



EUFORIA
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1st October 2007

Greetings from your Regional Director

The fifth European Regional Conference held from August 1 – 4, 2007, at St. Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill in Twickenham near London is history now.

It is hard to believe that all the work done in the year before, I would miss it.

As I have this feeling after one year, how will this be for the British members, especially those in the Steering Committee who were preparing this event for so much longer!!

I am sure they felt relieved when the last persons left St. Mary's, but a little orphaned too, a feeling that should be gone after a well deserved holiday.

231 members and 28 guests from 10 countries took part in this Conference where we celebrated also the 10th anniversary of the Europe Region.

It is a great pleasure to see that the number of participants is slightly growing each Biennium, as does the membership in the different countries, which proves that Europe has grown in strength and unity. And in number of states also, since Denmark joined the Society in the spring of this year. A second chapter will be installed in Odense October 5th 2007!

We not only celebrated the 10th year of the European Region, we also celebrated the awarding of the first European Achievement Award.

It was my great pleasure to present this Award to Dorothy Haley, who played such a distinguished and determinant role in the creation of Europe as the 5th Region.

Nobody could more deserve that Award than Dorothy!!!!

The Keynote Speakers were excellent. Your comments about both, Anni Marjoram and Trisha Rogers prove that you all had the same feeling.

And that brings me to the following; Please look at the website www.deltakappagamma.org/GB so brilliantly done by Gloria Redston, with comments given by a lot of the participants and reports of all the events already written by several British members.

When this will be printed out you will have a diary of the whole conference, with photos and comments, and much more complete than I can give it in this short article.

A bird's-eye view of the week:

- The Leadership Development for the new State Presidents and Executive Secretaries

preceding the Conference, where HQ staff, Corlea Plowman, Jill Folz and Jane Posten, and not to forget Dr. Barbara Day, our International President, assisted Liz Turner and Marja – Leena Leskinen from the L/D Committee in showing the way and helping these new officers with their tasks for 2007- 2009.

There was also a one day training session held for Program and Membership Chairs and for Treasurers and Editors.

- The pre-conference ICT seminar – Electronic Wisdom to Share: Blogging for Personal and Society Use by Eyglo Bjornsdottir.
- The opening session and the unforgettable Great Britain Night with all the Fun of the Fair.
- The visit to the Olympic Sites and Central London and the University of East London.
- The Night on the Town on the river Thames.
- The splendid Banquet at Sandown Park and the Farewell Luncheon in the historic Waldegrave Drawing Room.
- And the presentation of 8 Women of Wisdom and Passion from the 8 European States.

The InFo Fair was visited several times by all the members and it was difficult to choose among the enormous variety of the very interesting workshops that were offered.

All this was made possible by you, the members of our Society who gave or attended the workshops, installed or visited the InFo Fair, and participated with so much enthusiasm in everything that was offered to you.

But a very special word of thanks goes to the British members who prepared all this and did a tremendous lot of work, before, during and certainly also after the Conference.

They were everywhere in their blue T shirts, helping every one, whenever they could.

The members of the Steering Committee began their work long time ago and will bring their experiences to Norway, where the 2009 Regional Conference will be held.

I would like to thank once again *Lynne Scholefield*, the chair of the GB Steering Committee, *Kate York*, Co-chair and Registrar, who was omnipresent and an oracle for all, *Diana Bell*, Treasurer and Fundraiser, who got us the support from Awards for All, *Joan Carroll*, Conference Administrator, who organised also the InFo Fair among many other things, *Gloria Redston*, Co-registrar with Kate and responsible for the wonderful Website, *Sheila Roberts* chair of the Publicity Committee that started so long ago already for inviting members in Turku and San Diego, *Mary Wardrop*, who was in charge of the workshops and the pre-conference L/D training, *Bettina Kulsdorn*, secretary, *Evelyn Goodsell*, who prepared all those marvellous tours, *Anne Cattoor* who did the same for the GB Night and the Farewell Luncheon, *Sandra Blacker* for the Olympic Tour and Night at the Town, *Loetitia Stone*, *Jess Curtis* and *Unity Harvey* for the banquet, decorations and choir, and Unity for the Wetlands Tour also, and *Joanne Stone*, the editor of the program.

Thanks to all of you that honoured us with your presence, our International President, our Past International Presidents and other officers, HQ staff, all the Speakers, Workshop and InFo Fair presenters, presidors, everyone who has contributed by her work or her presence to the success of this fifth European conference!

Trijny Schmitz du Moulin

EUROPEAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The following message is from Dorothy Haley who was presented with our region's first European Achievement Award at this year's regional conference in London in August.

Dear European Sisters,

It was with great pride that I wore your gift of the European Achievement Award at the superb Banquet at our 5th European Conference.

