BALL STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED THESIS AWARD

A. NOMINATIONS

- Any member of the graduate faculty at Ball State University may nominate candidates for the Alumni Association Distinguished Thesis Award.
- 2. Theses completed between October 1 of the previous year and September 30 of the current year are eligible for consideration.
- 3. Nominations are made to the Master's 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 thesis chairperson, at least one from a thesis committee member, and another from either a committee member or from a graduate faculty member who is well-acquainted with the nominee's thesis 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 thesis 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 four (4) copies of the final, approved thesis, 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 thesis will be assembled and reviewed by the thesis program director and, if approved, forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School by October 1.
- 8. No more than one thesis may be nominated from the same program, even if the students graduated during different calendar years.

B. SELECTION

- The letters of recommendation and the thesis will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Graduate Education Committee. Readers outside the University or the GEC may be used, if necessary, to provide the relevant expertise.
- 2. Selection of the distinguished thesis 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 thesis 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 thesis chairperson
- 3. Introduction of award recipient who will make a 10-15 minute presentation of the research and respond to questions.
 - a) \$400 check
 - b) Commemorative plaque
- 4. Presentation of a plaque to thesis chairperson

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