

**EuForia**  
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**Greetings from your Regional Director**

There could not be a greater joy to us European Delta Kappa Gamma sisters than to see that we have really grown into a region that functions the way it was wished to do. By this I mean that during this spring four state conventions in Europe have had a multi-European attendance of participants. The British at their state convention in Torquay had visitors from Germany, The Netherlands and Finland – and on top of that, also from The United States. The Swedes at their state convention in Borås had visitors from Norway. The Netherlands at their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and convention in Amsterdam had visitors from Great Britain and Germany. Germany at their state convention in Münstertal had visitors from Great Britain, Sweden, The Netherlands and Finland. Wow! Don't you agree this is something to applaud! At all these occasions the European Forum agreement on visitors' non-payment of registration fees was observed. In Borås no attendants stayed in hotels but were accommodated by the local members. All this shows that we are taking our Europe region "seriously" and enjoying its benefits.

I had the privilege to attend the British and the German state conventions. Both were very well organized and held in most charming venues: the former at a 19<sup>th</sup> century quality hotel in Torquay and the latter in an old Catholic monastery, or actually a nunnery, of St. Trudpert in Münstertal. In a short time you can learn a lot about the history of the place and the surroundings, the culture of the country and the special projects taking place in the state organizations, when the programme is well planned, as it was in both places. In Great Britain we were taken to visit an impressive site, Buckfast Abbey and in Germany on our tour in Freiburg we heard many colourful and funny stories about personalities who had lived in the city. Then, just a couple of examples of the important projects : in Britain Trisha Rogers talked about the Jubilee Debt Campaign, which aims at debt cancellation to poor countries. In Germany we heard about "SolWoDi" in Kenya, a project that shows solidarity to women in distress. The programmes in Sweden, The Netherlands and Finland looked very rewarding, too. Meeting friends, of course, is as important as the official programme. And one more reason to applaud is that the numbers of participants at state conventions have gone up.

One feature not to be forgotten about these conventions and other international DKG events in Europe is the "DKG husbands". We used to say that behind a prosperous man there is always a woman, but in our case we could also say vice versa. Just think of the European members' husbands who have supported their wives by accompanying them to many conventions and conferences and when their busy wives are in charge of these events, the husbands give all sorts of help in practical matters, e.g. by acting as chauffeurs to visitors, which is greatly appreciated. Should we plan some kind of recognition to our male supporters? What could it be? All ideas are welcome.

Good news is also that the membership has grown in Germany, Norway, Iceland, Great Britain and in Finland. From other countries I haven't heard. As to expansion to Denmark, Marianne Skardéus has created promising links with some key persons in different parts of Denmark. But she will keep us updated after her next visits to the country.

We are approaching the San Diego International Convention. In a few weeks' time c. 50 European members will meet at San Diego Marriott and Resort Hotel. Two "purely" European events have been planned during the convention: the European Breakfast at 6.15 – 8.15 on Friday, July 21, in Manchester Room and the European Dinner on Thursday evening, July 20, at a restaurant that Joan Carroll has kindly arranged for us. The German members are going to decorate one table at the Breakfast with typical German (breakfast) items. Could all the other European countries do the same? We could have a lottery and give the decoration items as prizes

and the money to the fund that we prefer. - The Society website informs us of recent changes in the programme on Friday morning. Immediately after the regional breakfasts there are three workshop sessions and the Fourth General Session begins at 1.30. By the way, the workshop titles and short descriptions are now on the website, which helps us to make our choices beforehand – a noteworthy improvement.

Hope you all can enjoy a lovely summer and have a good rest. Let's recharge our batteries!

**Marja-Leena Leskinen**

## **EUROPEAN FORUM**

Greetings from the European Forum Committee. A long and cold winter has passed now and we welcome the beautiful and long-desired Spring. State conferences belong to this season. With the outstanding professional programmes the States offer the members it is easy to understand the increased number of participants.

