Advantage: Affordable

As the first in my family to attend college, I don’t remember having a conversation around the kitchen table as to whether I would go or not—it was assumed I would. Another given was that I would graduate in no more than four years.

The task of graduating in four years was made clearer when an academic advisor informed me very early that I quickly needed to settle on a degree and follow a prescribed course curriculum all four years. The plan was to enroll in and complete not less than 15 credits each semester, the exact number needed to graduate. It worked. I moved through four years with the same classmates with whom I started college, and nearly all of us finished on time. The year was 1967.

Recent data from the National Center for Educational Statistics—the official education statistics gathering agency for the federal government, shows a national four-year public higher education graduation rate of just 29.9 percent, with a six-year average rate of 55 percent. What happened, why do so few complete degrees on time or at all? Surveys tell us some students develop patterns of enrolling in and then dropping out of classes which delays completion. Others change majors repeatedly in the first couple of years of enrollment, which often leads to changes in degree requirements and delays. Finally, many completely leave school for reasons of motivation, personal issues, or affordability.

Affordability is one of the most often cited reasons for leaving school; yet, it is one of the easiest to remedy. Through a combination of grants, student employment, and low interest loans, any student should be able to persist on to graduation. Currently, the average ISU graduate leaves with loan debt of less than $19,000—a seemingly small debt to repay, given the potential earnings of more than $1.5 million over a lifetime.

For students entering ISU this fall as first-time new students, we are offering a new four-year graduation guarantee that states we will pay for any required courses in the fifth year, if these students have met the terms of the agreement and are unable to graduate in four years. Setting a goal to graduate in four years is not only motivational, it saves money. Four-year graduates join the work force earlier than those who take longer to graduate, and they save by not needing to attend college as long. In a single year, these two combined factors can mean job earnings and college savings exceeding $50,000.

A college education is still the best investment a student and family can make. Completing a degree in four years adds an affordable advantage.
The Office of Student Financial Aid at ISU has a new face in more ways than one. A new interactive website at www.indstate.edu/finaid provides students and parents expanded information about university costs, including separate pages with specific information for freshmen, transfer students, graduate students and military veterans starting or resuming their college education. It also includes links to the university’s cost of attendance calculator and to Cash Course, a financial literacy program developed by Networks Financial Institute in ISU’s Scott College of Business.

The office also has a new customer savvy leader in Crystal Baker, the university’s new director of student financial aid. Baker joined ISU in October 2011 as associate director and became director earlier this year.

Recent customer surveys have found students and parents to be pleased with the service provided by the office, with an average rating of 8 on a 10-point scale, she said. Baker said she is committed to continued excellence in customer service and to expanding the office’s use of technology.

“I’m really proud of our customer service rating,” she said. “Our goal for this year is to improve a lot of our processes in terms of automatic aid delivery and the use of e-mail and other electronic methods to communicate with students.”

Baker came to Indiana State from Indiana University at Bloomington, where she worked in financial aid client services. She said her experience at a larger institution helped her to “learn a lot about what’s possible in terms of technology, aid automation and communicating with students in new and interesting ways.”

Baker encourages parents to also take advantage of technology by having their students sign them up for Web4Parent, an online service that ISU provides that allows parents keep track of their son or daughter’s student records.

“Parents can go in and view account balances, aid summary, registration information and account holds,” she said. Holds placed on students’ accounts will prevent them from registering for classes for the next semester and many times students don’t recognize that they have a hold on their account, she said.

“Web4Parent will notify you proactively,” she said. “With this service, you’re basically in the office. You know everything we know.”

Indiana State’s commitment to keeping the cost of a college degree affordable is evident in its low tuition rates compared with many other universities and in the availability of financial aid. She notes that the key to accessing that aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for each year a student is in college.

“Once you do the FAFSA the first time, it really does get easier,” she said. Once a student files the FAFSA with the U.S. Department of Education, student and parent information is retained for the following year much in the way an online income tax service retains it, she explained.

With ISU’s affordability initiatives, as well as the availability of university-level financial assistance in addition to state and federal aid, the average ISU graduate leaves the university with about $16,000 in total student debt compared with the national average of about $23,000, Baker said.

