

Omicron Delta Epsilon Address “Words of Wisdom”

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Disclaimers

- I want to start with two disclaimers
- Somehow when you deliver “words of wisdom”, people assume you are “wise”!
 - Don’t hold me to that 😊
- But, hopefully, I do have some more experience than our inductees
- My second disclaimer is that I am not an ODE recipient myself
- Why, you may ask? That brings me to my next point

Why am I not ODE?

- For those of you who are unaware, I grew up on a small island in the Caribbean, Curacao, where Honors' Societies were not "a thing"
- In addition, I was an accounting major in College
- I chose that as a major because my sister – who is 2.5 years older than me – had done so
- Turns out she went on to get her Masters of Professional Accountancy at GA State and now works in the merchant processing industry
- I, on the other hand, went on to become an "Economist"

So, now to the “Words of Wisdom”

- From ODE’s Membership Principles, I quote:
“Omicron Delta Epsilon is an entity wherein the elite standards of scholarship, leadership, character, and service are ardently upheld.”
- So, what I thought might be useful, is to provide some food for thought in each of these categories
- And, then perhaps, in a somewhat unorthodox move, open up the floor a couple of minutes for questions from our inductees (time permitting)

What do you want to be when you grow up?

- **One piece of advice that applies to all four pillars**
- During advising, I routinely ask you all
 - What do you want to be when you grow up?
 - Figure out what you actually care about and do it!
- Sounds cliché, but why important?
 - If you do what you care about, it is not work!
 - So, all these discussions about work-life balance become largely irrelevant
 - You will be much happier in the long run
 - Of course, do it responsibly. I.e. make sure you can support yourself; your family (if you have one); etc.
 - But do what you are truly passionate about!

Scholarship

- Ask what's next for you in scholarship?
- In particular, I would like to encourage you to be a creator of scholarship and knowledge, NOT just a consumer
- As students, many of us are accustomed to “consuming” knowledge, BUT from micro and macro we know we can also be _____ (fill in the blank) of knowledge

Scholarship

- Ask what's next for you in scholarship?
- In particular, I would like to encourage you to be a creator of scholarship and knowledge, NOT just a consumer
- As students, many of us are accustomed to “consume” knowledge, BUT from micro and macro we know we can also be **PRODUCERS** of knowledge
- Exactly!
- Write articles, take your thesis and research papers BEYOND just “requirements for graduation/a grade”
 - Ask yourself: What else can I do with these?
 - And, more importantly, how can they take you beyond the gates of Spelman? Publish in journals, op-eds, grad school?

Leadership and Service (1)

- I wanted to combine “leadership and service”, because what does it mean to be a **GOOD** leader without “serving”?
 - Of course, there are plenty of leaders who don’t truly serve (their people). I can think of at least one example
 - But that’s not good leadership
- Those of you who took MGT 300 Principles of Management (with me) will recall the notion of servant leadership
 - That’s what I have in mind here.
 - To lead properly means to sacrifice, to serve, and to empower
- Ask yourself: What will my “leadership legacy” be?

Leadership and Service (2)

- Now, a warning
- Yes, a warning.
- There is ample evidence in the economics (and other) literatures that “Women are asked to serve more than men” (for several reasons)
 - Especially, when it concerns service that (certain) men do not want to do
- So, be aware, be strategic, and do NOT be afraid to say “NO” to “service” positions that will take you nowhere
 - Especially as a Black woman

Character

- Finally, there is a lot I could say about “character”. If I had to pick ONE thing to say though, it would be: Mind your **reputation**
- Those of you who took ECON/MGT 395 Behavioral Game Theory with me, know that reputation is the result of a repeated game (repeated interactions)
 - For example, going frequently to the same restaurant, you build the reputation of a good or bad tipper
 - But, also, regularly delivering timely and excellent work (or NOT) gives you a reputation
- People remember what you have done and that becomes who you are/were. So, truly strive for excellence
 - This brings us back to one of my original points:
 - Find your passion, since that will automatically lead to you doing excellent work, thus building the reputation/character you want
- ***I say all this while remembering the saying that “well-behaved women seldom make history”. So, sometimes you have to “misbehave”. Just be strategic about picking and choosing your “misbehaviors”! (if you know what I mean)***

Final “Words of Wisdom”

- I want to leave you with two final words of wisdom
- One of my mentors, Jocelyn Clemencia (RIP), who was an activist, scholar, and much more told me: **Always keep on growing!**
 - In other words, the day you believe you have reached your maximum, there is probably something wrong
 - It means you haven’t gone far enough!
- Finally, in the words of Shirley Chisholm (RIP):
 - When they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair! 😊
 - So, don’t let anybody exclude you from a conversation where you know you need to be involved

Thanks for your attention

The best of luck in the next stages of your career!