J. Robert Rossman Tree Dedication
August 31, 2006

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy day to attend this dedication. Today we gather to dedicate a tree in honor of Dean J. Robert Rossman. As you know, Bob is retiring today after nine years as Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology.

Tree planting ceremonies are age-old rituals, spanning many different cultures. Putting a healthy, young tree in the ground benefits everyone in this generation and future generations and is, perhaps, the most fitting honor we can give to a person. So it is on behalf of the entire College that we dedicate this tree in honor of Dean Rossman. Planting this tree is an act of direct benefit to everyone and a wonderful addition to the Fell Arboretum. It can inspire those who pass through its shade and carry forward the name of the person honored in a living, vital way that grows more grand with each passing year.

Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying “Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.” And so too was Dean Rossman the “real thing.” His leadership and steadfast advocacy for CAST will not
be forgotten. We selected a **Bald Cypress** to honor Dean Rossman because that tree is a hardy species and one that will endure long after we're gone.

Now, we dedicate this tree in Bob's honor for his years of dedication and service to the College. Today's ceremony assumes a highly symbolic significance and relevance: this tree will grow to remind all of us here, as well as others to come, of the flourishing seeds of wisdom and leadership that Bob has generously spread during his tenure at ISU.

I hope when each one of you visit Turner Hall and pass by this tree, you'll stop and think a moment about Bob and his career and what he meant to our College. May his inspiration to CAST continue. Thank you.