With great pleasure the committee has noticed that members have attended other States' conferences. In this way one of our goals has been reached. Another committee goal is to "strengthen the unity inside the European region". By attending each other's conferences we get the opportunity to work with this issue.

The European Forum committee members for 2006-2008 are now elected. I hereby present them to you:

Finland – Marja-Liisa Lehtikainen

Great Britain – Kate York

Germany – Gisela von Engelhardt

Iceland – Helga Thorlacius

Norway – Bjorg Nakling

Sweden – Carin Ahlberg

The Netherlands – Ria Bleeker (chairman)

On behalf of the present committee I welcome you to the European Forum meeting in San Diego 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1.30.-3.30pm.

**Birgit Svensson, Chair, European Forum Committee**

## **INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE**

The International Scholarships Committee met in March at International Headquarters in Austin, Texas and, from an exceptionally large group of worthy applicants, selected 28 recipients of \$5000 each which is to help towards the expenses of pursuing a PhD.

We are delighted that three of these recipients come from the European Region and we give them our congratulations.

**Eija Paukkuri**, Zeta Chapter, Finland : The J. Maria Pierce Scholarship

**Marianna Sunnari**, Gamma Chapter, Finland: The Sixtieth Anniversary Scholarship

**Helen Arlestig**, Gamma Chapter, Sweden: The Eula Lee Carter Scholarship

We were sorry that we had to reject many other good applicants and we strongly encourage them to apply again next year. We are hoping that it will be agreed at Convention in San Diego to raise the scholarships to \$6000 each,

Applicants must have earned a Masters Degree (or equivalent), be enrolled in a recognized graduate program and have been a Society member for at least three years to qualify for scholarship consideration.

The two parts of the application which receive the most weighting in the evaluation are the Impact Statement and the Society involvement. The Impact Statement asks how this further study will benefit the applicant personally and professionally and education in general. It is **not** asking for an autobiographical statement/life history. A prospective candidate should show an enthusiasm for chapter and state functions and take positions offered to her **as much as her studies allow**.

**February 1** is the deadline for scholarship applications. Forms will be available from July 1 on the Society website.

If you are studying/about to enrol for a PhD or 2<sup>nd</sup> Masters degree please apply. It is one way of highlighting the involvement of the European Region and it is a personal honour for all recipients. Please ask if you need advice or help with the application.

**Gloria Redston European Representative** [gredston@gredston.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:gredston@gredston.freeserve.co.uk)

### **EUROPEAN DINNER IN SAN DIEGO**

Our European Regional Director Marja Leena has asked me to organise an evening during the convention when we can all meet for dinner. We had a very enjoyable European evening in Minneapolis in 2004 and so we thought that those of you who will be going to San Diego might like to repeat the experience. On the recommendation of Sandra Bull I have made a reservation at the Harbor House restaurant for a buffet banquet dinner on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. The cost will be \$40, this includes all service charges and taxes. I will ask everyone to pay me cash in U.S. dollars on the evening, or in advance at the convention when you see me if you prefer. The restaurant will only deal with my credit card as it is a group booking. If you are attending the convention with a husband/partner they, of course, will be welcome to join us but I will need to know exact names and numbers as soon as possible. So far I have provisional numbers of 12 - Sweden, 10 – Finland, 3 - Norway, 12 – Great Britain, 8 – The Netherlands, 4 – Iceland, no information as yet from any members from Germany. The restaurant requires me to pay 50% of the total bill in advance, by 18<sup>th</sup> June so you can see why it is important that I have accurate information! Also, it is likely to be a fun evening and I don't want anyone to be disappointed that they couldn't come because they didn't let me know in time. So, check with your State President that she has passed on your name to me if you want to join us, you can also email me direct if you wish. See you in San Diego!

**Joan Carroll**

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

The season of State Conferences is in full swing. At the Great Britain Conference in Torquay, I was delighted to welcome the majority of members from our three chapters in England, our Regional Director, and visiting guests from the USA, Germany and The Netherlands. Sadly it has not been possible for me to attend all the European State Conferences, but I have just returned from Amersfoort, near Amsterdam and will be going to Freiburg in a few days' time.