“I really attribute that to the fact that our price tag is so affordable. ISU also provides $8 million in institutional merit scholarships each year. That doesn’t include outside programs like ROTC, veterans’ benefits or the 21st Century Scholars program,” she said. “Our office also processes about $80 million per year in federal aid and state so you can see how important is to complete the FAFSA.”

Originally from Memphis, Tenn. where she played varsity basketball and volleyball at Rhodes College, Baker said she “stumbled into” the field of financial aid while pursuing a master’s degree in Public Administration at IU.

“I just kind of fell in love with it,” she said, adding that she also fell in love with Indiana and its weather that actually changes. While Baker misses southern barbecue she does not miss the more monotonous weather of the Volunteer State.

“In Tennessee, we don’t really have four seasons. Now that I’m a Hoosier, we have this white stuff called snow.”

In addition to serving as student financial aid director at Indiana State, Baker is active in the Terre Haute community by coaching an AAU volleyball team for eighth graders in the Crossroads of America (COA) league.
Students to attend Democratic National Convention

Jobs, healthcare and education reform are just some of the hot button topics in politics this election year. As our nation prepares for what is shaping up to be a close presidential election, political analysts and strategists are working in full swing and four ISU students will have the opportunity to get an inside look at their work in the political campaign world.

Ayden Jent, Arielle Brandy, Michael Broeker and Alexus Tucker will travel to Charlotte, N.C. Aug. 25 through Sept. 7 for the Democratic National Convention. Unfortunately, the two students who were planning on attending the Republican National Convention will not be participating after all.

"It's not every day you can say you were nominated to attend the Democratic National Convention during an election year," Brandy said.

The ISU Political Science Department alerted students of the opportunity offered by the Washington Center. The two week course entitled "Democratic National Convention: Academic Seminar" will take place on site at the convention as students get to examine the behind the scenes of running a political convention.

Broeker experienced an inside look at the campaigning world twice before when he attended the Indiana Democrat Conventions in June of 2010 and again this June. The political science major views the opportunity to go to the national convention as an invaluable experience.

"It is not every day you can be around and learn from some of the country's most intelligent and successful people," Broeker said.

Jent views the opportunity as one he can use to move towards his dream of being a campaign manager.

"I have dreamed of it since I was a kid and I can't shake this dream," Jent said. "I have never wanted to be anything else."

With the presidential election in November, the convention also provides the ISU students with an opportunity to have a first-hand account of what leaders intend to do in regards to issues college students are interested in.

For Jent, the most important topic he wants to hear about is what will be done to improve the job market. He added that as a college student he watches the unemployment rate and available jobs with hope that he finds work after graduation.

Education is the topic that Broeker is most interested in hearing discussed at the convention. He expressed growing concerns about the rising costs of education and the quality of the nation's education system.

"The problem of education does not just involve the generation now, but future generations," Broeker said.

The event will also have some of the biggest names in U.S. Politics in attendance. Tucker's list of people she would like to meet includes President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama. She added that the first lady is an inspiration to African-American women such as herself and if she gets the opportunity to meet the first lady she would want to ask her for advice.

Brandy believes that every college student should follow politics closely even if it is only one political issue. Though it can seem a bore at times there will always be a topic that pertains to college students and prompt involvement, she said.

"If you do not have a grasp on what is going on in the world, then how can you be heard?" she said. "You have a voice, let it be heard."

Starting Back to School on a Healthy Note

You've spent countless hours packing and shopping for items for your student's residence hall room, picked up school supplies and ordered textbooks. But, have you taken care of your student's healthcare needs?

Immunizations. If your student needs immunizations, he or she can go to UAP Clinic-ISU Health Center. Students can call for an appointment: 812-237-3883 to schedule an appointment.

Prescriptions. Transfer prescriptions so your student can pickup refills at UAP Clinic-ISU Health Center. Call the UAP Clinic Pharmacy at 812-242-3855, provide the prescription, insurance and payment information over the phone, and pick-up the prescription at the Health Center.

