

**Dr. Peterson**

**Celebrating Teaching Day**

11 a.m. Thursday, March 15, 2012, Student Center Ballroom

Welcome, and thank you. In this room we have some of the most innovative and engaged teachers and mentors at Georgia Tech. We're glad you're here today for Celebrate Teaching Day, and we're very glad you're at Georgia Tech.

The projects on display in the poster session are very impressive. You have innovative ideas in everything from virtual labs to student collaboration and helping students become producers of knowledge. Those are exactly the types of things we want to explore as we work together to define the technological research university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Our first goal of the Strategic Plan is to be among the most highly respected technology-focused learning institutions of the world. To do that, we must enrich the student experience and innovate in instruction methods, course design, and curricula.

We are working to realize this goal through enhanced teaching methods, designing new courses like the X degree, and creating new opportunities for faculty/student interaction.

Just last August we opened the new Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons.

The resource teams housed there, including the CORE Help Desk, the Center for Academic Success, the Communication Center, the OIT Technology Support Center, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, and CETL have reported an impressive first semester of operation. Together these teams are helping to ensure that students are able to succeed in meeting their personal and career goals. From August through December there were approximately 1 million visits to the Clough Commons.

Here are a few additional statistics.

- Clough Commons had 10,000 group room bookings, or 70% utilization.  
(Personal example: stopping by at 1 in the morning with the AJC editor, talking with students)
- 19,000 hours of tutoring
- 400 courses met for 14,600 instructional hours
- It is allowing for more faculty-student interaction, and I'm sure many of you can testify to this.

Clough Commons is symbolic of the new path we're taking in education.

Because the Clough Commons is linked to the library both physically and intellectually, students are already benefitting from boundless resources in a common enterprise designed to enhance their undergraduate experience in a single location.

Who could predict the day would come that we would be archiving as many books as possible to make way for new technologies and to allow more space for collaborative learning and interaction with faculty?

We don't want to just transfer knowledge to students. We want interaction and collaboration. We want to create an innovative environment where student can learn, grow and excel, develop critical thinking skills.

As part of the process of preparing students to be innovators, we must set an example and utilize innovation in the way we prepare our students. The "Universities of the Future" will embrace both new technologies and teaching methods that expand their reach and maximize their effectiveness.

But the cornerstone is teaching. No matter how many resources you have, including the latest technology, you must have outstanding, committed faculty to make it work. What gets back to why we are here today: Celebrating you, and the commitment you have to Georgia Tech and to the success of your students.

Whether you're here because of the outstanding work you've done as a teaching fellow, graduate teaching fellow, or scholar, in course survey teaching, or as a Tech to Teaching Mentor—If you are the recipient of “thank a teacher” notes or excelled in CLOS scores from students, on behalf of Georgia Tech, thank you. You are the reason we enjoy a reputation of excellence, and you are shaping the future of our students.