

Increase the average number of physics graduates to 10 by 2010 (*Ten by Ten*)

High Priority, multi-year tasks.

Establish performance-based physics.

This goal is repeated here since this initiative will have a positive impact on retention. Please see the description of this in [Turn up the Heat](#).

High Priority, 2004-2005 tasks

Expand and maintain an active and communicative department web site.

The web site is our primary interaction with the outside world. It also serves to foster active communication internally. Michael Rogers has done an outstanding job redesigning and updating the web site, which now finds continuous use by the whole IC Physics community.

Activate the physics club (Society of Physics Students).

Most strong physics departments have an active physics club for social interaction and service work (PKAL Workshop, June 2002 and SPIN-UP report of the American Institute of Physics). Our club was active in 2002-2003 but was not active in 2003-2004. Michael and Bruce plan to reactivate the club and the chapter of the Society of Physics Students in Fall 2004.

Update: The IC SPS Chapter has 4 officers and 15 members. SPS is organizing a trip to the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics, a robotics group, an outreach night to the Ithaca Science Center for Halloween, and several fund raising events. Read about current SPS activities on the [IC SPS Chapter's Web site](#).

Establish a majors room.

Most strong physics departments have a dedicated room for majors to study and socialize. This is sometimes called an SPS room. CNS 204 has served this purpose in the past but it has become more active as a teaching room and so has been less used by the students outside class. It may be possible to convert CNS 279 to this use.

Update: We have a plan to create a very nice SPS room, but we have put this plan on hold due to the knowledge that other programs are currently seeking space in CNS. If we proceed with our SPS room plans the space we create may be snatched by another program.

Maintain the physics seminar series, Physics Café, Ford open houses.

Inaugurated by Bruce in Spring 1998 and continued by Beth and Luke, the physics seminar series has brought monthly talks and activities (and more importantly pizza) to the students and faculty. Beth's Physics Café has been a great success at bringing physics to a broader audience and now needs funding. Ford Observatory open houses by Dan and others are always popular. We need to maintain momentum on all these fronts.

Update: We have a full schedule of excellent [seminar speakers](#). [Professor Rogers](#) is giving the Fall Physics Cafe presentation and we are working out the details for the spring speaker (and working with the Dean to have a line item included in our budget to continue the Cafe series), and SPS is hosting a Lunar Eclipse party.

Reassess and negotiate the guidelines for each field of the 3/2 program.

The 3/2 Physics-Engineering program has been a popular program for our physics majors. Our 3/2 agreements have been maintained most notably with Cornell. However, the engineering curriculum at Cornell has changed in recent years so detailed course schedules and correspondences need to be determined in each engineering discipline (EE, MechE, Civil and A&EP) so that students can complete both degrees in five years. Other schools participating are Clarkson, RPI and Binghamton University but we have not had any 3/2 students at those schools in recent years.

Update: Bruce Thompson and Beth Clark Joseph met with key members of the Cornell Mechanical Engineering 3-2 Program. The outcome of this meeting is a successful negotiation of the IC-Cornell Mechanical Engineering agreement. IC Physics students who go to Cornell of their engineering degrees have historically done very well in these programs and this new agreement ensures that IC students will continue to have the opportunity to excel in Cornell's engineering program.

Secondary priority, 2005-2006 tasks

Establish and/or communicate pathways to enter the major.

We need to enhance and communicate the paths by which the students can enter and complete the major.

Engage in summer advising and other admissions programs.

These are important recruitment activities and we should participate at each opportunity.

Ensure that the alumni are active in the department.

Alumni widen the physics community through contacts with industry and other academic institutions and can impact the current students by visiting Ithaca and by hosting student visitors at their locations. Contact must be maintained by timely e-mail newsletters, individual e-mails and phone calls and by visits by faculty to their locations.

Update: Steve Parshely (1998) recently gave a Physics Seminar about his research at the South Pole.

#### [Participate in the establishment the MAT program.](#)

The proposed Masters of Teaching program at IC can be accommodated in our curriculum with small changes. We will need to create or convert one new 3 credit course (advanced topics), two new 1 credit seminar courses (Seminar Series and Literature Review), and a graduate level advanced lab course. We intend to cooperate with Ed Cluett and the administration to create this program in the Physics Department.

Update: The MAT program in the Sciences is rapidly proceeding forward. The physics department has re-evaluated its program framework to place the physics framework in line with chemistry and biology while keeping the integrity of Physics. We have offered a Master's level advanced lab, quantum mechanics, and a special topics course. As we fulfill the goals set forth in our 5 year planning and assessment we anticipate offering a master's level courses in optics, and advanced topics.



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