

THE FOUNDERS'
IDEAL



HAVING BEEN POLISHED BY GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS,
THE SPIRIT OF ACTION CONTINUES TO LIVE HERE

Yoshikazu (b. 1880) and Motoko Hani (b. 1873) were both leading journalists in the pioneering years of Japan's modern journalism. In 1903, the husband and wife team launched a monthly magazine called *Katei-no-Tomo* (Family's Friend) (later becoming known as *Fujin-no-Tomo* (Women's Friend)), one of Japan's first household magazines.

While their own daughters were at school, the Hanis witnessed them cramming for tests at their schools. This inspired the couple to dream of a more well-rounded education that would foster children's ability to think for themselves. And in April 1921, they started Jiyu Gakuen to realize their ideal. The name of the school "Jiyu" (freedom) was taken from the passage in the Gospel of John: "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Working as journalists, the couple not only took up such issues as education and child-rearing, but they actively worked to realize a better society through the creation of their school. This spirit of "acting on one's own initiative" continues to be fundamental at our campus.