

Dr. Peterson

Address to Students (Talks@Tech)

5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, Clough Commons

Topics to Include:

Glad to have the opportunity to talk with them as part of Talks@Tech. I am a fan of the series, and now I join the ranks of Bill Gates as one of your speakers.

I've been asked to share a bit about my college experience. (Possibly include: ME major at Kansas State, walk-on for football team, worked at a gas station, married Val during college, she was dorm mother for men's dorm, lots of jobs to pay for school, 2nd bachelor's in Math, Master's in ME, why you decided to get your Ph.D. Your journey to Georgia Tech.)

One of first things you did was to engage the Tech community in designing a 25-year strategic plan. Ask if any were here and involved, including discussing the plan in their classes. One of the goals of "Designing the Future" is to relentlessly pursue institutional effectiveness.

Since then, we have made solid progress in the implementation of each of these goals. Educational initiatives include new leadership programs and new teaching awards to recognize curriculum innovation, lab instruction, and co-curricular education.

We are revitalizing undergraduate education and placing a greater emphasis on service learning. In our quest to become the "innovation institute," we have had a dramatic increase in start-up creation, we offer more student-centered experiential opportunities in innovation, and have enhanced our industry outreach.

Very smart people working on the plan, but no one envisioned MOOCs. A way to reach a global audience. Also helping to improve on-campus learning. We are a leader in this.

Initiatives to improve institutional effectiveness include the development of the Disabilities and Access Committee, the Mental Health Task Force, and the Family Friendly Task Force.

Launched in conjunction with the Strategic Plan was the public phase of Campaign Georgia Tech. May have seen philanthropy at work signs around campus. Future of student center (role of philanthropy, role of philanthropy on Clough Commons as an example).

Tuition: Students have increased their cost-sharing. State support declining. Our tuition is still below our peer institutions. Value of their education.

Sample questions:

- What's your favorite building on campus, and why?
- How many gold ties do you own?
- What is your favorite Georgia Tech tradition?
- What's one part of your job a student would be surprised to hear you do? (Reading to children?)
- Where do you keep the goal post that student brought to your front door after the VT game in 2009?
- What's the good word? (Maybe it should be "We're at Georgia Tech. We can do that.")