How surprised and thrilled, and quite overwhelmed, I felt as I was presented with it, for we have now been a region for 11 years, and our origins which we are celebrating are a long way in the past and part of our history. We have had so many superb leaders who have given of their varied talents, their energy and their enthusiasm, and each one has taken us one more step towards the success story we are today. We really could have bestowed so many achievement awards, for we have all given of our utmost according to our individual gifts and expertise.

So I feel that this first Achievement Award is shared by all of us - but for me it is a little more special because I shall treasure it as a symbol of all the friendship I have been given over the years, and which has enriched my life.

Thank you for this great honour.

You make me feel very proud and grateful.

Dorothy.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2007 – ADDRESS OF WELCOME

At the opening ceremony of the regional conference at St Mary's University College this year the address of welcome was given by the Vice Principal, Dr. Mary Eaton. This speech was very well received by the delegates who found it extremely thought provoking and appropriate for our Society. We were asked if the text could be reproduced in EuForia so that all our members in Europe could have the opportunity to read it.

Welcome to St. Mary's University College by the Vice-Principal, Dr. Mary Eaton

It is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome the members of Delta Kappa Gamma to St. Mary's University College.

This is, I think, a particularly appropriate venue for an international conference of women educators.

Education has been at the heart of our mission for over a century and a half.

St. Mary's was established in 1850 as a Catholic College for the training of teachers for the poor. That concern with outreach and widening participation, so current in today's debates about Education, was at the heart of our foundation over 150 years ago.

Of course when St. Mary's was founded in 1850 those being trained were all men. Nevertheless the College motto was – and remains –

Monstra Te Esse Matrem
Show Yourself to be a Mother

As you move about the College you will find that motto on old iron gates, above doorways and, of course, at the back of this chapel on the boards which list the names of our students who died in two world wars.

What does it mean – this exhortation to “Show yourself to be a mother”?

The first response to that question is that this is a line from the College hymn; a prayer to our patron: Mary; asking for her blessing and protection.

However, I think there is more to this motto.

I like to think that those men who in the early days of the College walked about with this motto on their blazers were, at some level, recognising the power of the feminine that lies within all of us: female and male.

Mothering, as an active force for good, is carried out by all who seek to nourish and nurture the young in their charge - and then to let them go free to take on the role of building communities and society.

“Monstra te esse matrem” is a prayer to Mary. It is also an exhortation to show those qualities of mothering in our work and in our lives.

In the 107 years since our foundation, St. Mary's has grown and developed. Established to train the teachers of the poor, we now offer a wide range of graduate and postgraduate programmes in Education, Humanities, Arts, Business, Law, Human Science and Sport Science

Over three and a half thousand students, men and women, from a wide range of backgrounds, and with a variety of experiences, attend St. Mary's University College today. But although we have grown in size our core values remain the same. We offer our students a university experience within the Catholic tradition and with a collegial ethos. We are proud of the high academic standard of our work in both teaching and research. However, students at St. Mary's are not only here to acquire a good degree. They are also here to experience and to contribute to a college community. This, we believe, is as vital a part of their education as the development of knowledge and skills. The values of collegiality: of care for others - both within and beyond St. Mary's - are central to the life of the college. In our mission statement we speak of “student-centred education” and of “developing the whole person”. Our academic staff are primarily teachers – focused on their students. Even the internationally recognised research of many of our colleagues does not detract from that student focus which is the core of all our endeavours.

And it is not only staff who are student-centred. We notice that our students show a care and concern for each other as well as a loyalty to the staff at the College. We encourage and try to develop this concern for others through the activities organised by the Chaplaincy and St. Mary's own charity: SHOC (Strawberry Hill Outreach Concern). Students become involved in working with the housebound; the sick; the homeless – those marginalised in a prosperous and competitive society. Students also become involved in SHOC's overseas projects – fundraising to build orphanages and schools. Some go out to these projects as volunteers for a summer or for a year. Some give their lives to such work.

Of course our students leave us and we are happy to see them go - to carry out the work for which we aim to prepare them. Mothering is about nurturing and teaching; imparting knowledge and values. It is also about letting go so that potential may be fully realised. Our students go on to be, we hope, active and contributing members of society. Some become household names and we are proud of them. The majority live lives of less recognition and we are proud of them. We are proud of all who contribute in whatever way, to the greater good.

All, we hope, will have benefited from being here and will remember St. Mary's with affection and respect. If our motto and our mission have lasting meaning it is the memories of those who have been here and who now take forward our work and tradition.

And I hope that you too will have good memories of your time here and of the work that you do here.

Before I sit down I would like to draw your attention to the stained glass which surrounds you. This is the work of Gabriel Loire, the celebrated glass maker who lived at Chartres during the latter part of the last century. You will find his work in large cathedrals and small churches; in colleges and public buildings across Europe and throughout the world. Here we see 15 windows which illustrate the decades of the Rosary: a prayer of meditation on the life of Mary. The prayer focuses on three stages:

Joyful events
Sorrowful events
Glorious events

This, I think, sums up the life of the mother/educator. Joy and sorrow are both part of that life: but properly used they lead to a transforming glory. As you leave this chapel today I invite you to look up and see something of that glory in the Great West Window – and recognise something of that glory in your own lives.

