

Memorial Resolution
WALTER G. BLACCONIERE
(October 2, 1956 - March 4, 2007)

Professor Walter G. Blacconiere was born on October 2, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois. Walt graduated from Immaculate Conception High School, Elmhurst, Illinois in 1974. Walt attended the University of Illinois and received both his BS and MS in accounting in 1978 and 1980 respectively. Prior to beginning his doctoral studies, Walt taught at the California State University (Los Angeles and Fullerton) as a lecturer. After his work as a lecturer, he moved to the University of Washington where he received his Ph.D. in Business Administration with accounting as his major area.

After graduating from Washington, Professor Blacconiere joined the University of Southern California as an assistant professor. He served as a USC faculty member from January, 1988 until August, 1994 and won several teaching awards during his tenure. He joined the Indiana University faculty as an Assistant Professor of Accounting in September, 1994. Walt was promoted to an Associate Professor with tenure in July, 1998.

Walt's research examined the capital market effects of economic regulation in the banking and electric utilities industries, and how economic regulation influenced firms' accounting policy choices and financial disclosures. For example, Walt studied the market impact of Union Carbide's chemical leak in Bhopal India during December 1984. He found that chemical firms other than Union Carbide were negatively affected, but that those with richer environmental disclosures were less adversely impacted. He also found that environmental disclosures are value-relevant while studying the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. In terms of explaining accounting choice, Walt showed that Savings and Loans were more likely to voluntarily adopt regulatory accounting principles depending on their ownership structure, proximity to violation of net worth requirements, and their political visibility. His most recent work showed that tax incentives were an important determinant in the decision to voluntarily expense employee stock options.

During his academic career, Walt won more than two dozen teaching awards, including the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award, the Indiana University MBA Teaching Excellence Award, the Schuyler F. Otteson Teaching Excellence Award, the Sauvain Undergraduate Teaching Award, and the Herman B Wells Teaching Excellence Award. In addition, he was listed as one of the "Outstanding Faculty" at Indiana University in the publication *Business Week Guide to the Best Business Schools*. He made numerous presentations on teaching effectiveness at national and university conferences.

While Walt possessed natural teaching ability, he also worked hard at developing cutting edge materials and effective delivery systems. For example, during the first week of class, Walt would have all his students take off their nametags. After removal, Walt went down the rows, calling out the correct name and pronunciation of every one of his 200 students. He'd recall the names outside class as well because of his deep concern for each student. It's hard to say how many thousands of names he memorized over his twelve years at Indiana University. In addition, Walt made a real effort to recognize and utilize his students' backgrounds in class. For example, if he knew a student had a financial background, he'd ask that student to share his or her financial experiences with the class.

Characteristically, when Walt had to announce his ailing health to his MBA class, he made the announcement with his usual grace and humor. "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that I'll be taking a little vacation. The bad news is that I've got pancreatic cancer so I'll be spending my vacation in a hospital. But I plan to be back in the classroom within six weeks." Even given his illness, it is not surprising that Walt was eager to return to the classroom. Teaching was, after all, his passion, and

this was evident not only in how he prepared for class and made each class a memorable experience but how he spoke about, cared for, and enjoyed his students.

Walt's greatest source of joy and pride was his family. Walt reveled in his children's accomplishments and relished the time that he spent with them. He served as their bedrock, prodding them to improve their lives and the lives of others. Walt's office door on the Bloomington campus was filled with newspaper pictures of his family detailing their accomplishments. Words cannot begin to describe how Walt felt about the love of his life, Michelle. She was his anchor, filled his heart, and nourished his soul.

Walt is sorely missed by his family, colleagues, and friends. Walt's office door was always open and he loved conversation both personal and intellectual. Walt Blacconiere truly was a special person. Warm, generous, and thoughtful are all words that aptly describe Walt. With his long, curly black locks, wry smile, and engaging personality, Walt was the essence of charisma. He had boundless energy and a great sense of humor, always in motion and always willing to share a good laugh. He was an amazing teacher, an extraordinary mentor, a prolific researcher, a devoted family man, and a genuine human being.

This resolution is a permanent part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and copies should be sent to his widow, Michelle Blacconiere. 3771 S. Bainbridge Drive
Bloomington IN 47401.

Respectively submitted,

Daniel Beneish
Joseph Fisher
Laureen Maines
Geoff Sprinkle
James Wahlen