



All Things Ignatian



Back To Where It All Began Creighton in Paris

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Each year since 1998, a group of Creighton University students travels to the birthplace of the Society of Jesus.

Most are unaware of this as they board their Paris-bound flights. Everyone knows Ignatius of Loyola was born in Spain. But as they deplane at the Charles de Gaulle airport, they are unwittingly following in his footsteps. Like Ignatius, they are embarking on a program of study and discovery in a city with a long tradition of intellectual and spiritual development.

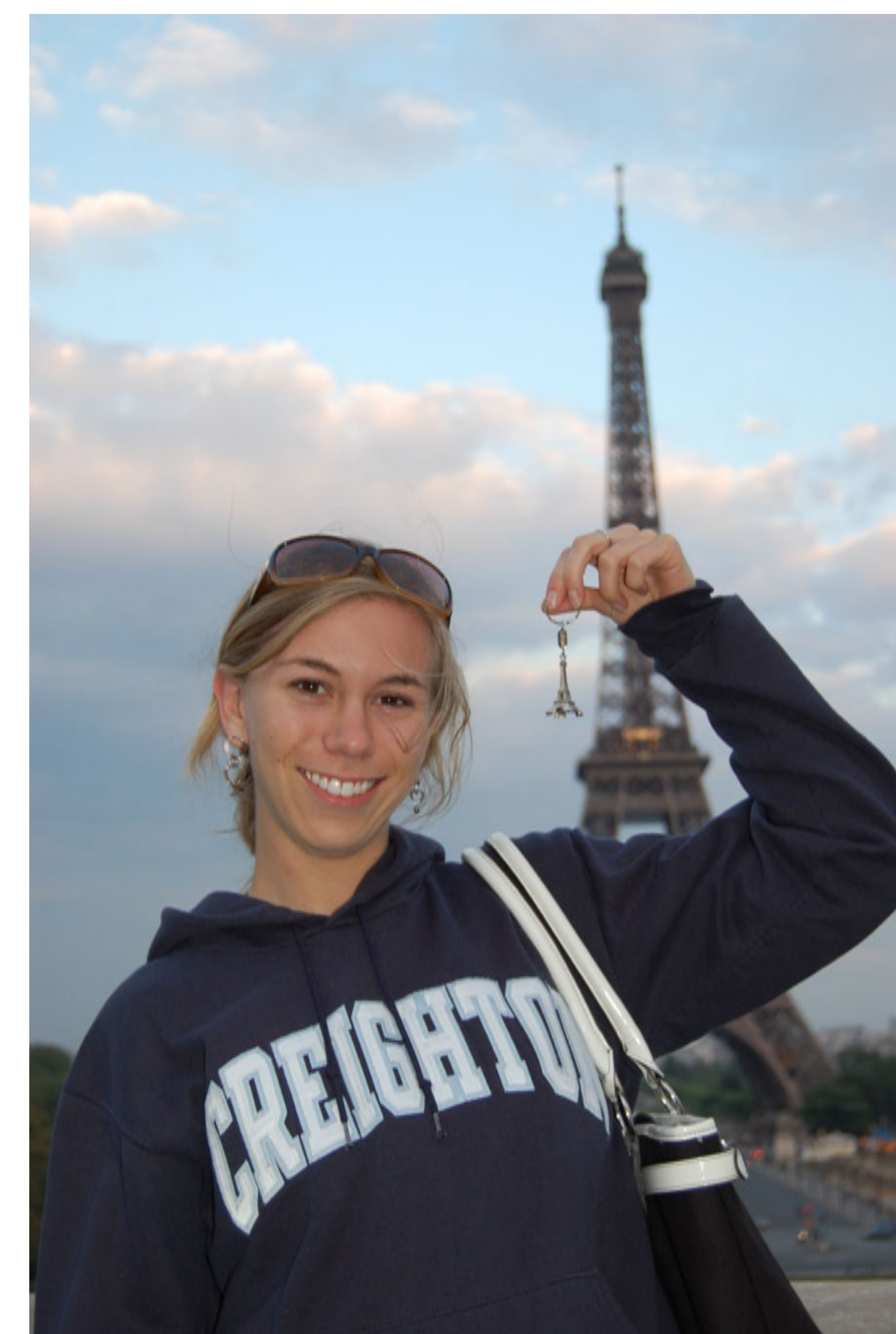
Ignatius of Loyola spent seven years in Paris during the period of great intellectual and religious upheaval that was the Renaissance. He began his studies at the Collège de Montaigu, where Erasmus of Rotterdam and Jean Calvin had studied, just two years after the departure of the latter. The years in Paris had a major impact on the life and learning of Ignatius. And, of course, it was while at the University of Paris that he met the six companions with whom he would found the new order that we know as the Jesuits. They made their solemn vows in August of 1534, on Montmartre.

...relating the present with the best of our past...

Bringing to life this critical element of the Mission Statement of the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, French 525 (*Paris: Ville du Monde*) is a FLPA (*Faculty-Led Program Abroad*) course that is offered during Creighton's three-week Summer Pre-session. Students are immersed in the history and culture of Paris through an intensive program of study, site visits, and walking tours. The course is taught on site at locations in and around Paris. The city is our classroom.



Jillian Phillips, Michael Thomson, Kelsey Theim, and Hannah Grave on Montmartre, 2009



CU student Sarah Norris at Trocadéro, 2008

Students learn about Gaul, the Roman invasions, and the Gallo-Roman culture that followed while seated in the *Arènes de Lutèce*, a 1st century Roman arena that was the site of theatrical productions and the combat of gladiators. We study the early Christian roots of Paris through the story of Saint Denis, whose Left-Bank preaching led to his martyrdom at the Roman Temple of Mercury, later renamed *Mons Martyrium* (Montmartre), in his honor. It is no coincidence that Ignatius chose this site to establish his order.

Broadening a student's perspective of the world...

Faithful to this important aspect of our department's Mission Statement, students gain a broader perspective on the modern world. They come to know well the many facets of Paris, from its Medieval, Renaissance, and Classical sites to places like *La Villette*, a revitalized quarter that blends the old and the new on a human scale, and the ultramodern *Défense* district, with its gleaming new skyscrapers and daring experiment in urban living.

Visits with Parisian families provide perspectives on what it is like to live in a thriving modern world capital.

A lecture by Algerian scholar Dr. Oussama Kharchi and a visit to the Grand Mosque of Paris as well as visits to quarters known for their thriving ethnic communities reveal the amazing diversity of modern Paris.

The Spirit of Creighton is very much alive in the city where the grand vision of Ignatius of Loyola first took form so many years ago.

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