Dr. Peterson
Welcome: Tech Beautification Day 2015
8 a.m. Saturday, March 28, 2015, Kessler Campanile

Good morning, and welcome to Tech Beautification Day. This event is an amazing example of the public-spiritedness of the Georgia Tech community. We typically have more than a thousand volunteers who give up their Saturday morning to come out and make an already beautiful campus even more so.

Today will be a demonstration of environmental stewardship at its finest, and we thank you for caring enough to come. Georgia Tech's prime mission is educational, but the surroundings in which we live and learn affect our state of mind and spirit, so the work you will do today will enhance the experience of everyone who comes on campus.

You might have noticed that we're doing some renovation to Harrison Square, which is located within the Cherry Street corridor in the historic section of our campus. In addition to improved convenience moving through the area once we're done, there will be positive environmental impact such as better storm-water management and tree-canopy preservation.

One thing that people new to our campus often comment about is how many trees we have, even though we're located in one of the nation's great urban areas. A couple of years ago, our landscaping team inventoried our campus and discovered that Georgia Tech has close to 12,000 trees. For six straight years, Georgia Tech has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA university. We hope that we'll get No. 7 toward the end of April.

A show of hands, please. How many of you know what Serve-Learn-Sustain is? I'll be brief, but today is an appropriate occasion to tell you a little about it. Serve-Learn-Sustain is our new Institute-wide Quality Enhancement Plan. We officially introduced it early this month. The QEP is a required component of our reaccreditation, which we

have to go through every 10 years. We're now in the final stages of that rigorous process.

I encourage you to go online and learn a little more about Serve-Learn-Sustain. Today, as we go about beautifying our campus, we'll hit all three benchmarks. Our faculty, staff and students all helped devise Serve-Learn-Sustain, and its concepts are already imbedded in the Georgia Tech ethos. Tech Beautification Day is a prime example of those values.

Thank you very much for your willing spirit to keep the Georgia Tech campus as a place we can all be proud of. We hope you have a great day of service and that you'll have so much fun that you come back next year. Now go and enjoy Tech Beautification Day!