

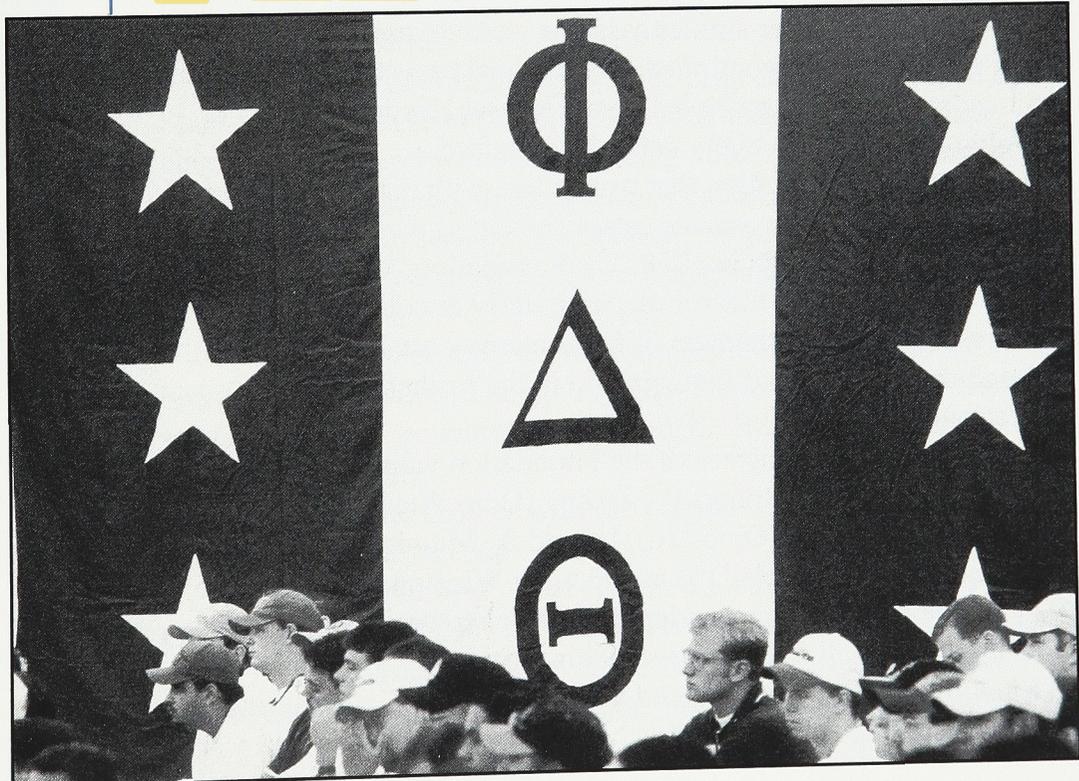
# New Projects

Bob Miller's early years directing the General Headquarters were marked by several major developments that strengthened the structure of the Fraternity.

The first of these was establishing undergraduate leadership schools in off-Convention years. These began as regional meetings; since 1987 they have attracted officers and leaders from every campus to Oxford for what is now known as the Leadership College.

Leadership in the Fraternity had always been rooted in the interests and dedication of individual members. In the case of alumni members, it begins with having office in alumni clubs, serving as chapter advisers, on to province presidents with the ultimate honor of being elected a member of the General Council.

*The popularity of the leadership conference program continues to grow. This is a scene from the meeting of 1993.*



In the summer of 1953, Paul Beam had convened an officers' conference, inviting all province presidents and their assistants to General Headquarters. An idea, first expressed at the Centennial Convention, was revived to set up leadership training for undergraduates.

The first such session was at Ohio State in the summer 1956 and involved 16 chapters from three provinces covering Michigan, West Virginia, Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

Each chapter had been asked to send a senior, junior and sophomore. Several chapters sent other Phis interested in becoming candidates for office. That first session at Ohio State had a four-man faculty headed by Executive Secretary Miller with three province presidents.

John E. "Jack" Shepman (Cincinnati '47), the president of Zeta province, gave the welcoming talk and the session quickly got down to business. The sessions covered nine topics:

- Constitution and General Statutes
- General Fraternity Organization
- Chapter Organization
- Chapter Adviser
- Chapter Finance
- Rushing Techniques
- Pledge Training
- Ritual
- Scholarship

Two years later similar sessions were organized in other areas. The gatherings continued on a regional basis until 1987 when the Leadership College was set up at General Headquarters, bringing officers from every campus to Oxford.

Another innovation that was in line with the purpose and ideals of the Fraternity was the establishment of the Phi Delta Theta Educational Foundation in 1958. The Foundation "exists to provide for the advancement of learning, particularly in colleges and universities in which chapters of the Fraternity are located and through the extension of financial aid in the furtherance of educational activities."

The original trustees of the Foundation were David A. Gaskill (Miami '16), Robert F. Maskey (Ohio Wesleyan '24), Grosvenor S. McKee (Ohio '16), Harold A. Minnich (Akron '24), George S. Ward (Illinois '10) and Donald Winston (Williams '15).

The aim was to provide scholarships to deserving students. It began on a small scale, but as of this writing (July, 1997) a total of \$1.2 million had been granted to assist 874 Phis in obtaining their college degrees.



*General Council President Jack Shepman (Cincinnati '47) presided over the first Convention to be held outside the continental limits of the U.S. or Canada — the 1966 Convention in the Bahamas.*