



# All Things Ignatian



## CU Faculty Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Seminar is the main activity of the CU Faculty Mission and Identity Group (FMIG), which was founded in 2003 by a group of CU Faculty members who were inspired by their attending one of the Heartland Faculty Conversations. Eager to establish a permanent faculty development program on campus and with input from some 60 surveyed colleagues, a seminar style continuing education course was developed and offered for the first time in 2004. The Seminar has been offered every year since.

### The Program

The Seminar meets 10 Thursday evenings spread throughout the year. The program is devoted to the following themes:

- ❖ Introductory discussion with the CU President on Jesuit universities
- ❖ Ignatius and the Spiritual Exercises
- ❖ Jesuit spirituality and the concept of discernment
- ❖ A short history of the Jesuit order from its founding to present times
- ❖ Catholicity: Vatican II, Ex Corde, Arrupe and the "faith that does justice"
- ❖ The educational mission and the founding of the universities
- ❖ Ignatian pedagogy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- ❖ The mission of research and scholarship
- ❖ Presentation and discussion of participant generated projects.

Each evening typically consists of:

- ❖ A short welcome prayer or reflection by one of the participants
- ❖ A presentation by a CU or external expert on the theme of the day
- ❖ Q&A with the speaker
- ❖ Break with refreshments and informal conversation
- ❖ Discussion in small groups on the readings
- ❖ Plenary wrap-up
- ❖ A short closing prayer or reflection by one of the participants



*Opening session with President John Schlegel, SJ as guest speaker*

### Objectives & Outcomes

The 21<sup>st</sup> century presents a dramatic break with the past 450 years when Jesuit universities were Ignatian simply by virtue of their being run by Jesuits. The Seminar organizers have always been acutely aware that the task is momentous and truly novel: Preparing lay faculty members to assume responsibility for the Ignatian character of Creighton University, precisely as a university, as the number of Jesuit colleagues steadily decreases. To realize this objective, the Seminar is structured to:

- ❖ Foster sustained discussion among faculty members from all of Creighton's units, representing all disciplines, ranks, and faith backgrounds
- ❖ Provide attendees with expert yet applicable information about the history and spirituality of Jesuit universities
- ❖ Evoke creative thinking by the attendees about possibilities for operationalizing the Jesuit identity of CU in academic ventures

### Participants & Projects

There are now more than 100 alumni of the Seminar, representing all of Creighton's colleges and schools. Although the Seminar has been specifically designed to meet the needs of faculty members, it is open to other interested parties and a number of staff members and University Board members have already attended. As part of the Seminar, each attendee is also asked to develop his or her own project and describe it during one of the last two sessions. Past projects have included changes in courses, scholarly articles, chapters and books, research grants, revisions in administrative procedures, service learning projects, and new faculty development programs.

**Want More? Contact Jos Welie: [jwelie@creighton.edu](mailto:jwelie@creighton.edu)**



*Dr. Kirk Peck (Physical Therapy) presenting his insights on Jesuit pedagogy to the participants*