STATEMENT OF SUCCESS
BALL STATE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
MILLER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Dear alumni and friends,

Again, we have raised the bar and reached a new level of success. This year, we were ranked sixth in the nation among similarly sized programs by *The Public Accounting Report*. It is my distinct pleasure to share with you some of the other accomplishments of our creative students and expert faculty in the Department of Accounting.

- Our Beta Alpha Psi chapter cohosted a regional meeting and earned national recognition.
- Gwendolen White, associate professor, led immersive learning projects that gave our accounting students real-world experience.
- We welcomed three new faculty members, who are excited about the opportunity to teach at Ball State.
- Accounting alumni were well represented at the 10th annual Miller College of Business Alumni Awards.

As you read more about the achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni, I invite you to share your career news and industry honors with us. Please visit us at [bsu.edu/accounting](http://bsu.edu/accounting) and access our alumni and friends page for news. You will find various ways to be engaged with our department and to support us.

Mark J. Myring
Chairperson, Department of Accounting
Ball State University

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**“We have raised the bar and reached a new level of success.”**

ACCOUNTING PROGRAM RANKED IN TOP 10

Each year, *The Public Accounting Report* conducts a survey of nearly 200 accounting professors to rank the nation’s top accounting programs. Ball State University’s undergraduate accounting program was ranked sixth in the nation among similarly sized programs. This ranking was higher than many well-regarded programs. In addition, our undergraduate accounting program was tied for 44th in the nation among nearly 900 undergraduate accounting programs. Our master of science program was ranked sixth in the nation among similarly sized programs and 43rd in the nation among more than 500 graduate accounting programs. These recognitions reflect the dedication of the accounting faculty in providing a high-quality educational experience for our students.

BETA ALPHA PSI COHOSTS MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING, WINS BEST PRACTICES COMPETITION

“Being able to help host the regional meeting gave me hands-on experience with how to facilitate large conferences and coordinate a group of students during an event. Through this experience, I learned that teamwork and communication are essential to accomplishing any large task.”

—Tom Reese, MS ’13
Past Beta Alpha Psi President

Members of Beta Alpha Psi traveled to Chicago the weekend of April 5 to serve as cohosts of the annual Midwest Regional Meeting. More than 300 student and faculty participants from more than 40 colleges and universities attended. Our students represented the Department of Accounting and Ball State exceptionally well.

During the meeting, students Jack Allgood, Adam Schaffer, and Tom Reese participated in the best practices competition. The competition focused on activities that exemplify the spirit and purpose of Beta Alpha Psi and provide a model for other chapters. This year’s focus of the competition was on methods of enhancing writing skills for accounting students. Our team finished first for the second year in a row, received a prize of $500, and was given the opportunity to compete at the national meeting.
In fall 2013, White continued the sustainability reporting tradition by mentoring another team, which included four accounting graduate students, to prepare Ball State’s fourth annual sustainability report. Among the first to use the new GRI G4 sustainability reporting guidelines, our students are on the cutting-edge of sustainability reporting.

"This immersive project proved that sustainability is a growing field, and entities are making efforts to make their operations more sustainable. Our team was able to take what we learned in the classroom and apply it to create something useful for an entire city."
—Lauren Jennings, ’13

Gwendolen White, associate professor of accounting, has become a champion of immersive learning at Ball State. She has led several student groups to prepare Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) sustainability reports. Undergraduate and graduate students team up to acquire experience that puts their work on par with what has become mainstream reporting among the largest 250 companies in the world.

Accounting students are able to report, measure and compare data that help an organization be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. These quantifiable outcomes give the organizations a snapshot of how they are performing based on set measurements. This real-world application is excellent for the accounting students as they are seen as advisors for companies in preparing for audits and abiding by regulations.

"I had the opportunity to explore almost every aspect in which a city government contributes to sustainability and how it improves performance year to year."
—Anqi Fang, ’13

In fall 2012, four graduate accounting students were an integral part of White’s immersive learning team that prepared Ball State’s third annual GRI sustainability report, which is used both by Ball State and external groups. For example, the university submitted its 2012 GRI report as evidence of progress in sustainability-related activities when it joined the International Sustainable Campus Network in the summer of 2013. The ISOS Group, an international sustainability consultancy, uses the reports in its nationally certified GRI training seminars to illustrate high quality GRI reporting by a university. These reports are known not only for their quality but also for their references to related reports, such as those from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

In spring 2013, 10 Ball State students collaborated with students from Indiana University, Sustainability Dashboard Tools Inc., and the Bloomington Committee on Sustainability (BCOS), to prepare the city’s first GRI sustainability report. The Ball State team included eight of our graduate accounting students. All were interested in sustainability reporting and connected through networking at sustainability conferences. Cynthia Schultz, chief operating officer of Sustainability Dashboard Tools, donated use of the company’s dashboard tool to the city of Bloomington to help prepare the report.