The international aspect of our Society is one of its great strengths. Members of different countries, languages and cultures have so much to share with, and learn from, each other. The problems and challenges in education seem to be very similar in all our countries and this unites us all. The differences are fascinating and present many ideas about alternative approaches to education.

Ten members (and two husbands) from Great Britain have registered to attend the International Convention in San Diego. We are all looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. Another great strength of Delta Kappa Gamma is the opportunity to meet familiar faces in so many different parts of the world and to feel 'at home' immediately wherever we may be.

Members of the Steering Committee for the 2007 European Conference are busy planning and organising the arrangements for next year. As members work together on committees they are focusing on detailed arrangements which we are sure will result in a first-rate conference. They are also benefiting from the experience of working together towards an important common goal. In doing so, they are getting to know each other even better. The committees have taken to heart the advice of the team that prepared the Reykjavik Conference – to have fun as well as working hard. For example, the Publicity Sub-Committee recently held a valuable meeting in France, whilst enjoying a taste of French life at the same time.

I hope to see many European members in San Diego in July but, whether I see you there or not, please book 1 – 4 August 2007 to meet at Strawberry Hill in London at next year's European Conference. There will be pre-Conference tours to many parts of Britain as well as opportunities to visit many of the 'must see' attractions in the London area. Our venue is a magnificent former

stately home close to the River Thames and our Banquet Night will take place in fabulous surroundings overlooking Sandown Park racecourse. Combine these highlights with excellent speakers and workshops – an opportunity too good to miss!

**Kate York, Great Britain State President**

## **ICELAND**

Greetings from Iceland! There are now nine chapters in Iceland with 250 members. During this past winter work in the chapters has been both creative and very energetic, which was well reflected at our State spring conference. Most chapters have increased their membership and our Zeta-chapter in eastern Iceland which had become almost non-functional has now been revived with 20 new members.

On May 6th we had our Iceland State spring conference which was planned by our Cultural committee in co-operation with the State Executive Board. The theme of the convention was “**Environmental influences on well being and learning outcomes**”. Five speakers delivered interesting lectures on topics such as: *School environment, Lifestyle and consumption, and The social- and ethical environment*. The lectures sparked much interest among our DKG sisters, and were followed by thought-provoking discussion about the environment our students grow up in today as well as what sort of role models we the grown-ups are. What messages do we send out to our children and youth today?

In between the lectures members presented their chapters through music, songs, reading and slideshows, which reflects well the creative work being pursued in the chapters as well as the motto of our organization; friendship, helpfulness and trust.

The spring conference was a great success and we are already looking forward to our State Convention next spring when Iceland State will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Preparation is already well under way led by an energetic committee, the very same committee that led the work for our European Conference in Iceland 2003.

We are especially happy with the increase in our membership and hope it will continue like this. To our European sisters we send warm regards from Iceland, and look forward to see you at the convention in San Diego this summer.

With best regards,

**Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir State President Iceland State Organization**

## **SWEDEN**

*The executive board meeting 2006*

The Swedish Executive Board meeting has just been carried out in Borås (a town 60 Kms east of Gothenburg) with 80 participants from all parts of Sweden and support from Norway and Alaska. The support of the Norwegian president together with three other Norwegian members together with the International Speaker from Alaska, Jeanne Nelson Fiske, Anchorage, gave an international flavour to the meeting. The rector of University of Borås, Lena Nordholm, a member of the Chi-chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Sweden State, gave in honour of the guest from USA hear welcoming words in English to make her feel at home.

The conference was highly appreciated by all participants and of course I am very proud of “my chi-chapter” that after three years of its birth proofed ready to perform in a very professional way! The topics of the conference internationalization and a gender-perspective seemed to be just right!

*Summing up*

After one year as state president it is time looking back but also planning ahead.

