around 7 am I realized that I forgot my glasses at my mom's house in Fargo and I didn't bring any extra contact lenses and I wear daily lenses. So, I couldn't see a darn thing...seriously. My right eye is at -6.5 and my left eye is at -4.5, it's so hard! Thankfully, Mitch was with so he could drive us back to Fargo otherwise I don't know what I would have done. We got back to Fargo and went to my mom's house which is where I will be staying for the next month while Mitch goes back to Boise, ID. We got ready for the day and went over to see my dad before we took off for Sioux Falls. While we were there I realized that his flowers hadn't been planted yet so I took care of that while dad mowed the lawn. Suddenly, he popped out of the house and said he was bored and that he wanted to do something fun. So, we went to the bar my sister works at and had a few drinks while she was working. It's bizarre being in North Dakota because most places are open almost entirely while Boise is still in phase 2 of reopening. The tables are spread extremely far apart but there were still a good amount of people in there. After we left there we went and saw a few of my dad's friends at another restaurant. Again, the tables were very spread out but there were a decent amount of people in there. My father and his friends range in age from low 50s to mid 70s so most would tag them as being 'at risk' for COVID-19. But, they really didn't seem phased by it. Instead they ordered a bunch of appetizers and shared them with the table. I actually felt oddly guilty about being so close to them. Mostly because I have been traveling so

much and since I am younger (24) I could easily be carrying the virus without knowing it. I mean, I made the decision to go out in the first place so I guess that's on me. After that we drove to Sioux Falls, SD. We had dinner with Mitch's family and played a card game. It was an early night for us as Mitch is flying out tomorrow morning to return to Boise and I am going to be driving back to Fargo. My school year wraps up this week and I have a lot of professional development modules to complete.

Monday May 25th:

Happy Memorial Day! What an odd Memorial Day. Memorial Day weekend is usually a big deal in lakes area but this year it seems rather muffled. I woke up this morning at 6 am and Mitch was already awake and in the shower. We had a quick cup of coffee with Mitch's parents and said goodbye. On our drive to the airport we stopped to fill my car with gas so I could just drop Mitch at the airport and get on the interstate. It took Mitch a whole 3 minutes to get through security at the airport since he has TSA pre-check. Flying right now is a total breeze. I started the long drive north and listened to my audio book the entire time. When I got to Fargo I tried to start getting ready to establish a routine for the week. I've just about fallen apart without a routine lately. I need to wake up early and be productive otherwise things don't get done. I went to the grocery store and most people weren't wearing masks. I was completely shocked. I was able to do laundry and pack for a few days at the lake.

Tuesday May 26th

Today I woke up to the news that George Floyd had been killed by a police officer in Minneapolis, MN. Personally, I really struggle with situations where guns are involved but in this particular situation, I think the cop is at fault. I haven't seen much besides what's starting to come out on social media. Today I really jumped into archive work. Once I finished my endless hours of PD modules for work. I kind of just had to cut ties with the first module of class because I was so anxious about it. I decided today that my focus would be grade 6-12 education. Shocking, I know. I also had a Zoom meeting today with Kathryn Jue and Emmy Tither to talk about where we are in terms of work on the k-12 side of things. Kathryn and I came to the conclusion that we're just basically using our students as guinea pigs for students and classes in the fall. Emmy was going to start looking into creating an oral history assignment for 6-12 students. How cool would it be for students to interview their parents or peers about their experience with COVID-19. I read a fun book for an hour today and it was so nice. I hadn't realized how much I missed reading.

Wednesday May 27th

Today was such a waste. It was gorgeous, 85 degrees, and sunny. Naturally, I was on a Teams meeting all day learning about a new gradebook that I won't even be using until August. I had to miss all of the archive meetings today to learn about this new system. The weather in Minnesota hasn't been warm lately so as soon as I got off that meeting I immediately went on the boat to soak up some sun.

Thursday May 28th

Back to the routine! Yay! I established this routine during the first few weeks of the stay at home order and I love it so much I don't know what I'll do when I have to go back to work. I wake up early (around 7 am), take the dog out for a short walk, make coffee, and read for 30 minutes. It's such a glorious way to start the morning. I spent time today finalizing grades and getting things truly wrapped up. I took some time today to work on the archive. My focus had already been k-12 education and I was rather worried that I would run out of things to contribute but I think as summer progresses more and more schools are going to face budget cuts and staff cuts.

Friday May 29th

It was my mom's birthday today! I woke up early and got on our final staff meeting of the school year. Today we found out that 2 teachers will not be returning next year due to budget cuts and another teacher was reassigned. It was heartbreaking. I have a feeling it's only the beginning of our budget issues.

Saturday May 30th

There was a protest scheduled for this morning in Island Park at 10am. Island Park is about 2 blocks from my mother's house which is where I am staying while I am in town. I started following the protests on Facebook because when I looked out the back window there were so many people at the park. News reports say there were about 2.5k people present. It was a peaceful march and protest. They marched around downtown Fargo and eventually ended up at the Fargo Police Station. Some very powerful pictures came out of the protest as the local police officers stood hand in hand with the protestors. I have a very powerful picture from my mother's cousin and her daughter standing outside protesting. They (like most others) were wearing their mask and I am going to submit it to the archive to show that COVID-19 impacted our lives for months but it hasn't stopped the inequalities faced by people across the country. The protestors marched across a large amount of Fargo and West Fargo to reach the West Fargo police station. A second group popped up in Downtown Fargo and at 6 pm the Fargo Police put out an alert saying that the protestors were no longer peaceful and asking people to avoid the area. I started watching a live Facebook video from a high school classmate. I made it through about 12 minutes before my sister and I were crying. Local businesses that we love and support were trashed. Their windows were smashed, the chairs and furniture were pulled into the streets, and kegs of beer were taken from a local bar and shared amongst the protestors/rioters. We had a curfew put in place and had to be home by 10pm. At that point, I made the choice to leave my mom's house and spend the night at my dad's house. Even at his house, which is about 2 miles south of Downtown Fargo, the gas station near us was closed down for the night and the doors were chained up. There were rumors that more protestors were gathering at the closed down Kmart not far from our house. Beyond the protest that rocked our city yesterday, I spend about 1.5 hours on a Zoom meeting with other ASU students and professors to go over curating in the archive. Many thanks to Lawson!