BALL STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD

A. NOMINATIONS

- Candidates for the Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award may be nominated by any member of the graduate faculty at Ball State University.
- 2. Dissertations completed after the submission deadline for the previous year [March 1, 2005] are eligible for consideration.
- 3. Nominations are made to the Doctoral Program Director in the student's major field of study.
- 4. Nominations must be supported by three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the dissertation chairperson, at least one from a dissertation committee member, and another from either a committee member or from a graduate faculty member who is well-acquainted with the nominee's dissertation research. The letters of recommendation must address but are not limited to the
 - a) originality of the research,
 - b) significance of the problem in terms of its contribution to knowledge and,
 - c) its potential for publication.
- 5. Departments will be asked to submit the name of an individual who is <u>not</u> on the student's dissertation committee but who is familiar with the content area and would be willing to serve as an evaluator for this award.
- 6. The nominee will provide five (5) copies of the final, approved dissertation, one of which will be retained by the Graduate School. The others will be returned to the nominee following the competition.

- 7. The letters of recommendation and the copies of the dissertation will be assembled and reviewed by the doctoral program director and, if approved, forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School by March 1.
- 8. No more than one dissertation may be nominated from the same department, even if the students graduated during different calendar years.

B. SELECTION

- The letters of recommendation and the dissertation will be reviewed by subcommittee of the Graduate Education Committee, selected and chaired by the Graduate Dean or designate. Readers outside the University or the GEC may be used, if necessary, to provide the relevant expertise.
- 2. Selection of the distinguished dissertation will be based on the originality of the research, the significance of the problem in terms of its contribution to knowledge, the quality of the writing, and the potential for publication.
- 3. The Committee reserves the right not to make an award if, it its judgment, no dissertation submitted meets the selection criteria as stated in B-2 above.

C. AWARD CEREMONY

A brief ceremony will be held to include the following:

- 1. Opening remarks and introduction of guests
- 2. Comments from dissertation chairperson
- 3. Introduction of award recipient who will make a 10-15 minute presentation of the research and respond to questions.
 - a) \$800 check
 - b) Commemorative plaque
- 4. Presentation of a plaque to dissertation chairperson

The annual Distinguished Dissertation Award is supported through the generosity of the Ball State University Alumni Association.