



EUFORIA

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From your Regional Director

A great city like Amsterdam offers visitors endless opportunities, and the ROCvA added to this a conference being prepared thoroughly by an eager steering committee. I thank the Dutch membership for their help, as well as the valuable input from our European member countries.

The steering committee incorporated the biennium theme and a subtheme which combined the Society's vision statement "Leading women educators impacting education worldwide" to "Friendship in education worldwide".

Friendship implies the best of all virtues: brotherhood.

If this sincere friendship is carried out, it leads to liberty and equality. Deep emotions are triggered- reminding us on a time when these words were first heard during the French Revolution "Fraternité, Liberté, Egalité". These words have not lost their significance over the past 225 years. We Europeans have come a long and painful way, after waging horrible wars and being divided into east and west: today 700 million people speaking about 150 languages live in peace. Our different cultures enrich us, and no longer divide us.

Out of necessity, Europe has agreed on our lingua franca: English is taught as the first foreign language at schools on all levels throughout Europe. Much has changed on the teaching front. So acquiring a second language was one of the major themes during the general sessions.

Dr. Adriana Fishta-Bejko from Calgary, Canada, born and raised in Albania, started her speech on that topic with teaching the audience some Albanian. This fitted nicely to the attempt to greet the members from nine European countries attending the conference in their own language. One of the friendly helpers from the college staff was thanked in Turkish: Europe at its best!

Today education cannot do without technology. There was a time when students learned a foreign language without ever hearing it spoken. Now technology offers a wide spectrum of communication tools that allow teachers to awaken interest, and improve their teaching skills and their students' fluency.

Learning about the newest technological possibilities for the classroom, and exchanging opinions and ideas was made possible during the last general session.

Furthermore, the applications for presenting conference workshop sessions were so outstanding that a preference seemed unfair. As a result, the participants were able to choose from a unique variety of workshops: from those related to the Society business, to those building all kinds of teaching skills and strategies, and those enriching personal lives and professional growth.

Presenters have agreed to publish their WS description as well as their e-mail address. So members are offered the possibility to get into contact if the topic is of interest to them.

Friendships across borders are very important to our Society. Those who attended the conference hopefully left Amsterdam with the feeling of being enriched by speeches, discussions, and by renewed connections to Delta Kappa Gamma, and especially by making new friendships.

The next big international event our membership is invited to is the international convention in Indianapolis in 2014!



At the 2014 international convention changes of the DKG constitution will be discussed and voted for. The international administrative board has already published some of the proposals which can be found online. Read, think, discuss, submit – take your chance to be part of the changes you consider necessary to move us forward.

Before we meet in Indianapolis I plan to visit the states in Europe I did not have the chance to travel to last spring.

Schools are again in full swing all over Europe. Have a successful school year, all the best to you and the ones dear to you.

Marika Heimbach

European Forum

Pre-Conference, Education for Everyone, Amsterdam, 6th August 2013, 9:00 - 16:00

The focus was on Adult Education, Technology and Teaching and Changing the Face of Education. We had good presenters, lively discussions and a good atmosphere. The Program is on the web and we are working on having a brief summary of the topics on the website.

- **Adult Education**
 - Unlocking the Education Gate for the Unqualified Healthcare Workforce in the UK, *Dorcas Rogers (GB), lecturer at London South Bank University*
 - Validation of non-formal and informal learning in Iceland, *Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (IS)*
 - Migrant Women - Integration through creativity. *Margarita Hanschmidt (EST)*
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- **Technology and Teaching**
 - Learning Possibilities and Problems in One-to-one Computing and Distance Learning, *Catherine Bringselius-Nilsson (SWE)*
- **Changing Face of Education**
 - Does Global Competition Impact on our School and University Systems, *Liz Day, University Teacher Trainer, ex-Headteacher (GB)*

Towards the end we discussed in groups, **How we want to carry on the discussions of Educational subjects in Europe within DKG?** The overall conclusion was that it is important to retain a strong Forum, but we need some changes.

- ✓ We need to include the pre-conference in the Regional Conference i.e. the pre-conference seminar was very successful but would be better if such discussions were to take place during the actual conference.
- ✓ Discussions need to lead to something concrete, i.e. topics that lead to continuing discussions at the next conference. Suggestion for a topic was: What is the educational policy of EU?
- ✓ We need to keep people informed BY USING what we have, i.e. the European Website and Euforia. To keep people informed, prepared and ready by thinking forward, sharing topics, asking for suggestions and 'in-state' discussions, focus on topics in chapters and countries and to promote Forum Seminar.
- ✓ Forum is an important aspect of the European Region for discussing issues and focusing on European topics.

