



Phi Delta Theta—A General Fraternity

Theme Set For 1971 Founders Day

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When the parent chapter of Phi Delta Theta at Miami University granted a charter establishing Indiana Alpha in 1849, Phi Delta Theta became a "General Fraternity." Since that time, over 170 undergraduate charters have been granted by the Fraternity, each with the stated purpose of perpetuating the same basic principles of friendship, sound learning and rectitude. Also, each new charter repeated another basic teaching of the Bond; that is, membership in Phi Delta Theta is a lifetime experience, something more than a mere campus interlude.

It is clear that had Phi Delta Theta decided to remain a local fraternity at Miami University, there would be no international observance of Founders Day on March 15 of each year. Likewise there would be no alumni with opportunities to meet together to enjoy the benefits of fraternity membership.

It is interesting to note that as a General Fraternity Phi Delta Theta has officially chartered over 260 alumni clubs throughout the world, including clubs in Mexico City and Manila. Total active alumni clubs now exceed 120. Most of these clubs and undergraduate

chapters will observe Founders Day on or about March 15 with as many as 10,000 alumni and undergraduates participating in this annual observance.

As Phi Delta Theta approaches its 125th birthday in 1973, much attention will be devoted to an understanding of why our Fraternity has remained a leader in the fraternity world. Though many factors contribute to this understanding, surely the fact that Phi Delta Theta is a strong General Fraternity with thousands of prominent and concerned alumni is a major reason for its position of prominence in the fraternity world.

By adopting this theme of "Phi Delta Theta—A General Fraternity" for our 1971 Founders Day observance, we are recognizing the foresight of our founders for granting a Phi Delta Theta charter to Indiana University in 1849. Without such foresight and planning, there would be neither a Founders Day celebration nor other opportunities for alumni, worldwide, to reaffirm their support in the basic principles of friendship, sound learning and rectitude. ■