



# All Things Ignatian



## Physics Departmental Retreat

*Presented by the Creighton Physics Faculty, Staff, and Students*

*“The Physics Department is an integral part of the college of Arts and Sciences and Creighton University as a whole, and as such is committed to a quality liberal education in the Jesuit tradition. Through physics, the most fundamental of the natural sciences, we stimulate intellectual curiosity and develop the student's understanding of the world around us. Through classroom experiences, laboratory discovery activity and opportunities for research participation we guide the students towards a mastery of the skills and tools physicists use to address fundamental questions, foster the development of a logical approach to problem solving, and **aid the development of an ethical framework, both professionally and personally.** Through close personal attention we help students to develop confidence in their abilities.”*

-Creighton University Dept. of Physics Mission Statement

### What Students Say

“The retreat is a good way for the students and teachers to get to know each other better outside of the classroom environment.”

-Matthew Armbruster (Class of 2012)

“I look forward to the retreat each year because it's a chance to just relax and have fun for a couple days; physics can be a demanding major that requires a lot of work, but it's important to remember the importance of having fun as well.”

-Kristina Ward (Class of 2013)

“The physics retreat is a rarity on campus, and I think it's one of the main reasons for the rare sense of community also found in this department.”

-Samantha Swerdfeger (Class of 2012)



*Fr. Thomas McShane prepares for morning mass on the first morning of the retreat.*

*Photo Credit: Dr. T. Zepf, Professor Emeritus*

### About the Retreat

At the beginning of the spring semester, Physics students, faculty and staff leave town for a two-day retreat. We typically leave Creighton Thursday afternoon and cancel classes on the following Friday. The theme of the retreat is decided each year by the students, with the help of Dr. Michael Cherney and Fr. Larry Gillick. The retreat opens with a joint faculty and student body dinner. Activities then break for the undergraduate student skit which is written, directed, and casted entirely by the undergraduates. The second day of the retreat consists of discussions and reflections led by Fr. Gillick. There are usually invited speakers, and plenty of time for small group discussion. Various activities throughout the day highlight the theme while allowing the students and staff to interact as people, not as students and teachers. At the end of the day, we drive back to Creighton and eat dinner on campus.

The 2012 retreat will be held February 16-17. The theme of this year's retreat is: “I am who I am, who I was and who I will be”

Past Retreat Themes Include:

- Drafting and ratification of the Department Mission Statement
- Encountering prejudice
- “My problem with God is...”
- Science and religion
- “Why am I at Creighton?”
- Professional ethics
- History of the Jesuits
- Achieving a balanced lifestyle
- Creativity and Science



*Students collaborate to produce a skit presented to the faculty during the retreat's opening night.*

*Photo Credit: Dr. T. Zepf, Professor Emeritus*

*Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.*