Announcements

2/14: Happy Valentine’s Day!
2/15: Social Innovation Collaborative Lunch with Prof. Gordon Bloom @ D-Entry Dining Room. 12:30 – 2:30
2/15: Lev Yoga @ Old Library. 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
2/17: Sherry Hour @ SCR. 5:00-6:00 p.m.
2/17: Lev Community Night @ D Hall. 5:30-7:00 p.m.
2/18: Old Library Luncheon @ JCR. 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
2/18: Chamber Music @ Masters’ Residence. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Person of the Week

Name: Mary Elizabeth Correia

What is your ethnic background?
My family is Irish, but I married a Portugese man, so that’s why my last name is Portugese.

Do you speak Portugese?
Yes, I’m fluent in Portuguese. I grew up in East Cambridge and my friends were Portugese, so I learned a little bit of the language just being around Portuguese people. I became fluent after I got married because my in-laws don’t speak English. I didn’t know that it be so usual at Harvard, where almost everyone is Portuguese.

How long have you been working in Leverett?
I’m going on 3 years now. I’m been at Harvard around 11 years. I did secretarial work before, but was tired of sitting down with computers and all that jazz. I wanted to work manually. One year, there was a job fair for Harvard, so I went, applied, got hired, and placed at Annenberg. I was there for about 8 years, but didn’t like it very much, so I transferred to Leveret. It’s a smaller place, so you get to know the names of the students. I love the students. I love to hear about all their trips and their studies. They have all the opportunities in the world; they’re not bogged down by anything.

What do you like to do for fun?
I love taking pictures. It helps me remember. When I look at a picture, I can think back and go, “Ooh, I remember being there and doing that”. My computer recently crashed, so I lost all my pictures. Starting with 2011, I’m going to put all the pictures I take into a physical album.

What do you like to watch on TV?
I love watching Criminal Minds; it’s probably the only show I watch. That and the news. I tape the news.

You tape the news?
(laughs) My daughter laughs at me. I don’t know how or why I started doing it, but I tape the news. I don’t tape all of the news, just the main things, such as the recent Egyptian riots. While I’m watching it, I tape it. I taped 9/11, the weather, everything. I have a huge collection of videocassettes. No one uses cassettes anymore, but I still have my video cassettes, tape cassettes and VCR.

Speaking of tape cassettes, what type of music do you like?
I only listen to Christian music. I used to love Elvis and the oldies, but right now, it’s all about my Christian music.

If you could retire today, what would you do?
If I had the money, I would just travel and go—I would be gone.
That Pre-Med Guy: Valentine’s Day Gift

I wanted my valentine to know how very special she is to me. I needed to get her the best gift ever, one that screamed, "I love you as much as much as hydrophilic compounds love water.”

Cards were too insubstantial. Flowers were too much of a hassle. Chocolate was too cliché. At first, I was considering giving her .001 points of my GPA, but then again, maybe not. I’ll give her my heart. Literally. I will grow her a petri dish of my heart cells using the stem cell biology I’ve learned.

So, I stole the necessary reagents. I planned out my protocol weeks in advance to allow for retries and troubleshooting. I successfully reprogrammed my skin cells into pluripotent stem cells and directed their differentiation into heart cells.

The beauties were sitting in the petri dish, palpitating and looking back up. to scrutinize the dish with an impassive expression, and looked back up.

“You’re such a pre-med,” she said.

“Yeah, I know,” I replied, blushing.

“I love you.”

Those words stopped my heart as well as the twitching on the petri dish.

Valentine’s Day Humor

A young woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it—only to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".

A guy walks into a post office one day to see a middle-aged, balding man standing at the counter methodically placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. He then takes out a perfume bottle and starts spraying scent all over them.

His curiosity getting the better of him, he goes up to the balding man and asks him what he is doing. The man says, "I'm sending out one thousand Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'

"But why?" asks the man.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replies.

Singles Awareness Day

“Singles Awareness (or Appreciation) Day” (SAD) is a humorous holiday celebrated on February 14 (although some prefer the 13th or the 15th to get away from the commercialism associated with the 14th). It serves as an alternative to Valentine’s Day for people who are single, that is, not involved in a romantic relationship. Some people who observe SAD do so out of spite for Valentine’s Day, as a Hallmark holiday, or for other reasons.

On Singles Awareness Day, single people gather to celebrate or to commiserate in their single status. Some want to remind romantic couples that they don’t need to be in a relationship to celebrate life.

Common activities during Singles Awareness Day include, single events, traveling, volunteering, treating oneself to popular activities, gathering of family and friends, and gift giving for oneself. On this day many people wear green, as it is considered to be the ‘opposite’ of red.

Valentine’s Day Trivia

Calling your Valentine? Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone on February 14th, 1876. The first record of a romantic reference to Valentine’s Day is attributed to Geoffrey Chaucer: “For this was Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.” (Parliament of Fowls)

Going sailing with your Valentine? Captain James Cook was killed by the native Hawaiians on his third trip to the archipelago on February 14th, 1779.

Pope Gelasius I replaced the pagan fertility holiday, the Festival of Juno Febru, celebrated from February 13th-14th with Saint Valentine’s Day.

Going to the lab with your Valentine? Sir Alexander Fleming unveiled penicillin to the world on February 14th, 1929 after he discovered mold contamination which killed all of a plate of bacteria.