

Adam Daniels

Joseph Chandra Tribute

Mr. Daniels,

When I first met you, I must admit, I was intimidated by this behemoth of a man. Perhaps it was your shiny, beautiful, bald head, or maybe it was that smooth, South African accent, or maybe it was your wife: Mrs. Daniels (just kidding!). Actually (and this is a secret that the Senior Class has kept for a while, but we're graduating now, so it's ok), our real first impression of you was "Dang, that guy has a bubble butt."

All jokes aside, though, when I got to know you authentically through the Jr. Class Excom and Rugby, I began to grow fond of you and your various gifts. Among them, your level-headedness. Being a sponsor for a group of angsty teens isn't an easy task. There were many frustrating times where I fully expected you and the other sponsors to throw your hands in the air and just leave, like when I came to the Tiki Hut late every morning. But you, especially, never lost your temper and always put your own interests to the side to do what was needed for the class.

Another gift you possess is charisma. I think I speak for the whole rugby team when I say that you were our main source of inspiration in team huddles. It's demoralizing when we spend countless hours training for rugby only for us to be down 30 points during a match. You saw that and pulled us back up. You spurred us to try our hardest despite our shortcomings, and without you, we wouldn't be the players we are today. I don't know if you know this, but you

have impacted all of our lives by inspiring us to be discontent in complacency and to always strive for greatness.

Mr. Daniels, thank you so much for all the support you've given me: as a captain and a vice-president. Without your coaching, I don't think I would've even played rugby for another year. The way you carry yourself has shaped my view of my own future. I truly mean it when I say that you are the person I want to be when I am older: a person of genuine kindness, compassion, and joy. No one has ever made me want to go bald before, but you come very close! Thank you for your service and sacrifice, Mr. Daniels. I'll miss you a lot.

Love,
Joseph Chandra