

started the Center for Teaching Technology to help faculty use this new tool to enhance their instruction. During the past ten years, Ball State has spent eighty million dollars on renovations that have added computer labs, put Internet access in every residence hall room, and wired every classroom to an interactive fiber-optic multimedia network. The university now has a student-to-computer ratio of thirteen-to-one, one of the lowest in the country. This year Yahoo! Internet Life magazine ranked Ball State among the top twenty in its annual survey of "most wired" universities. These technological capabilities have made Ball State a national leader in distance education. The Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System has enabled Indiana students to take advanced placement courses—courses they would otherwise not have access to—that are broadcast from Ball State's "Indiana Academy," a school for gifted and talented students. Ball State offers an M.B.A. by distance education and offers nurses the opportunity to complete degree programs online.

President Worthen's education and training gave him a solid background for the challenge of running a university. A Midwesterner, he earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology at Northwestern University in 1954 and received his master's degree in student personnel administration from Columbia University in 1955. He served four years in the Navy as a carrier pilot and education and legal officer. He attained the rank of lieutenant. He earned an Ed. D. at Harvard University in 1964 in counseling psychology and administration in higher education. John Worthen began his career in education as the dean of men at American University in Washington, D. C., then moved to the University of Delaware where he taught education courses and accepted various administrative responsibilities. In 1979, he became president of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Ball State University invited him to become its eleventh president in 1984.

Although technology has been a major focus, John Worthen's presidency has been an attack on many fronts. His was not an administration of timid initiatives. The university reorganized the school year from academic quarters to semesters; a move that allowed students to involve themselves more deeply in a subject and that saved the university thousands of dollars in administrative costs each year. Departments were realigned to reflect common disciplines. For example, Journalism, Telecommunications, Speech Communication, and Communication and Information Studies combined to form a new college, the College of Communication, Information, and Media. By 1997, it was the fourth largest college of its kind in the country.

John Worthen has applied the university's resources to statewide issues. Under his leadership, Ball State has moved to make education "at home in Indiana" more attractive to top ability students who might otherwise leave the state and build their careers and lives elsewhere. New scholarships aimed at those students have increased the university's enrollment of National Merit Scholars and increased Honors College enrollments. For the past three years he and I have worked to-

gether to create a job fair on Ball State's campus to offset recent factory closings in the area. This year's event attracted seven hundred job seekers. Three hundred received job offers as a direct result of the event. Ball State really stepped up to the plate and made a determined effort to see the Muncie community thrive.

In 1987, Ball State launched Wings for the Future, its first capital campaign. The goal was to raise forty million dollars. The campaign collected \$44 million and created three endowed chairs and fourteen professorships. The university is now in the middle of another campaign that appears headed for the same success with a goal of ninety million dollars. One-third will go for faculty research, one-third for scholarships, and one-third for facilities. During John Worthen's presidency, Ball State's endowment went from twelve million dollars to eighty-five million dollars.

Ball State researchers were there when the space shuttle Columbia landed in June 1996, conducting research on the effects of gravity in space on the astronaut's muscles. Other noteworthy research efforts have targeted nutrition among the elderly in Indiana, the decline in frog populations worldwide, tick-borne disease, and cancer prevention. While research has an important role in education, John Worthen has always ensured that Ball State's best teachers are still in the classroom. Ball State professors have won state and national recognition in teaching, including the 1997 Indiana Professor of the Year, national teaching awards, and honors for research, architecture, music, theater performance, history, and public relations, to name just a few.

Many academic programs at Ball State have received national recognition. The music engineering technology program has been ranked first in the nation, the entrepreneurship program ranks fourth. Ball State has taken the lead in environmental awareness. The university has established an international conference on environmental education and practices. The conference draws hundreds of architects from around the world. The Center for Information and Communication Sciences, created in 1985, teaches students to design and set up networking systems, an area in desperate need of trained workers.

Ball State athletics have achieved recognition on the field and in the classroom. Men's basketball made the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 1990, the men's volleyball team has been in the NCAA finals fourteen times, and women's field hockey went undefeated in conference play for five consecutive years. But the most impressive figure is Ball State's athlete graduation rate, at 77 percent, the seventh best rate in the country.

President Worthen has solidified and expanded Ball State's international ties with study centers abroad and teaching exchanges with various international universities. The Chronicle of Higher Education ranks Ball State among the top doctoral granting institutions for students studying abroad.

Since 1984, the university has built five new facilities, including a state-of-the-art telecommunications building, a new home for the Human Performance Laboratory, an arena, and a new alumni center. All of these improvements and additions have been accomplished

with the intent of making Ball State accessible for people with disabilities.

In closing, I cannot forget to mention Sue. The most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found was named after its discoverer, Sue Hendrickson. This spring, using people, technology and programs that were the direct outcome of John Worthen's policies, Ball State dazzled the nation by bringing Sue's debut at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History to an estimated five million school children nationwide. Ball State uses its technology to connect people and ideas in meaningful ways. That is what technology is meant to do, and Ball State certainly has got it right. They were able to get it right because of John Worthen's vision and follow-through. He leaves behind a university well prepared to face the challenges and pursue the possibilities of the twenty-first century.

Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to work along side John Worthen. I will miss the benefit of his counsel and wisdom. I wish he and his wife Sandra much happiness as they move on to new challenges.

FRIENDS OF THE SMYRNA
LIBRARY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today, as a resident of Smyrna, Georgia, to recognize an exceptional organization that has just recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. On April 10, 1990, eight concerned citizens of Cobb County met and formed The Friends of the Smyrna Library. During its first four years, the group grew very slowly until 1994, when the president—Mrs. Lillie Wood—was elected, and she immediately began a search for new members. Under her leadership, the Friends of the Smyrna Library has grown to over 400 members, and is now one of the largest library support groups in Georgia.

The Friends of the Library are very active. They coordinate art exhibits for library galleries; schedule exhibits of collectibles and sculpture for display; host an annual dinner theater; conduct two book sales yearly; hold quarterly speaker programs; recruit library volunteers; and sponsor a monthly book discussion program.

In addition to everything else it does, the Friends publishes a quarterly news letter, The Library Link, which features library news, book reviews, a guide to suggested reading, and articles by library friends and staff. Under the editorship of Clare Isanhour, The Library Link has been recognized as one of the most attractive and professionally produced library publications in Georgia.

The Friends have donated over \$40,000 to the library for the purchase of new materials, and the members have donated thousands of hours of time to the library as volunteers. This enables the library to provide a much higher level of service to the public than would otherwise have been possible.

I join my fellow citizens of Smyrna, Georgia, in saluting the public service provided by The