

## Georgia Tech Professor successfully mixes science with humor

**Rick Limpert**

Atlanta Gadgets Examiner

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If you didn't think a science lecture on chemistry or biomolecular engineering couldn't be fun or edgy, you haven't met Georgia Tech Professor Dr. Pete Ludovice.

With a Ph.D. from MIT and additional studies at NASA on his resume, Dr. Ludovice believes that the average person on the street is interested in science and technology, but they like their education with a dose of humor and funny stories to go along with it.

"If you can tell some jokes or an interesting story to go along with the lecture, people are more likely to remember it," offers up Dr. Ludovice.



Dr. Pete is bringing science to the masses. (Photo by Jordan Fink)

Today, the closest most people who aren't currently in school come to science is watching an episode of the popular television show "The Big Bang Theory" or checking out what Adam and Jamie are up to on "Mythbusters."

I asked Dr. Ludovice if these shows help promote science or do they cause a backlash and give comedians the material they desire to make fun of geeks?

"The answer is, I don't know," states Ludovice. "Scientists and engineers are actually much funnier than people realize, but comedians are much smarter than people think." It's a delicate balance that this professor feels he has figured out.

Dr. Ludovice started doing comedy as a hobby, but soon realized that for some audiences, he could put some of the material in his lectures.

"You really have to know your audience," says the Georgia Tech Professor.

He found out that an audience of scientists might not take what he is saying seriously if he interjects the humor. Other times, groups of students or science novices will really appreciate the humor and stories.

"Other scientists that attempted this faced criticism from colleagues," stated Ludovice. You could say Ludovice is "boldly going where no man has gone before."

To reach the masses, Dr. Ludovice has taken his lecture called "Feel the Power of the Dork Side" on the road to tell the masses that science can be funny.

"It's a show that both nerds, and those without a technical degree will enjoy."

Ludovice says it's true that many kids today are struggling with math and science, and he says the media is partly to blame.

"The corporate media wants ratings and they think that means the general public isn't interested in science or technology," says Ludovice. "The right show, done the right way, will get ratings."

Dr. Peter believes the average American needs more exposure to the sciences, and with or without a lightsaber in hand, he's going to make sure that happens.

A for now, Dr. Pete's mission is to get people to "embrace the Dork Side" with upcoming performances in San Francisco, Chicago, and around the South.

Dr. Ludovice frequently performs in and around Atlanta. He also hosts a weekly program, "Inside the Black Box, covering science and technology every Sunday. from noon to 1pm on WREK 91.1FM in Atlanta.

Put away you slide rule and bunsen burner and go can visit his website here:  
<http://www.drpetecomedy.com/>