Allergy shots. Students needing allergy shots will need to make arrangements with the following clinics:
- **UAP Clinic ENT Office** (Drs. Seitz, Roseff, and Drake)
  5 blocks south of campus
  400 Poplar Street
  812-234-3788
  Call for initial appointment (Monday-Friday)
- **UAP Clinic Northside** (Dr. Jordan-Wagner)
  1.5 miles north of campus
  1739 N. Fourth Street
  812-242-3600
  Call for initial appointment (Monday-Friday)
- **Ambucare Walk-in Clinic**
  4 miles south of campus by the Mall
  3387 S. Highway U.S. 41
  812-232-5532
  No appointment needed

Wellness Kit. Pack a wellness kit to help your student through a cold or flu
- Non-aspirin pain reliever and fever reducer
- Nausea medicine
- Diarrhea medicine
- Cough medicine
- Cold medicine
- Throat lozenges
- Decongestant medicine
- Allergy medicine
- Vitamins
- First Aid kit (adhesive bandages, antiseptic wipes, gauze and tape, etc.)
- Tissues
- Hand cleaner (alcohol based)
- Surface cleaning wipes

For more information about UAP Clinic-ISU Health Center, go to:
http://www.indstate.edu/shc/
Fifteen students in a class on environmentally and culturally sustainable local economic development traveled with three professors to China in May to study the country through a unique approach.

With Economic Department Chair John Conant, Political Science Chair Mike Chambers and Assistant Professor of Geography Stephen Aldrich, the students traveled from Shanghai to the Three Gorges Dam, up the Yangtze River, through rural China to Liaoning Province before ending the trip in Beijing. Along the way, students examined and experienced China’s growing economic power and its changing effect on the landscape of the country. They also studied the environmental cost.

“For the political science degree, I needed some culminating credits,” said Nicole Coomer, senior psychology and legal studies major. “It’s really great that I get to experience China while getting class credit for it.”

That experience connected classroom lessons to reality while allowing the students to experience another country and culture.

“China’s a rising power,” Chambers said. “It has a huge impact economically, increasing impact politically, diplomatically. What better way to understand something about China than to come here and see it? We can talk ‘til we’re blue in the face about Shanghai and how cosmopolitan it, but until you go and see it you don’t really understand that.”
Last year, an ISU business student typing away on his or her laptop when the “low battery” warning flashed would’ve scour ed the classroom and come to a horrible realization: unless the student was near either electrical outlet at the very front or back of the class, the battery would likely die before the end of class.

Now, a student in that predicament would simply need to glance down on the floor.

Additional electrical outlets in classrooms are just a few changes business students returning to campus will notice this fall. The Scott College of Business has moved from its old home in one of the Statesman Towers (a former “temporary” space where it had been since 1980) to Federal Hall, the former Terre Haute federal building that received a more than $20 million makeover for its new purpose.

Also, over the summer, Brien N. Smith was named the new dean of the Scott College. He began his duties July 1.

“With so many great faculty and facilities, including the grand opening of Federal Hall, it seemed to me a great opportunity to build on current successes and really have an opportunity to enhance the visibility of the Scott College and even ISU as an institution,” Smith said. “I really feel that the Scott College is well-poised to assume a position of prominence in the Midwest and nationally.”

Smith takes the helm of the Scott College after working in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University since 1988. After more than two decades at the Muncie university, he had little more than three weeks from accepting the position to his start at a new university in a new city.

“Because of my experience at Ball State, I have a broad perspective of not only running a college, but developing world class programs and working with the community and alumni,” Smith said when he was announced as dean. “I feel that my perspective and experience will serve me well in leading the Scott College.”

He had just started when the Scott College of Business officially moved into Federal Hall. The newly renovated facility maintains some of the traditional elements—people visiting the building’s preserved courtroom will be guests, in a good way—while new spaces have been created. Faculty offices will be located on two floors rather than five, and the classrooms have been furnished with various technological elements and six-feet long tables that can be moved anywhere to best accommodate professors’ teaching styles and students with laptops, textbooks, notebooks and anything else they make take to class.

