Olin Lecture by Tom Peters ’64

Friday, June 11, 3 p.m. Bailey Hall.
Described by some as the “uber-guru” of management and inventor of the thriving “management guru industry,” Tom Peters ’64 has been one of the most widely respected analysts of business management practices since his book "In Search of Excellence" was first published in 1982. One of the best selling and most widely read books on business ever, "In Search of Excellence" (co-authored with Robert H. Waterman) was honored by National Public Radio in 1999 as one of the "Top Three Business Books of the Century" --and ranked as the "greatest business book of all time" in a poll by Britain's Bloomsbury Publishing.

Peters followed "Search" with more than a dozen international bestsellers, including "A Passion for Excellence" (co-authored with Nancy Austin), "Thriving on Chaos," "The Circle of Innovation", and "Re-Imagine!Business Excellence in a Disruptive Age." His most recent book, "The Little Big Things: 163 Ways to Pursue Excellence," was published in March. In addition to writing, Peters presents about 50 seminars a year all over the world. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Cornell, he received an MBA and a doctorate from Stanford University. Peters has been a partner at McKinsey & Co., and spent four years on active duty in the U.S. Navy (including two tours in Vietnam).

Peters and his family live on a farm in Vermont. The Olin Lecture was established at Cornell in 1986 through a generous gift from the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Foundation.

Each year, the Olin Lecture brings to campus an internationally prominent speaker to address a topic relevant to higher education and the current world situation. The lecture is free and open to the public.