My goals as State President have been to increase information internally, within the organisation, and externally about our Society. The internal communication has improved through our now very ambitious and updated home page. Please look into [www.deltakappagamma.se](http://www.deltakappagamma.se). My monthly

e-mail letter to the chapter-president with current information about what was happening in our Society nationally and internationally was positively received.

The external communication with the aim to partly make us more well-known, partly to assist the recruiting of new members has been assisted by a Committee for Marketing. The support from Delta Kappa Gamma Society International through the Lucile Cornetet fund made it additionally possible to invite non-members to listen to our particular interesting speakers, and to inform about our event. The funding has given us means to give the speakers a fee, print information leaflets in Swedish and also to print and distribute posters about the speakers and the event as a whole. We count it as a success that on a Saturday morning in the month of May 20 non-members joined in.

#### *New members*

Recruiting new members is essential for our survival. Everybody realises this! How to inspire others to take an interest in our fantastic network? I have no complete recipe but I have realised that with enthusiasm and joy you will hit the road. If you yourself participate in stimulating meetings you have a lot to tell others! Inform about our in-service training sessions and our scholarships! Apply for the Lucile Cornetet stipend for your in-service training! Support each other! See the lesson of geese below! Wishing you all a nice summer! **Marianne Skardéus**

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

EXCELLENT IDEAS - Great Britain State Conference 1-2 April 2006

Impression from a Dutch Delta Kappa Gamma Member

It proved to be really an Excellent Idea to participate in Great Britain's annual State Conference! I knew that beforehand already, having been in Canterbury in 1995, in Bournemouth in 1999 and in Tunbridge Wells in 2004. G.B.'s Conferences are always exciting and of very good quality.

This time I had the occasion again to stay with my good friend Mary Wardrop together with Jeni Souders from the USA. They gently picked me up at Gatwick Airport on Friday evening and Saturday we drove together to the beautiful English Riviera where at the Belgrave Hotel on the seafront in Torquay we met with many old and new friends.

As only nominated and not yet elected Europe Regional Director I had the pleasure to be invited at the 2007 European Regional Conference Steering Committee Meeting, together with Marja-Leena Leskinen.

It was great to see and hear all the enthusiastic reports and to find out how much work had already been done and how exciting the projects seem to be.

I felt very lucky that Marja-Leena was there who had the experience from the Conference in Turku in Finland, and if I am elected as her successor in San Diego, I can assure you that I'll be delighted to work with such an enthusiastic Steering committee.

After an excellent supper I learned about Women Detectives and I brought Mma Ramotswe from the No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency home with me

Sunday morning 2 very interesting speakers: Trisha Rogers about "Getting into Debt in Citizenship Education" and Sue Minter about "The Eden Project: The Dome that Worked".

What is the most interesting part of Conferences in other States (besides the meeting of friends of course) is the fact that you become aware of various matters you are not familiar with in your own country. You are longing to see and hear more of it but at least you acquaint yourself with something you knew little about before.

After Sunday afternoon-tea things turned out less pleasant for me . Longing for the sunshine, going too fast and not looking at my feet, I was tripped up by a border, fell down, twisted my ankle and contused my hand.

So unfortunately I was not present at the Annual General Meeting, that I had wanted to attend, I was busy putting ice alternately on hand and foot in the hall of the hotel.

Luckily for me an X-ray the next morning showed that nothing was broken! It gave me the opportunity to see 2 English hospitals instead of Buckfast Abbey!

But on our way home we visited Jane Austen's house in Chawton, so that after British Health Care (very effective) I underwent also British History (much more interesting)

It only remains for me to tell you that donations for the World Fellowship Fund totalled £84.20!

I'll be very happy to hand over all the collected money as a European contribution in San Diego.

**Trijny Schmitz du Moulin.**

## **FINLAND**

Spring has at last come even here after a long winter. Spring flowers are blooming and we are looking forward to summer and holidays and of course San Diego.

