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The 1996-97 academic year was one of success and achievement for Ball State students and the university as a whole. Substantial progress was made toward our goal to be a premier teaching university.

The students we serve come to us with a tremendous range of abilities, preparation, motivation, and a variety of goals and plans for the future. Publications such as U.S. News and World Report simply are unable to identify the value we add to their knowledge, skills, and maturity. Many of the challenges we face stem from this assortment of abilities and aspirations, but the challenges are manageable. Here is a partial list:

- first, increase retention;
- second, encourage the entire university to give more emphasis to diversity;
- third, take advantage of Ball State's extraordinary technological infrastructure and faculty expertise in using technology to enhance teaching and learning;
- fourth, promote the university and the outstanding work of our faculty and inform our various constituencies about the quality of a Ball State education and the opportunities for students here;
- and finally, move forward with the planning for a major fund-raising campaign to support scholarships, academic programs, and facilities.

In the future, if we are to have funds for new programs, quality improvements, and higher than average salary increases, we must find the money within our current budget or raise funds from the private sector.

An example of this public/private partnership is the $3 million gift from the Lilly Endowment to support Freshman Connections— a program designed to give new students an opportunity to be a member of a learning community of about 100 students. Our aim is to give entering freshmen the sense that they need not attempt to interact with the entire class of 4,000. Rather, they will become part of a more manageable-sized group, sharing some classes, study, and social time together.

All our freshmen can perform satisfactory college work if they recognize that learning requires their active engagement in the process.

We also must increase our efforts to encourage diversity because our graduates will spend their lives in a society that is changing rapidly. If the Earth's population today could be shrunk to a village of one hundred people there would be fifty-seven Asians, twenty-one Europeans, fourteen North and South Americans, and eight Africans. Seventy would be non-white and seventy would be non-Christian; fifty percent of the village's wealth would be in the hands of six people—all six of whom would be Americans. Seventy people would be unable to read or write, fifty would suffer from malnutrition and eighty would live in substandard housing. Only one would have a college degree.

The United States still is the closest thing the world has to a multicultural society. Universities have an obligation to prepare graduates for this society if the nation is to prosper. My hope is that Ball State University graduates will leave here recognizing the value of diversity and respecting the strengths and creativity of all people—especially those from different backgrounds and cultures.

Our faculty and staff are committed to continue the tradition of excellent teaching that has characterized Ball State for seventy-nine years and to continue preparing our students for the world that awaits them.

John E. Worthen
1996-97 Highlights

Although it does not appear in the highlights, it is important to note that each day outstanding faculty in 50 departments and seven colleges effectively teach thousands of undergraduates and graduates, conduct significant research, and perform valuable public service throughout the state; the student affairs staff and other support personnel help students develop leadership and social skills critical to becoming good citizens. These daily activities represent the core work of the university—work that is performed exceptionally well at Ball State University.

KOREAN MAGAZINE FEATURES
BALL STATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
The university's successful use of technology to enhance teaching and learning gains international attention in the cover story of a magazine for Korean business leaders. Ball State President John E. Worthen is the first American to appear on the cover of the magazine.

August

NATIONAL SURVEY FINDS
UNIVERSITY "FAMILY FRIENDLY"
Ball State is among only 29 universities nationwide identified as a "family friendly" institution. The College and University Personnel Association selects Ball State for its policies and procedures that help faculty and staff balance the pressures of work and family.

October

STUDENT NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE WIN TOP AWARDS
Two student publications, the Ball State Daily News and IF Magazine win Pacemaker Awards—equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize of college journalism—at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisers national convention.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY RECOGNIZED
The Indiana Economic Development Academy at Ball State is honored with the National University Continuing Education Association's Celebration of Excellence Award. The academy is recognized for its continuing education program entitled "Building Sustaining Communities."

December

FOUNDATION ASSETS REACH A RECORD $69.6 MILLION
Based on market value, the Ball State University Foundation closes the fiscal year with a record $69.6 million in assets. Investments grew more than 18 percent from the previous year, and the foundation took in 32,065 gifts worth $6.3 million in 1996.
**January**

**Two Faculty Members Named Best College Teachers in Nation**
The American Historical Association presents history Professor John R. Barber the Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award. A few weeks later the Society of College Science Teaching presents its Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teaching Award to biology Professor Jon Hendrix.

**New Center to Teach Entrepreneurs Throughout Midwest**
The Midwest Entrepreneurial Education Center of Indianapolis announces it is moving to Muncie to join with the Ball State Institute for Entrepreneurship, creating a single center to enhance the Midwest's fast-growing small business sector.

**March**

**Award Recognizes Excellence in Leadership**
Ball State's initiative to develop student leaders receives the Innovative Program Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

**February**

**McKinley Award Recognizes Excellence in Leadership**
Ball State’s initiative to develop student leaders receives the Innovative Program Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

**May**

**Faculty Member Honored for Technology Education**
James J. Kirkwood, professor of industry and technology is named the Distinguished Technology Educator of the Year by the International Technology Education Association.

**Nearly 2,000 Degrees Awarded at Spring Commencement**
More than 10,000 family and friends gather on the Arts Terrace under bright blue skies as degrees are presented to nearly 2,000 spring graduates. Honorary degrees are awarded to renowned jazz musician Ellis Marsalis, former Indiana Congressman Phil Sharp, and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed.

**JULY**

**Lilly Endowment Funds Major Retention Effort**
The Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis awards Ball State $3 million for a program aimed at encouraging students to remain in school through completion of their baccalaureate degrees. The cornerstone of the program, "Freshman Connections," begins in the fall and links living and learning experiences for more than 3,000 entering freshmen.

**June**

**USA Today Founder Speaks at College Inaugural Ceremonies**
Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today newspaper and now chairman of the Freedom Foundation, delivers the inaugural address for the new College of Communication, Information, and Media.

**International Scholar Accepts Ball Chair in Telecommunications**
Broadcasting executive Richard J. Meyer, who spent the last year as a Fulbright Scholar teaching and studying Chinese film in Taiwan, accepts the Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Chair in Telecommunications.

**Indiana Academy Instructor Wins National Honor**
Thomas Adams, a science teacher at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities is named one of 100 Tandy Technology Scholars in the nation.
Faculty Service Awards

Joan E. Schreiber,
Professor of History
Outstanding Faculty Service

Darrell L. Butler,
Professor of Psychological Science
Outstanding Faculty

David R. Pearson,
Assistant Professor of Physical Education
Outstanding Junior Faculty

Ann L. Talley,
Director of Residence Halls and Dining Services
Outstanding Administrative Service

Nancy Behforouz,
Professor of Biology
Outstanding Faculty Academic Adviser

George W. Wolfe,
Associate Professor of Music Performance
Outstanding Creative Endeavor

Gale Gehlsen,
Professor of Physical Education
Outstanding Research

Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.