

J.V. Ledesma's Section E Election Speech: The Rainbow

Good morning Section E

Appreciated ladies and gentlemen... today... I feel like a leprechaun.

Appreciated ladies and gentlemen, I'm well aware that today it's not St. Patrick's but Labor Day, yet I wish to indulge you in pursuing a conversation about rainbows and the chase of common goals within the maze of people systems.

With expected collective earnings of about two billion dollars over the span of a generation, Darden graduates truly command a pot of gold in the marketplace. However, as he walks thru the rainbow in an intense learning experience, is customary for the Darden MBA candidate to forget the bigger picture and discount the formidable importance of common growth as part of a people system. At Darden, class distribution into sections is used to aid in this collective goal achievement.

Today, it's a great day for the school. The golden section (section E) is tasked to select its latest leadership team. In particular, three great men and your servant (the leprechaun) have been nominated for the section representative role. Please allow me to introduce each of the candidates:

Chris Reese, a great classmate, partner, and a very collegial American is running for the position. Chris is amazing, I particularly remember an occasion in which he approached me to clarify one of my comments and then expanded on my ideas. Chris truly represents the best of our class, and I think he would make an outstanding representative. If you're considering voting for Chris, I advise you to do so. He's a stunning person.

Dan Shively, one of the brightest lights of our class, is also running for the position. He is definitely smart, funny, incredibly talented and also quite collaborative. In a dynamic of our Leading Organizations class I was surprised and delighted by his communication abilities. If you're considering voting for Dan, I advise you to do so. He's a remarkable leader.

Evan Smith is also a contender. He's an Ivy League and Oxbridge graduate with a strong vocation for education. In a DA class, after being cold called by the professor, Evan made an effort to cast attention to many of my worthy ideas in an overall unsound proposal. I qualify Evan as mature and jovial yet soft-spoken and direct. If Evan is your candidate, I applaud your choice.

Which such an impressive roster, why am I presenting my candidature for Section Representative? Well, because section E, the golden section, the upcoming first-ever Darden

Cup Tri-champion, the family of wild cats, the nest of the extroverts and the “House of Awesomeness” deserves more.

Section E deserves all of these candidates. Section E deserves collaborative leadership, an environment that allows for diversity, excellence and talent to flourish into a fountain of rainbows. And with so many rainbows, I figured the section needed a leprechaun.

As section representative, I promise to step aside, ponder, reflect and then act swiftly according to the collective needs and preferences of the section. Preserving our true colors and our diversity, respecting individual realities while advancing as a community for our share of the pot of gold and towards our third Darden Cup.

In the spirit of taking less about myself, and more about others, I summarize my only relevant talent for this position: Even if you’re running against me, like Chris, Dan and Evan are, I’ll recognize your value and do my best to help you achieve your goals. Ergo, as the leprechaun that I am, I’ll help you get your lucky charms.

Therefore members of the legendary section E, before Wednesday, vote twice. Vote for the section rep of your choice. But also cast a more important vote. A vote of involvement in your school, a vote of respect for your classmates. And, while you’re at it, even cast a vote of help for the poor members of other sections.

Vote for J.V. Ledesma, because, more than being focused in the pot of gold, he’s focused in the rainbow - the way we achieve our goals. Vote for J.V., because, if elected, he’ll assure that we arrive to the end in the best way: like a bunch of leprechauns walking over a rainbow while holding hands in St. Patrick’s Day.