

Dear Students and Future Leaders,

As I think back on my undergrad days at La Salle and grad school at Iowa I have almost nothing that I would change. I studied hard, I partied hard and I was involved with many school activities. My "almost" is perhaps to have gotten even more involved. There are so many other activities that I would have liked to have tried. Joining school clubs and sports is so important and don't ever feel that you aren't good enough. Get involved! It will not only make you feel a part of Iowa and bring you so many friends but also it will establish memories that you can carry throughout the rest of your lives.

When I graduated from Iowa and started my teaching career I set up goals of what I wanted to accomplish. By my late 40's I had done almost everything on my list: I had traveled to all 7 continents, gone sky diving several times, ran with the bulls in Pamplona, spent week long white water runs on the Snake and Colorado rivers and got on tv as a contestant on \$25,000 Pyramid. Professionally as a teacher I had won several awards locally and nationally. Yes, life was looking good.

At that point in my life I hit a stone wall. Gradually I began to lose so many friends to AIDS. My three best friends died and it was only the warm arms and understanding of my partner that kept me together. Soon after, Michael, my partner, passed away. My life changed. I became a recluse—going to school to teach and spending my evenings and weekends in a depressed state.

I tell this story not to catch your sympathy but to emphasize how important it is to act fast on all the things that you want to do in life. If you can plan and follow up on a goal today, don't wait until tomorrow. I am glad that I accomplished what I did and when I did it. One never knows the day that will come that will put everything on hold whether through an accident, a death or just an unusual happening.

I am in a better space now with new goals. My story and age have motivated me with a new eagerness. As Horace said "While we are speaking, envious time will have fled". I wish you a future filled with many happy and satisfied moments. Be part of the parade and enjoy life today!

Sincerely,



Bruce Zehnle '68