The 2018 Harris-Rose Outstanding Alum award was presented to Josh Mitchell. Each year, Disability Services recognizes a Ball State alum with a disability who has been successful in their post Ball State endeavors by presenting them with the Outstanding Alum Award. The Harris-Rose award is named after Director Emeritus Richard Harris and former student Bruce Rose.

Josh earned his Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from Ball State in 2008, and in 2011 he received his Master’s degree in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education also from Ball State. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Iowa State in 2016. While at Ball State, Josh worked in a variety of offices including Recreational Services, the Learning Center, and Disability Services. Josh is currently a Program Coordinator at Iowa State where he also serves as an Instructor.

Josh’s accomplishments include articles in peer reviewed journals, professional presentations across the country, grant writing and funding for research and evaluation, and many notable awards. His endeavors “broadly focus on identifying and mobilizing resources to promote success and enhance human potential in postsecondary education.” His professional and research interests include college student mental health and well-being, college student learning and development outcomes, perceptions of campus climates and their influence on student outcomes, academic support services, and learning assistance in higher education. Josh places a focus on education development initiatives to enhance teaching and learning, and institutional research and effectiveness.

When accepting the award, Josh mentioned that as a student at Ball State, he was able to engage with great people in Journalism, Recreational Services, the Teachers College, and Student Affairs. When he worked with Disability Services, they ensured that student staff at the Recreation Center received proper orientation to make sure services were accessible to students with disabilities. He said that each role “had in common promoting success for students and thinking about how students could go farther,” which is a mentality that he still carries with him in his current role.
Accessible Teacher Award

Disability Services solicits feedback from students each year about teachers who they believe have gone above and beyond to make their classes accessible. The faculty members who have won this award are some of Ball State’s best and toughest. They don’t make their classes easy for students; they make their classes accessible for students.

This year’s award was presented to Dr. Dixie Denton from Elementary Education. Dr. Denton has been a member of the Faculty Mentorship Program for years and often takes on multiple students as mentees. Many students over the years have told our office that she has been the friendliest and most accommodating professor they have had. Dr. Denton said that she loves being part of the Faculty Mentorship Program because it offers her the chance to interact with students regularly and see the progress they make in their time at Ball State. When accepting the award, Dr. Denton said: “It’s odd to receive such a beautiful award for something I love doing.”

Access Awards

Everyone on campus, not just the Disability Services office, is responsible for providing access and services for students with disabilities. When we meet with students on pre-admission visits, we tell them that disability access is a priority here and that faculty and staff members work diligently to accommodate students with disabilities. Each year we present what we call Access Awards to members of the Ball State community who we feel go above and beyond in providing access.

Sarah Aldridge is an Instructional Consultant for Online and Strategic Learning at Ball State. There has been a lot of growth in online enrollment in recent years and there has been an increased need for access. Sarah has taken the lead in creating an accessible design and created modules to help faculty implement accessible courses.

Ashleigh Bingham is the Doctoral Assistant for the Women’s and Gender Studies program. She is helpful to the Disability Services office on many fronts, including working in the office for the past two summers and assisting a doctoral student with low vision in his research.

Mike Costello is the Associate Director of Systems Technology for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services. Mike is the point person for Disability Services on data and evaluation issues. Thanks to Mike, we are able to track numbers and trends, have knowledge of accurate retention and graduation rates, and present the data nationally.

Jon Dee is the Director of Teacher Education Services. Jon oversees student teaching at Ball State. Many students with disabilities are education majors, and Jon makes sure these students are appropriately accommodated. He has collaborated with Disability Services to ensure students with disabilities have great student teaching experiences.

Shauna Rose is an attendant care provider with Above & Beyond. She was nominated by Lizzie Ford, a student who has utilized attendant care. Shauna is representative of the good and important work that care givers provide to Ball State students.
Each year, the Office of Disability Services recognizes outstanding students with disabilities by presenting them with the Greg and Mary Beth Fehribach Awards. The awards are named in honor of two long-time supporters of Disability Services, both financially and in volunteering their time. Greg, an Indianapolis attorney who is an expert on accessibility issues, received his undergraduate degree from Ball State, where he also served as President of the student body. Greg is a former member of Ball State’s Board of Trustees and currently serves the Ball State community as a Distinguished Fellow for the Office of Institutional Diversity. Recipients of the Fehribach Awards have demonstrated success in the classroom, and by example or direct action have furthered the cause of access and opportunity. This year, Fehribach Awards were presented to six students.

**Ben Callaway**, a senior Elementary Education and Special Education dual major from Carmel, IN, has earned a 3.5 GPA at Ball State. Ben plays goalball at Ball State and founded goalball clubs at Carmel High School and Purdue. Ben is the secretary and treasurer of the Ball State Comic Book Club, a former Student Government Association representative for Alliance for Disability Awareness, and is a volunteer at the David Owsley Museum of Art.

**Lexi Heer**, a senior Accounting major from Fishers, IN, has earned a 3.4 GPA at Ball State. Lexi is president and captain of Ball State’s Power Soccer team, president and treasurer of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, a member of Beta Alpha Psi, and a member of Accounting Club. Lexi is currently completing an internship at Crowe Horvath in Indianapolis.

**Jacob Mattingly**, a senior Construction Management major from Monticello, IN, is graduating in the Spring. Jacob is serving as the Vice President of the Alliance for Disability Awareness, is a member of the National Society for Leadership and Success, and is a member of the Freemasons.

