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**Mishko Mitkovski** ([mishko@math.gatech.edu](mailto:mishko@math.gatech.edu)), School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 686 Cherry Street, Atlanta, GA 30332-1060, **Daniel Suarez** ([dsuarez@dm.uba.ar](mailto:dsuarez@dm.uba.ar)), Depto. de Matemática, FCEyN, University of Buenos Aires, Pab. I, Ciudad Universitaria, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and **Brett D. Wick\*** ([wick@math.gatech.edu](mailto:wick@math.gatech.edu)), School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, 686 Cherry Street, Atlanta, GA 30332-0160. *The Essential Norm of Operators on the Bergman Space.*

We characterize the compact operators on  $A_\alpha^p(\mathbb{B}_n)$  when  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $\alpha > -1$ . The main result shows that an operator on  $A_\alpha^p(\mathbb{B}_n)$  is compact if and only if its Berezin transform vanishes on the boundary of the ball and additionally this operator belongs to the Toeplitz algebra  $\mathcal{T}_{p,\alpha}$ . (Received June 20, 2012)