

Dr. Peterson

Celebrating Teaching Day

12:10 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2013, Student Center Ballroom

Congratulations to all of the award recipients today — Class of 1969 Teaching Fellows, and Teaching Scholars, and the Hesburgh Fellows. I also want to add my congratulations to the SLIDER and GoSTEM Fellows, working in our K-12 system to help the next generation prepare for careers in STEM fields, and to the teachers who have received a “thank a teacher” certificate for making a difference in students’ lives.

Our faculty and graduate students are working hard to create environments that facilitate student learning - whether it is through improved curriculum, innovative instructional strategies, new technological tools, or other exciting materials. You are working from grade 8 through doctoral courses to improve our students' experiences and outcomes, and to help them succeed.

Our goal is to create an environment for student success, employing new teaching methods to meet changing expectations and needs.

As you know Georgia Tech has taken a leadership role in technology-enhanced education and in particular MOOCS. Since we announced we would participate in MOOCS last year, we have offered 11 courses and have had more than 310,000 students to sign up worldwide. The potential to reach students globally and offer convenient opportunities for lifetime learning is tremendous. That said, MOOCS are a tool, supplementing the campus environment, which remains the best laboratory for learning. And, we’re finding that we can learn from MOOCS.

Probably one of the more exciting aspects that has come out of MOOCS is the ability for professors to view, and learn from, the teaching methods of others around the world teaching the same courses. You might see a video introduced, or short segments of material followed by checks for online learning, or methods offered to engage students.

These are among the many things we can adapt to enhance the on-campus educational experience, blending the best of an in-person experience with the convenience of technology, including opportunities for in-person and virtual collaboration and discussion. And, many of you are already doing these things.

At Tech, we are preparing students to be leaders, in their careers, and in their communities. We have a reputation for academic excellence, and what you do every day is instrumental to success, for the students, and for the Institute. The hundreds of students you impact each year will graduate, and begin to make their mark on the world. Your influence will go with them, increasing your influence exponentially. Thank you for the extra effort and creativity that you put into your teaching at all levels. Thank you for your commitment to excellence. Today, we honor and celebrate you and your work.