The Forum Meeting in Amsterdam

Marianna Skardeus (Sweden) gave us the words of Inspiration and spoke about the challenges of the 21st century in Education - every individual should be given the possibility to have an education. Catherine Bringselius Nilsson (Sweden) read a poem and presented a white rose to honour deceased members.

We honoured Kate York (GB) with the 2013 European Achievement Award. Sheila Roberts said, when she presented Kate with the award, that she had raised the profile of the European region.

Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir (Iceland) introduced Changes on voting and Birgit Svennson (Sweden) and Kate York (Great Britain) introduced the changes in the nomination procedure. Members were encouraged to follow the discussions.

The business meeting was chaired by Diana Bell and the minutes will be on the website before end of September. <http://dkgeurope.org/page/minutes-of-the-ef-meeting>.

Jess Curtis's proposal to hold a competition to find an alternative DKG song, was motioned. The European Forum Committee and the Regional Director will decide how to continue with the procedure.

Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir's proposal, that Joan Carroll, the editor of Euforia, would be a member of the European Forum web committee, was agreed.

The business meeting was followed by a lecture "Rethinking Education" presented by Gitta Franke-Zöllmer (Germany).

This biennium European Forum aims to set the goals of our Forum into action. The challenge is to get something done, to move forward. *ACTION - Activate Our Goals – Unite European Members.*

The Forum Website

The European Forum is a platform for discussions in our Region, Europe. It has its website for communication. A website we have to use more efficiently.

The members of The Web Committee are :

Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), Webmaster
Giesela von Engelhardt (Germany), Former Member of the Int. Communication Committee
Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Iceland), European Forum Chair
Marika Heimbach (Germany), Regional Director
Meeri Sild (Estonia), Estonian Webmaster
and Joan Carroll (Great Britain), Editor of Euforia will join the Committee.

The Web Committee has met online and discussed ways to use the web for communication. Technology changes so fast that it is difficult to keep track, but necessary. We have to be aware of the possibilities technology brings us. We are discussing starting facebook communication and perhaps a blog about specific matters. If you have any ideas, please contact any of the persons on the Committee.

The Future

The Forum Committee will meet the first weekend in November in Germany. There we will look into the future and take into consideration the outcome from our pre-conference discussions and the Forum meeting.

What changes do we need to make? What is in our future? How is our structure? How do we fulfil our needs as a Forum for Europe?

If you have any ideas, let us hear from you. We need your voice. I hope to meet you on the web, let us find ways to communicate and be united.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, European Forum Chair

Finland

During the conference I took the opportunity to talk to our young members and encouraged them to speak up. I am very happy that Lida took the time to write this article. The young ones are the future of DKG, without them in a few years DKG will not exist. I hope that we in Europe will start thinking how we need to change in order to be more attractive to young educators. Let us listen to what they have to say, let us discuss their ideas and get into action!

Marika Heimbach, Regional Director

DKG REVOLUTION

Dear European DKG sisters,

I attended the European DKG conference in Amsterdam this summer. I was a first-timer at the regional conference and held my first workshop for teachers 😊

In Amsterdam, I finally had the opportunity to meet other young professionals working in the field of education in other countries and make new connections. Yippee!

After leaving Amsterdam, I have been in touch with Kamini from Denmark and Katrin from Germany. We have started a discussion on how would our DKG revolution look like if we really could decide on the future of our society.

Here are some of the alternative ideas:

- *An opportunity to honour male educators, even if they would not be able to become full members.*
- *Open the membership market for men. This would definitely interest young female teachers to become members.*
- *There are a lot of ceremonies for events related to the society, such as initiation and death of a member. As a European member, I would like these ceremonies look more personal, to fit the local culture of a State or a chapter. Nevertheless, it is good to have some universal aspects of these ceremonies.*
- *Create a sub-society called yDKG (young DKG) for under 40 year-old women educators.*

Some of the ideas are a bit "radical" and may never take place but it is good to have dreams and think big, isn't it?

Greetings from Helsinki,

Iida Hyvönen, Secretary of Alpha chapter, Finland

The Netherlands.