"The GRI sustainability report enables City Hall to evaluate its economic, environmental, and social impacts. It provides a baseline to set targets for improvement, and it has the potential to reduce operating costs.”
—Jeff Jewel, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

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Choosing the PhD Path

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Passion for Teaching

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Below and right: Spring 2013 immersive learning group

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Reflections from Greg Arnott

What is your current position, and what are your job responsibilities?
I am currently the regional accounting and auditing director for the East Region of BKD, which includes Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Bloomington, Evansville, Louisville, Bowling Green (Kentucky), Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Erie (Pennsylvania). I have overall responsibility for our accounting and auditing practice in these offices. That includes being a technical resource, reviewing consultations on various audit or accounting issues, conducting training on technical topics and performing engagement quality reviews for Security Exchange Commission (SEC) registrants and other higher risk engagements. I am also a member of the firm’s national accounting and audit committee that evaluates and sets firm policies in this area.

What is your favorite memory from your academic career at Ball State?
There are many, I have memories of the great professors I had; Paul Parkison, George Hanks, Terry Arndt, Bob Barnhart, and Lucinda Van Alst—among many others. They challenged us. Because of their high standards, I learned to always do my best work. I felt like all of these professors knew me and I could, and often did, sit down and discuss questions with them. I even remember when I had my individual tax final at 8 a.m., and I had overslept. Around 8:10, my dorm room phone rang, and it was Robert Walker calling to see if I was OK, since I rarely missed class.

How well did your Ball State education prepare you for your career?
Very well. The education I received at Ball State was much broader than the classroom learning. At Ball State, I also had the opportunity to hold leadership positions in campus organizations such as Accounting Club (this was before Beta Alpha Psi) and Delta Sigma Pi that were probably as valuable to my development as what I learned in class.

How have you remained engaged with Ball State and the Department of Accounting?
The first year after I graduated from Ball State I became involved in our campus recruiting at Ball State. I have made several presentations to Beta Alpha Psi and Dialogue Days. James Schnutte, an accounting professor, honored me when he asked me to be a charter member of the Accounting Advisory Council. I was the first president of the group.

I was honored in 2010 by receiving an Award of Distinction from the Miller College of Business. I have also had the honor to speak at the Miller College Scholarship Recognition Brunch.

Do you have any other thoughts about your Ball State educational experience that you would like to share?
My Ball State experience is a very fond memory during a great part of my life. It was the right place for me to go to college. Several people in my family have gone to Ball State, including my father and two of my children. In fact, I was born in Ball Memorial Hospital while my father was a student at Ball State. So, I guess you could say I have Ball State in my blood.

The Miller College of Business hosted its 10th annual Alumni Awards this past fall. Four accounting alumni were honored:
• E. Renae Conley, ‘80 MBA ’82 (Entergy Corporation), received the Hall of Fame Award.
• Mark Hardwick, ‘93 MBA ’99 (First Merchants Corporation), received an Award of Distinction.
• Tim Wheeler, ’76 (Jockey International Inc.), received an Award of Distinction.
• Lisa Green, ’80 (Roche Diagnostics Corporation), received an Award of Achievement.

The Department of Accounting hosted the fourth annual Alumni Awards Dinner in April to honor some of our exceptional alumni. This year, 10 alumni awards were given:
• Tony Smith, ’68 (retired, Ernst and Young), received a Lifetime Achievement Award.
• George Baccash, ’76 (PricewaterhouseCoopers), Mike Ray, ’83 (Vera Bradley), and David Charles, ’79 (KSM), received Awards of Excellence.
• Travis Chamberlain, ’98 (CliftonLarsonAllen), John Scudder, ’99 (Jones Day), and Richard Wittgren, ’96 (BKD), received Emerging Leader Awards.
• Brian Dingman, ’04 (London Witte & Company LLP), George “Bud” Graessle, ’05 MS ’06 (PricewaterhouseCoopers), and Megan Reed, ’05 (Deloitte), received 3 Under 30 Awards.

At the university’s Alumni and Benefactors Recognition Dinner, Joseph Schroeder, ‘03 MS ‘04 (Indiana University), was honored with a Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award.

You are invited to attend our fifth annual Accounting Alumni Awards Dinner, April 28, 2014, on the Ball State campus. Nominate an alum, RSVP, or learn how you can be a sponsor for the celebratory event at bsu.edu/accounting.
CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE BALL STATE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

The Department of Accounting strives to provide the finest quality education to our students. Gifts from alumni and friends help us achieve this goal. We are deeply grateful for the support we have received. Gifts to the department can be made at bsu.edu/give.

If you would like your contribution directed to the department general fund, please designate the Department of Accounting. Gifts can also be mailed to:

Ball State University Foundation  
P.O. Box 672  
Muncie, IN 47308