



Thank God it's Friday!



*Friday Onoja,
DWC Student Senate
President*

Last year, Friday Onoja wasn't even sure he wanted to run for Student Senate President when friends urged him to give it a try.

Despite his early concerns that it could be too much responsibility in his junior year, Friday ran for president and won the election. Now he's seizing the opportunity to learn valuable skills outside of the classroom.

"You have to know how to relate to people, be organized, coordinate

people and coordinate yourself when you have responsibilities," he said.

"So for me, it's a starting point for leadership." This year, Friday and the other Student Senate members are working to promote unity and support among students.

The group started a program aimed at encouraging nonnative English speakers to practice the new language regularly. Each month, students vote for two classmates who demonstrate an effort to speak English, both in public and in private. Then, Friday announces the winners and doles out cherished prizes, like permission to cut to the front of the lunch line.

Like most Nigerian children, Friday started learning English in nursery school so he speaks it fluently. Still, he recognizes how vulnerable ESL students must often feel when speaking in front of Americans.

At this year's Lunar New Year celebration, Friday decided to lead by example when he stepped outside his comfort zone and sang a song in Vietnamese for a packed crowd. He is a president who isn't afraid to lead by example.

"One important thing I learned is when you get here, you need to try to put your own culture a little bit behind you and embrace other people's cultures," he said.