



Winter 2010

Words of Wisdom from a Great Dame

We were so inspired by these remarks from a fellow Great Dame, that we wanted to share them with you.

"Over the years I've heard hundreds of wonderful lectures from wonderful speakers ranging from Governor Ann Richardson to Gloria Steinem... I enjoyed hearing from most of these leaders and almost always found them entertaining but I don't think I ever learned anything about leadership that altered my behaviour.

However, watching widows and amputees navigate a devastated countryside and figure out ways to find shelter and feed their children not only taught me about leadership, but I think probably transformed me... on more levels than I can describe.

*“ Everything she knew about **leadership** she learned at the dinner table. ”*

I also was once struck by the authenticity of a remark made by scholar Dr. Jon Goodman's daughter when she said that everything she knew about leadership she learned at the dinner table.

*“ No one delivers a **lesson in leadership** quite like a 9 year old who successfully trades his cookies for an extra carton of milk... so he can **take it home later** for a 4 year old brother. ”*

I think this is true of many of us. It is the leaders we watch everyday... parents, siblings, teachers, and even foes...

who teach us in ways that really stick about both strategy and leadership.

My own epiphany came in

Cambodia working with amputees and widows, but I also have to say I was made ready for that experience by working with gangs in East Los Angeles and by running a free summer lunch program for 18,000 inner city LA kids. No one delivers a lesson in leadership quite like a 9 year old who successfully trades his cookies (not a difficult transaction but still noteworthy) for an extra carton of milk he then hides so he can later take it home for a 4 year old brother."

Judith Wilder

Great Dame & Chairman Emeritus, SIAS International University Foundation Board

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I grew up in Delaware.

And, although I have had the great opportunity to

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travel to and live in several different countries in my short life and currently...

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