Listening to needs...

A beloved faculty member and academic advisor helps students define their path to graduation and meets needs directly with a scholarship endowment that will grow with a planned gift.

Good advising really comes down to good listening, says Tim Mahoney, instructor in economics at the University of Southern Indiana. He is one of the most sought-after academic advisors on campus.

“I’m advising,” he said, “but what I’m really doing is listening to students about what’s going on in their lives.”

Some students may have home or financial issues that affect their college experience. Others may be uncertain about the kind of career they want. Mahoney helps students set up a “Plan to Graduation.” He designed a form which presents an individualized plan showing students what courses they should take, when to take them, and the projected date of graduation if they follow this path.

“A lot of students I see are between majors or thinking about changing,” he said. “They want to know about the requirements for the majors and how long it will take them to graduate. When the plan is on paper, they can see their goal realized. It makes sense to them. Knowing this is a path specifically laid out for them—not a generic path—is encouraging and reinforcing.”

Also a popular teacher, Mahoney instructs a course in the fundamentals of economics that serves students in many majors, including health services, social work, and engineering. In addition, he developed and coordinates a one-hour course on money skills. Offered online, it helps students improve their basic financial literacy.

Not only does Mahoney have an ear for helping students navigate the path to graduation, he also has a hand in helping them directly and personally. He has established a scholarship endowment in the USI Foundation and arranged for a planned gift, the proceeds of a life insurance policy, to increase the size of the fund. The policy is available to Mahoney as an employee of the University. Designating the USI Foundation as beneficiary allows him to assure a substantial future gift. “This has been a great institution for me,” he said. “I want to see it continue to develop.”

The Tim Mahoney Business Scholarship goes to business majors demonstrating University and community service. The current recipient is Brett Bueltel, a senior accounting major. He is attorney general for the Student Government Association, vice president of the Pre-law Club, and a member of a student team that competed in 2011 as a “final four” team in the national Student Case Competition sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants.

“It’s important for young people to be involved,” Mahoney said. “I encourage them to get internships, network, and participate in activities that connect them to the real world.”
Mahoney often looks to the USI Foundation to see where the needs are greatest. Prior to the construction of the Business and Engineering Center which opened in 2010, he led College of Business faculty to respond with gifts that, along with a matching gift from the Lilly Endowment, established a $25,000 endowment that makes an annual distribution to the college for programmatic support.

"We can have a part in keeping things going in the right direction."

"As faculty, we have a role in helping our students learn and grow," Mahoney said, "but we’re part of a bigger picture. When we give back through the USI Foundation for programming, scholarships, or equipment, we leave a lasting impact not only on our students but on the whole University now and for the years ahead."

Besides the scholarship, Mahoney supports a number of initiatives funded by the USI Foundation. These include including the USI Foundation in your will. With a bequest to the USI Foundation, you can continue your annual support where the need is greatest or to sustain specific programs which were important to you during your lifetime. You can create a permanent legacy. Here is how to accomplish that:

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For more information or other gift-planning ideas, return the enclosed reply card or contact the USI Foundation.

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