“These new accommodations make the university’s laptop initiative work properly,” said Bruce McLaren, associate dean of the Scott College. “There’s plenty of room. Each student will have plenty of space, along with Wi-Fi throughout the building, to take best advantage of all the learning tools.”

The building also will feature a variety of meeting spaces for students and faculty members to congregate, from the student commons in the building’s lower level to a variety of seating and tables through the upper floors. The commons will include areas where students can relax, meet and even eat at the Executive Express café.

Architects also created a new façade on the building’s south side, which replaces the now-unneeded loading dock that faced businesses along Wabash Avenue.

“Our location is really important. It’s the first academic building south of Cherry Street, and we now have a new face—literally—to the business community,” McLaren said. “It is a 21st century façade, but carries elements of the art deco design of the rest of the building’s exterior.”

A financial trading room replaces what was once the sorting area in the federal building’s post office. The historic corridor remains intact, including all of the traditional postal boxes once used by local business and residents. On the other side of the building, new boxes will serve Terre Haute customers.

“We have a lot of partnerships with community businesses, including student projects,” McLaren added. “We’re closer to the community now, and we welcome opportunities to serve the community.”
Back to School Checklists

Is your student ready for back to school? Know what you need to bring to campus? Check out our Back to School Checklists for Commuter and Residential Students at http://www.indstate.edu/parents/back-to-school-checklists.htm

Break Transportation

Indiana State University’s Parent and Families Initiative has partnered with Turner Coaches to provide holiday break transportation! Two routes that we’re launching for Thanksgiving Break—Northwest Indiana/Chicago and Indy airport/Indy metro. Shuttles depart from the ISU campus.

Shuttle Schedule:
Thanksgiving Break—depart for home on Friday, November 16 and return on Sunday, November 25, 2012
Winter Break—returning to campus on Sunday, January 6, 2013
Spring Break—depart for home Friday, March 8 and return on Sunday, March 17, 2013

2012-2013 Routes and Fee information:
Terre Haute/Northwest Indiana/Chicago Area
• www.travelturner.com/turner/pageinfo/isuchicago.aspx
Terre Haute/Plainfield at Airport/Indianapolis Downtown/465 loop
• www.travelturner.com/turner/pageinfo/isuindy.aspx

Make your reservations beginning in September!
Call Turner at 800-873-5252 to book and pay over the phone using your debit or credit card! You must have your student 991 number. Turner will not permit anyone to make a reservation or to ride on a bus unless they have a valid ISU student ID card. No walk-ons will be permitted.

J. Ford’s Black Angus Restaurant
Jeff & Kelly Ford
502 South Third Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807
812-235-5549 • 812-232-7899 (fax)
www.ffcys.com

Open Tuesday-Saturday
5:00 p.m. to close

Located near campus.

While you visit your ISU student this fall, spend an evening at J. Ford’s Black Angus Restaurant and receive a FREE DESSERT

Must present this coupon. No copies accepted.
This coupon expires December 31, 2012.
Celebrate with us!

Family Day and Homecoming are two great fall TREE-ditions. Make plans to visit your student and spend some quality time at these family-friendly activities!

**Family Day—September 15, 2012**
Family-friendly activities and football! Complete schedule and registration information will be posted soon! Check [http://www.indstate.edu/parents/family-day.htm](http://www.indstate.edu/parents/family-day.htm) and watch your mailbox for our postcard!

**Homecoming—October 5-6, 2012**
Join us as we celebrate the 50th running of Trike and Miles of Sycamore Memories!

**October 5**
4:30 p.m.  **Trike Race**, Simmons Activity Center

**October 6**
9:00 a.m.  **Parade** (beginning at 9th and Cherry, down Wabash Avenue to Fifth Street to Tippecanoe)
11:00 a.m.  **Tent City**, Memorial Stadium
3:05 p.m.  **Football game** against Missouri State, Memorial Stadium

Watch for the new Homecoming website: [www.indstate.edu/homecoming](http://www.indstate.edu/homecoming)

Catch us on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/IndianaStateUniversityHomecoming](http://www.facebook.com/IndianaStateUniversityHomecoming)
[https://www.facebook.com/#!/ISUTrike50](https://www.facebook.com/#!/ISUTrike50)