

DO PHYSICS.

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UNC PHYSICS

Randy Martin wants to know everything. Physics is his ticket to get there.

"I have a desire to understand everything about everything" Martin said intensely. "I really want to know everything. I am very curious by nature. In other fields you observe and write it down and speculate why things happen. In physics, we observe things and do experiments and see why things happen."

Martin says it's one thing to think about Einstein's theory of special relativity, but it's another thing to see it and touch it. A turning bicycle wheel, displaying "angular momentum," he said, is just one example of how theories that most seem as mysterious and only for geniuses can manifest themselves into something understandable.

"When you go into the labs and see the stuff you've been studying in class and all the laws and actually observe them happening and see why it happens that way, that's what it's all about," Martin said. Martin ponders many of the "big questions" associated with physics theory. However, he seems to always bridge way back to practical applications.

"I think a lot about unified theory and string theory," Martin said. That would be the Holy Grail if we fundamentally understood those things," Martin said. "It could have implications as far as solving the energy crisis, quantum computing, we could maybe do space exploration better."

And then there's wormholes.

"If they exist it would allow us to reach further distances with time travel and it might be possible to go far distances in a short amount of time," Martin said. "And all of these things are examples of what fascinates me about physics - the stuff that doesn't matter right now, might matter a lot one day."

If you want to know what it takes to major in physics and talk to someone who has been there and done that, email Randy Martin at martirt@unc.edu.

And if you want a really different and unusual take on relativity and special relativity theory, check out:

<http://journeystarlight.blogspot.com/2007/07/relatively-weird-how-to-get-younger.html>

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