Where do I start? With my memories when I read old numbers of EuForia. Certainly not! Being state president for the third time is exciting and a challenge. So much new information at the Leadership Management Seminar, Kay Clawson as the inspiring Chair; we learned about Dropbox and Clouds among many other things.

The event of our Regional Conference was a success, listening to the members who visited Amsterdam. There were wonderful speakers, not only from Europe and the USA but also from Africa. The well organized tours, the opening of the Dutch night with a Caribbean band, the reception at the Town Hall, I shall stop. There are so many memories.

The future is beckons us.

The good news at the start of this biennium is that Delta chapter will install four new members on September 28, 2013. What we did to interest colleagues was invite them for a dinner at one of the schools of the ROC of Amsterdam. A dinner cooked and served by the students created an atmosphere for sharing our vision about education and the role of Delta Kappa Gamma in our work.

The date of our State Convention 2014 will be May 24. The place is not decided yet. As soon as the decision is made the news will be spread.

During our state meeting in November one of the new members, who comes from Surinam will tell us about her family and the slavery they had to deal in 19th century.

State President Cor Wolff-Heins.

Great Britain

Twenty-two GB Members attended the European Regional Conference. What an interesting, vibrant city Amsterdam proved to be. Thank you to our Dutch colleagues who provided plenty of good speakers, workshops, entertainment and visits. One of the best conference ideas was the red rose on the outside of our file although it took me two days to realise that the beautiful rose housed our tightly rolled up conference bag!



Delta Kappa Gamma is a wonderful organisation for making and renewing friendships.



Attending the European Regional Conference at the start of the biennium allows new state presidents to get to know each other. We had some fun and even managed the flag ceremony without any flag poles damaging the low part of the conference room ceiling!

Chairing the European Forum business meeting was interesting; we managed to get through all the business in the time allocated, including agreeing to go ahead with composing the music and creating lyrics for a new DKG song.



Sadly the post-conference tour was cancelled, but a few of us hired a car and had an excellent adventure. Highlights included Hoorn with a fun-fair outside our door, the outdoor Zuiderzee Museum with fascinating artisans' houses, walking on Texel salt marsh and our

'whisper boat' ride.

At home organising our state committees was one of my first tasks. The State Conference Committee has already been in contact, by e-mail at least. So many members enjoyed being at Aylesford Priory in 2012 that we will be returning there. Our conference dates are Friday evening 28th to Sunday 30th March 2014. Everyone is welcome.

Diana Bell, State President

During the European Forum meeting on Saturday, it was wonderful that our very own Kate York should be honoured as recipient of The European Achievement Award.

The European Achievement Award is given biennially in recognition of distinguished service given to Delta Kappa Gamma in Europe.

Kate received a totally unanimous vote from all of the countries in DKG's European Region, in recognition of her amazing and unstinting level of commitment in her work in Europe as European Regional Director 2010-2012.

She encouraged all with her vision of DKG Europe. She visited every country, some several times, and always managed to give clear directions in any situation. She was a calm, reliable fount of information, always available to point the way forward, and to bolster morale and flagging spirits. She has been a real 'rock' to all European Presidents and members, - I can personally vouch for that. She has probably lost track of the enormous number of air miles she clocked up in supporting so generously any State President or country when asked for help, guidance or support.

As a member of the Administrative Board, Kate constantly put forward the views of Europe, thus ensuring that everyone understood the different issues found in our Region. By her manner and efficiency she impressed all and consequently managed to raise the profile of the European Region. This she continues to do via her membership of The Nominations Committee.

I feel very privileged to have been asked to announce Kate as the Award winner at this year's Forum meeting. Ingibjorg Jonasdottir, Chair of the European Forum had a beautiful silver pin commissioned in Iceland. She explained that it is based on a knitting basket symbolising that our countries are knitted together in a common purpose, held together in a basket, supported and carried by Kate.

Many congratulations Kate and thank you for all your hard work.

Sheila Roberts, Immediate Past President, Great Britain

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to this edition. One of the recommendations made at the pre-conference seminar has been followed up on very quickly by our Regional Director, Marika. A list of the conference workshops with their titles and topics and, where the presenters have agreed, a contact email address is being sent out as a separate attachment with this edition to all State Presidents and to the European website.

Contributions for the Spring edition of EuForia need to reach me by 26th January 2014 when I hope to hear from many more of you again, particularly with dates and details of 2014 State Conferences. I hope you enjoy reading this Autumn EuForia and I look forward to communicating with you all again in 2014.

Joan Carroll, Editor