On Wednesday, April 12, 2006 librarians, technologists, attorneys, administrators, and media specialists from Indiana and eight surrounding states visited the Ball State campus for the third annual copyright conference, “Copyright Challenges and Opportunities.”

Hosted by the University Libraries and chaired by Dr. Fritz Dolak, Manager of the Copyright and Intellectual Property Office, more than 125 individuals gained insights on a variety of intellectual property topics, such as orphan works, digital licensing, the top ten digital legal issues facing educational institutions, Google, Fair Use, and more.

Dr. O’Neal Smitherman, Ball State University’s Vice President for Information Technology and Executive Assistant to the President, welcomed attendees and set the conference’s tone and agenda. In his comments, he highlighted our need to understand the importance of owner’s intellectual property rights as well as those of the users of intellectual property in the Digital Age.

Diane Norton, Wabash College’s Music Librarian, commented that the conference was “… truly one of the most well-organized, interesting, and informative conferences I have ever attended. Your speakers were stellar and explored a lot of material.” Diane will use the new information she gained from the conference to develop standard intellectual property guidelines for faculty at Wabash College.

The nationally-known speakers were:

- Jule Sigall, J.D., Associate Register for Policy and International Affairs at the U.S. Copyright Office in Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Kenneth Crews, J.D., Indiana University
- Dwayne Buttler, J.D., University of Louisville
- Kevin Smith, J.D., Duke University,
- Michelle Cooper, J.D., Indianapolis law firm of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP

At the close of the conference attendees had the opportunity to ask questions from a panel of four intellectual property lawyers in an open
microphone, open forum session. Barry Umansky, J.D., a professor in the Department of Telecommunications at BSU and representing Ball State University’s Digital Policy Institute, moderated the panel.

Before the start of the Conference program and during the welcome the Chair, Fritz Dolak, was recognized by Vice President Don Park of University Advancement. In speaking eloquently about Fritz, Dr. Park cited three reasons for recognizing Fritz:

- His substantial and creative work in promoting Ball State University by bringing copyright and intellectual property issues to the forefront
- His educational role in copyright and intellectual property on and off campus
- His role in organizing the Copyright Conference each year

Vice President Park commented that organizing a conference is far beyond an 8 to 5 job, and he expressed his personal thanks for Fritz’s work on the three annual copyright and intellectual property conferences that Fritz had organized. Dr. Park also commented on Fritz bringing recognition to Ball State University as a state leader in teaching students and creating awareness for faculty about copyright and intellectual property law and issues.

For additional information about the annual Ball State University Copyright Conferences held each April and for any questions about copyright or intellectual property issues at Ball State University, please contact:

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And please visit the Copyright Office Homepage:
http://www.bsu.edu/library/collections/copyright/