

# EDITORIAL: HAPPY BIRTHDAY DPE

*Beryl C. McEwen, DPE National President*

This year DPE is 75 years old!

DPE started at New York University in the spring 1936, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Paul S. Lomax. When DPE started a quart of milk was 10 cents, a loaf of bread was 5 cents, a gallon of gasoline was 18 cents, a new car (Chrysler sedan) was \$995, and Dale Carnegie's famous book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* had just hit the market. Shorthand and Typewriting were the most popular courses in business education.

## Looking Back

In 1988 when DPE was in its early 50s, digitization of the hospitality industry began with computerized registration. The following year, 1989, the World Wide Web was invented by Sir Tim Berners-Lee. DPE has embraced many inventions and innovations and has adjusted to them all, including the first computer in 1943 (The Colossus), followed by the ENIAC in 1946, the first minicomputer in 1960, the first microcomputer in 1971, and the first laptop in 1975. Laptops, as we know them today, started becoming popular in the early 1990. In 1993 email started to become popular, spurred on with initiatives by America Online and CompuServe that led to Internet-based email. Now email connects people globally and business educators use it every day. At the beginning of 1993, as DPE neared age 60, the World Wide Web had approximately 130 sites; today it has billions of uniquely addressable pages, such as the DPE site, [www.dpe.org](http://www.dpe.org). Now, as DPE celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> year, online meetings and other virtual collaborations have become quite popular, especially after the sad events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

DPE has witnessed a variety of other critical inventions that have enriched the lives of its members, including the microwave oven and the remote control in 1955; the all-important computer mouse, which was invented in 1962; the ATM machine, invented in 1969; and the life-altering cell phone, which was invented in 1973. DPE has embraced each of these inventions, using them to advance its goals and the goals of business education as a discipline. Yet, there is still work to be done. Only last year a young public school teacher declared that she had never heard about business education.

Notwithstanding those who may never have heard about our discipline, DPE has been a significant force in secondary and higher education for many, many years, with numerous accomplishments over its 75-year history:

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- DPE has been at the forefront of research that builds our discipline. The DPE Journal published its first issue in 1957—when DPE was 21 years old—Volume I, Issue I. In 1959 it was established as a permanent part of the Society. Since then, DPE has published over 150 issues of the Journal, with approximately four articles each. That is more than 600 research articles, published in the last 54 years. This does not include the many issues of the JARBI (formerly “Instructional Strategies,” and before that “DPE TIPS”). And, by virtue of its membership on the Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education, DPE has also contributed to 89 Policy Statements—This We Believe About . . .
- DPE has helped to redefine business education from a focus on vocational training to include leadership and personal development.
- DPE was very instrumental, together with the National Association of Business Teacher-Training Institutions, and the Research Division of the United Business Education Association (UBEA now NBEA), in establishing the “Committee on Coordination and Integration of Research in Business Education (CCIRBE).” This project evolved into the NBEA Yearbook that is still published annually.

DPE continues to support current research by providing incentives such as the Annual Research Award. When DPE was 25 years old, and the IBM Selectric typewriter was just entering the market, Mildred C. Hillestad received the award for her study: *Factors Which Contribute to the Difficulty of Shorthand Dictation Materials*. In 2011, the award went to Craig Wentworth for his study: *The Role of Collegiate Sports Participation in Preparing Women for Executive Leadership*.

In DPE’s 25<sup>th</sup> year, 1961, the Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education issued its first Policy Statement: *This We Believe About Business Education in the High School*. DPE has been a member of the Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education since its inception.

The rich history of Delta Pi Epsilon is the focus of this issue of *The Delta Pi Epsilon Journal*. The authors, Robert Mitchell and Peter Meggison, have focused on the last 25 years, adding to the 50-year history, authored by Floyd Crank, which was published in 1986.

## Moving Forward

DPE continues to help define business education through its published research papers, its monographs, its work on the Policies Commission, and in business education classrooms every day. DPE has had a long, productive life and plans to keep on giving. But, some changes are underway. As we enter the 76<sup>th</sup> year, marching on to the centennial, DPE will be joining forces with the National Business Education Association (NBEA).

DPE will officially become an NBEA affiliate on January 1, 2012. The Society will be giving up its base in Little Rock, Arkansas, to move its offices

to Reston, Virginia. The move will allow the Society to share resources with its sister organizations—NBEA, NABTE, and ISBE. After careful consideration and much discussion, the bylaws were revised and submitted for a vote during summer 2011. They were unanimously approved.

While a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is cause for celebration, it is also a time for reflection. DPE has fulfilled its mission over the last 75 years and will continue to do so. There is much to celebrate, but DPE's Diamond Jubilee celebration is not just about a wonderful party; it is even more importantly about the future. Where will our organization be next year, and the year after that? What will its future look like? While we can't be totally sure, we do know that we will continue to serve business educators and business education. As an affiliate of NBEA, DPE will work together with a larger and more varied group of business educators and will focus on what it does best—conducting and disseminating the research that is so necessary to sustain our discipline. Business education will be stronger as we forge closer, more collaborative working relationships, with clearer foci.

So, as DPE celebrates its Diamond Jubilee and begins the next 25 years, we embrace the changes—the innovations that impact our discipline and our lives—iPhones, tablet computers, netbooks, e-books, 3-D televisions, and apps for everything. But DPE will remain true to its core mission. And, as the Arkansas office closes its doors and we change the number in our smart phones from 501-219-1866 to 703-860-8300, would anyone like to predict what DPE will look like when we turn 100, in 2036? I'm not sure what my guess would be, but I know our Society will be alive and well and still a tremendous positive force in business education.



*Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday DPE*