Christmas Stories

For this month’s newsletter, we asked staff in the department for some Christmas traditions or stories they hold dear. Here are some of their responses:

Ryan Bebej

“Our family’s Christmas tradition may not be the most sustainable one– but it’s rooted in some history. Every Christmas, my family drives around and looks at Christmas lights on houses, being sure to tune the radio to the synced music provided by some of the more spectacular displays.

Growing up, my hometown in Illinois had quite a large Christmas light competition. Back then, people would come from all over to see these beautiful and ornate displays of Christmas lights. Every Christmas, my family would pile with our neighbors into their big van, and both families would enjoy the spectacle these lights provided. It’s still something I like doing today.”

Lori Keen

“At some point during my engagement to Cal, I must’ve mentioned that I never had a Barbie doll. My father-in-law apparently felt bad about that and for Christmas that year he gave me my Barbie doll. I’m remembering this with fondness as Dad passed away earlier this month. That Barbie must have been given in 1980. I held on to that Barbie for nearly 20 years. When my daughter, Elisabeth, was 4 or 5 (the late 90’s) she saw a TV commercial and asked for a Barbie. I knew right where Barbie was so I went and retrieved Barbie (talk about instant gratification!) and handed the package to her. However, my older self was horrified when I looked at Malibu Barbie. The next day I went to Meijer and bought the airline pilot outfit, the doctor outfit and the gymnast outfit.”

Open Positions at the Biology Department!

The Department of Biology at Calvin College is seeking to fill one or more tenure-track positions, pending administrative approval, to begin August 2016. Individuals with broad interests in all areas of biology will be considered, with preference given to those with expertise in animal physiology. Teaching responsibilities may include vertebrate physiology, human biology, cell biology or neuroscience. Faculty are also expected to advise students, establish or collaborate in a research program that involves undergraduates, and serve the mission of the department and college. The positions are described in the linked position announcement and attached to this message. [http://www.calvin.edu/academics/departments-programs/biology/about/open-positions](http://www.calvin.edu/academics/departments-programs/biology/about/open-positions)

Free hot chocolate and tea during exams!

The Biology Department will be giving away hot chocolate and tea in the office from 8:30-4:00 every day during exam week. Anyone is welcome to stop by!

By Matthew Schepers