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**Course a model for other
colleges**

**October 10, 2010**

"Life Design: Building Your Future" may be a mere
one-credit hour course, yet it is the spark that will
launch one's life on the road to success, satisfaction
and happiness. This course crosses departmental
boundaries and puts meaning and purpose in all
the other courses. With this as the driving power to
learn, students will excel in whatever career they
choose. They will become proactive and creative.

I am a 69-year-old 2010 spring University of Iowa
graduate. When I was in high school in Hong Kong,
I wanted to be a college graduate. Born as the oldest
son in a family of six children and being refugees
from the mainland of China, having food on the
table was a constant challenge. I thought that
graduating from college would never happen.

My high school teacher advised me saying, "Do the
best you can on whatever you do -- be it small or
big. Then some day you can achieve your goal that
is seemingly impossible to reach."

His words have been ringing in my ears through the
years of hardships and joy. His advice has been the
spark that has launched me in the building of the
journey of life that I want.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate
professor David Gould, academic coordinator of the
Interdepartmental Studies Program, on his foresight
in developing this one-credit hour, eight week
course. It may be the first one like it in the nation,
but it is an excellent model for the other colleges.

Michael Chan

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