We had our convention in early April. This time we had a one-day event hoping to get more participants than earlier. The turn up was good and the feedback has been positive. We started the day with the AGM. All activity reports and action plans had been published on our homepage in advance to make sure that we could share each other's experiences and plans. The theme of the convention was Ethical Challenges to Growth and each speaker superbly complemented each other's presentations.

We ended the first part of the day by giving a scholarship of 700E to a 31 years old student Oanh Pham from Helsinki University's pedagogical department. She came as a refugee from Vietnam to Finland 16 years ago and graduated from the 6<sup>th</sup> form and is now in her third year of studies to become a teacher for immigrants. She would like to break certain prejudices and bring a new point of view and multicultural know-how into the Finnish comprehensive school. She finds the studies hard but she also feels that she is getting good facilities for working as a classroom teacher.

Our editor Dr. Helena Allahwerdi wrote in our press release:

"Being a refugee is one of the great challenges of our time and also of education. At the end of 2005 we had about 114,000 foreigners in Finland. A small share of them were refugees. The biggest refugee groups have come from Somalia, from ex-Yugoslavia, Iran, Iraq and Vietnam. These refugees and immigrants in Finland are real, multicultural global citizens, who with their mere presence enrich our culture and make it international."

In the evening we went to the Finnish National Theatre to see a new play by Reko Lundan, one of the top Finnish dramatists of today. It is a play about the priorities in our health care, but also about what our life is about.

The day was long, but I had a feeling, when we departed at the end of day that we had got some food for our minds and souls and had the opportunity of networking. I would like to thank the participants, who came from all over Finland, the furthest one from Oulu, and our lecturers Kirsti Relander, Kaija Teikari and Mirja-Tytti Talib. We all together made the day.

The number of those going to San Diego is not quite finalized yet, but I expect quite a few. We are all looking forward to meeting you all in San Diego.

**Tuula Penttilä State President, Finland**

## **NORWAY**

All our chapters have had a good semester. They are active and have had regular meetings with creative programs.

One chapter, ( Delta ) has decided to collect money to support a student teacher in one of the Baltic countries. They collected nice items, like jewelry, belts, scarves etc from members and sold them at a market. The experience to do so was great! It is quite another job to sell things on the street than to be a schoolteacher in your own environment! They had fun and money keeps coming in slowly. When they reach 5000 kr. they will contact a teacher training school and see how they are going to arrange it all in a good and safe manner.

We have also worked hard to establish our new web-site. Very soon you will be able to reach the Norwegian Delta Kappa Gamma on net! Hopefully before the San Diego Convention! We look forward to closer contact with you all.

Four of us visited Sweden and their conference in Borås in the beginning of May. It was great to meet old and new sisters and to share experiences. The program was fantastic and the workshops even better. We got many ideas and above all we have now a special contact with the chapter in Borås. That is a fairly new chapter and we find that very inspiring.

At least 3 members are coming to San Diego from Norway. We look forward to see you all there.

**Bjørg Nakling State president**



### Lessons from Geese

Geese flying in a V-formation have always been a welcome sign of spring as well as a sign that heralds the coming of winter. Not only is this a marvellous sight, but there are some remarkable lessons to learn from the flight of the geese because all that they do has significance

1. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates uplift for others behind it. There is 71 percent more flying range in V-formation than in flying alone.

*Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there more quickly.*

2. Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position.

*Lesson: It's harder to do something alone than together.*

3. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation, and another goose flies at the head.

*Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence provides each a chance to lead as well as an opportunity to rest.*

4. The geese flying in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

*Lesson: Encouragement is motivating. It's imperative that the "honking" is encouraging – and not discouraging.*

5. When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese leave the flock and stay with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up or join another flock.

*Lesson: Everyone needs help from time to time. All should stand by colleagues in difficult times.*

**Angeles Arrien**

**Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of EuForia. The deadline for items for the Autumn edition is 21<sup>st</sup> September. We look forward to hearing news from all the countries in our European Region.**

**Joan Carroll - Editor**