



## Linking the Past and the Present

# KDP Celebrates Its First Annual **FOUNDER'S DAY**

This month, Kappa Delta Pi recognizes and commemorates the Society's founding. As the organization reaches its 99th birthday, KDP establishes a new tradition with its first annual Founder's Day celebration. KDP members are showing their pride by wearing their membership pins, KDP clothing, and Society colors, as well as participating in programs and events.

On March 8, 1911, members of the Illinois Education Club on the campus of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, voted to establish themselves as a new organization: Kappa Delta Pi. Under the leadership of Dr. William Chandler Bagley (1874–1946), Dr. Truman Lee Kelley (1884–1961), and Dr. Thomas Edgar Musselman (1887–1976), these budding educators had a dream. They envisioned an organization of young educators from different campuses collaborating on shared ideals and goals for their chosen profession.

Little did they know how grand their fledgling organization would become.



## Founder's Day Message

Founder's Day is a time each year that affords us the opportunity to reflect on the reasons why Kappa Delta Pi is important to each of us. March 8 is a day to imagine what it must have been like so many years ago when

KDP was founded by a small group of visionary and committed educators who resolved to promote excellence and recognize outstanding contributions in education.

As committed educators, we continue to benefit from idea-sharing and collaboration within the KDP community, and are guided by the still-relevant ideals established 99 years ago. I'm sure each of us can identify many examples of how membership in KDP has significantly enriched our lives.

Since those first days of the Society, more than 1,200,000 educators have become members. The current active membership totals nearly 45,000, with the number of chapters quickly approaching 600. KDP's future depends on each one of us, our commitment to one

another, and to the advancement of the Society's mission by continually pursuing excellence in our most noble of professions. During a time of increased scrutiny of educational practices worldwide, do not lose sight of KDP ideals, but rather expand them and adapt them for the betterment of all the students we serve.

It is now our responsibility to continue the path that KDP founders began 99 years ago. *So to teach that our words inspire a will to learn; so to serve, that each day may enhance the growth of exploring minds; so to live that we may guide young and old to know the truth and love the right.*

On behalf of the Executive Council of Kappa Delta Pi, we wish you a Happy Founder's Day!

Pamela Kramer Ertel, President  
Kappa Delta Pi