



All Things Ignatian



The Physics Department Retreat

Presented by the Creighton Society of Physics 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 close personal attention we help students to develop confidence in their abilities.”

-Creighton University Department of Physics Mission Statement

The Physics Department Retreat is a two day event, held in the spring. At the retreat, students and faculty come together not only for meals, but also participate in discussion and reflection. The retreat theme is decided upon in advance with the help of Fr. Gillick, faculty, and students. Speakers, often from outside the Physics Department, are invited to reflect with us.

The Department Retreat opens with a joint faculty and student dinner, served by the faculty. After dinner, participants play ice breaker games to get to know each other better. Ice breakers are followed by reflection concerning some interdepartmental topic. Undergraduates then work on the student skit, which is performed the next morning.

Retreat Design

The Physics Retreat is a yearly event held at the Retreat Center in either Griswold, Iowa or Carol Joy Holling in Nebraska. Each year, a new theme is chosen by both the faculty and students. This theme is a topic relevant to today's world, and may pertain to either a social or scholastic issue.

Past themes include:

- Drafting and ratification of the Department Mission Statement
- Encountering prejudice
- “My problem with God is...”
 - Science and religion
 - Back to Basics
 - Professional ethics
- History of the Jesuits
- Creativity and Science

and the theme for the 2014 Department Retreat is “What is Progress?”



Physics Majors, 2012-2013

The second day of the Retreat is a day of reflection and discussion. Fr. Gillick and the invited speaker lead the group in a discussion about the Retreat theme. The invited speaker's talk is usually followed by personal reflections and group discussion.

Student and Faculty Comments

“The retreat is always a highlight of the spring semester. I particularly look forward every year to the skit that the students put on!”- Dr. Kyle Watters

“The retreat is a great way to get to know other students and faculty. It's the reason why the department feels so close.” – Erin Cheese, Class of 2015

“I really enjoyed the intellectual aspects of the retreat, as well as the social events.” – Ben Schmachtenberger, Class of 2015



Physics students and faculty brought items that symbolize some aspect of their life.
Photo credit: Adam Hester, Class of 2012

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