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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  
  
Iowa City