**Annie Wagner**, a junior Elementary Education and Special Education dual major from Indianapolis, has maintained a 3.7 GPA. Annie is the marketing director for the Student Council for Exceptional Children, a member of the Autism support group, Chi Omega, Best Buddies, College Mentors for Kids, and Riley Dance Marathon. She has previously received the award for Special Education Outstanding Freshman.

**Kristin Wietecha**, a senior Speech Language Pathology major from Morgantown, IN, has maintained a 3.9 GPA. She is a member of the Honors College, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and has been an intern at Eskenazi Health for the last two summers. She is the chapter president of National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, has previously won the Kraska Award, and is a three time recipient of the outstanding student of the month award in Speech Pathology and Audiology.

**Logan York**, a sophomore Theatre major from West Chester, OH, is very involved in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Logan is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, a Theatre Department organization, and the Man Cave Society, a Christian organization. He also participated in the 2018 Department of Theatre and Dance playwriting week.
Lizzie Ford: 2018 Max Adamson Award Recipient

Each year, the top student award given is the Max Adamson Award. The award is named after Max Adamson, a student who attended Ball State from 1976-1985 who was key in helping Ball State achieve the level of accessibility it has today. Although he passed years ago, his memory thrives in those who knew him. The Max Adamson Award is given annually to a student with a disability who excels academically, is involved on campus, and believes in creating access and opportunity for others.

This year’s award was presented to Lizzie Ford, a senior Psychology major from Fishers, IN. Lizzie has maintained a 3.98 GPA and has been involved in many organizations on campus. Lizzie is currently finishing her term as Secretary of Student Government Association. Lizzie is also the former President of Alliance for Disability Awareness, a former Resident Assistant, and a current member of the Power Soccer team and Sigma Kappa Sorority. Lizzie has given multiple research presentations and will be attending Ball State to pursue her Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology.

In receiving the award, Lizzie said, “I would just like to say thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey here at Ball State. I would like to thank Courtney and Larry first and foremost, I would like to thank my family, I would like to thank my sorority sisters, and I would like to thank Dr. George Gaither, who was my mentor in the Psychology department.” Lizzie also encouraged the audience to enjoy their time at Ball State, saying, “Make the most of these four years because they go by so incredibly fast.”

Adrienne Paige Gilbert Scholarship

The Adrienne Paige Gilbert Scholarship is given annually by Jeff and Kay Gilbert in memory of their daughter Adrienne Paige. Adrienne was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. In the four months she lived, her life touched all who knew her. The Gilberts offer the scholarship hoping that it will allow others with disabilities to further their education in honor of Adrienne.

This year’s recipient is Georgana Nichols, a freshman Accounting major from Crawfordsville, IN. Georgana is a member of the Power Soccer team, campus band, the flute guild, and a Dungeons and Dragons group on campus.
Laura J. Kraska Awards

This is the sixth year that Disability Services has had the honor of presenting the Laura J. Kraska Awards. The Kraska family has provided a generous gift to Ball State in memory of Laura Kraska. Laura received her Bachelor’s degree here in 1990 and her Master’s degree in 1993 in Information & Communication Sciences. Laura had low vision and benefited greatly from the services provided by Disability Services. Each year three students with visual impairments receive scholarships. Students who have done well in the classroom and who have been active members of the Ball State community are selected.

**Kwaku Dakwa**, a junior Journalism major from Bloomington, IN, has been part of the WCRD news team as a substitute news anchor and helped with coverage of the 2016 election. Kwaku hosts three shows, The WCRD Rewind, The Radio Show About Nothing, and a podcast called Kwakes and Friends. He is also the floor director for Newslink.

**Ashley McWhirter**, a junior Social Work major from Indianapolis, is a member of Best Buddies, Alliance for Disability Awareness, Revolution church, and Student Voluntary Services. She has volunteered for Cornerstone, Ross Community Center, Longfellow Elementary, Motivate Our Minds, and Hillcroft.

**Evan Roberts**, a junior Special Education major from Farmland, IN, worked at the Ball State Student Center previously and now works in the Special Education department. Evan is also a member of the Ultimate Frisbee club.

Hopebridge Foundation Award

The Hopebridge Foundation in Indianapolis provides scholarship funds for college students with autism. The Foundation recognized that there is already a lot of support for K-12 students and families with autism, but not as much support at the college level. At the beginning of the year, Courtney Albright, Executive Director of the Hopebridge Foundation, reached out to Ball State to begin a scholarship program here. In order to receive the scholarship, qualified students must maintain a good GPA and be involved inside and outside of the classroom. The inaugural Hopebridge Foundation Award and scholarship was given to Evan Hatfield. Evan, a junior Journalism major from Des Plaines, IL, has maintained a 4.0 GPA in his time at Ball State. Evan is an Honors College peer mentor, a copy editor and opinion writer for the Ball State Daily News, a news anchor, reporter, and DJ for WCRD, treasurer for Poetic Summit, co-founder and president of Cardinal Cardboard, and a member of Ball State choirs.
Don’t forget BSU’s Disability Services in your giving plans.

Funds donated are used for resources and equipment to enhance campus accessibility.

All Indiana taxpayers’ donations to BSU Foundation - 8603 are a 50 percent tax credit (a $100 gift costs only $50)!