1st August 2007

GOLDEN GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Mark your calendar.....

The Golden Gift Leadership/Management Seminar will be held at the University of Texas, Austin, June 29-July 12 2008. Application forms are available from Headquarters and via the Society webpage. The deadline for applications is December 1 2007.

Consider applying for this rewarding professional development experience unique to our Society, or, if you are a past Golden Gift Leadership/Management Seminar recipient, encourage other members of your chapter or State organization to apply.

Very exciting new opportunities on the horizon.....

1. Renaissance program

This program will be offered for the first time in Summer 2008 for past Leadership/ Management Seminar participants. Information on this condensed seminar will be available in October-November 2007, and registration details will be sent to all past Golden Gift recipients in January 2008.

2. In an effort to follow the example of our Society's Founders, the Golden Gift Fund Committee acknowledges the importance of reaching outside the Society to share the responsibility of

educating others. Plans are currently being made for a new Leadership Seminar open to any interested applicants.

The Golden Gift is truly a rewarding experience.

Birgit Svensson, - Sweden Member of the Golden Gift Fund Committee

**IDEAS FOR A PRIVATE ΔΚΓ EXCHANGE PROGRAM
A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR TRAVEL AND FRIENDSHIP**

**How private exchange between the members of
can extend the opportunity for travel and friendship**

A) A member offers hospitality to another ΔΚΓ member.

- She characterizes the town and the surroundings and what kinds of activities are possible.
- Length of stay: usually a maximum of one week
- The host provides accommodation and breakfast – there should normally be no other expenses
- The host provides the possibility to meet her chapter and/or meet other chapter members

Other possibilities:

B) One member is looking for a host and explains her special wishes – for instance if she wants to improve her language skills or do some research work:

- She fills in the form which will be passed on to Gamma Chapter, Germany
(christa.dunker-hopferwieser@gmx.de)
- She gets in touch with her host and they settle all the points concerning the stay.
- The guest could also offer to contribute to the next chapter meeting.

C) In the same way a chapter could establish contacts with another chapter.

I/we want to take part in the exchange program of ΔΚΓ

Name: Chapter, Country:

A) as a host

- My home, my family:
- My town, the surroundings:
- My chapter, next chapter activities:

B) as a guest

- What I would like to see:
- What I would like to do:
- What I could contribute to the next chapter meeting:

C) the chapters

- Partners of the two chapters in contact will have to work out in which way they can communicate or visit each other.

Initiated by Christ Dunker-Hopferwieser, Gamma Chapter, Germany

GREAT BRITAIN

The European State Conference, held in St Mary's University College, London, was a most exciting start to my biennium. Great Britain had the chance to play host to a truly international gathering. It was good to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. We also learnt a great deal about conference management and organisation, with a few lessons for another time! It was a real group effort and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

For me there were many conference 'magic moments'. We certainly enjoyed the 'WOW' factor with our two keynote speakers, Anni Marjoram and Trisha Rogers. Both showed a great deal of 'wisdom and passion'. Another special highlight was seeing our own Dorothy Haley receive the first European Achievement Award. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a beautiful pin, designed and made especially for the occasion.

The two days spent developing leadership skills with our enthusiastic headquarters team, led by our International President, Barbara Day, was a good way of getting to know the other new State Organisation Presidents. I very much look forward to working with them; we have much in common, and many of us will be working on plans for a 'membership explosion'.

This year on 19th November, we celebrate 30 years of Great Britain State. Our Birthday Luncheon will take place on Saturday 17th November at the Soroptomists Club, 63 Bayswater Road, London. Contact me if you would like to join us.

For members who are planning ahead, the 2008 GB State Conference, venue still to be confirmed - but somewhere in the Bournemouth 'Jurassic Coast' area, will be held during the weekend of April 5th and 6th 2008.

We are not letting our wonderful Past President Kate York get away completely. She has taken on the job of editing GB News. (Please contact her at yorkacm@tiscali.co.uk if you would like to purchase copies). Kate has reminded me that the 'Seminar in Purposeful Living' will be advertised in January 2008. As only the first 250 applicants to apply will get the chance of taking part, she suggests we look on the website then. This event takes place before the International Convention in Chicago 2008.

A few of us will be visiting Oslo in October to deliver the flag pole stands and renew friendships. We are very much looking forward to 2009! **GB State President Diana Bell**

BRITISH IMPRESSION

Travelling to England the clouds always seem to greet me first – shaped round and full, soft and promising. There is always something mysterious and gracious about them.

I had planned to have extra pre-conference time: After many years a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral (beautifully sung Mass by Langlais at a Sunday Service), sightseeing at the British Museum, a visit to Westminster Abbey (Organ Recital, given by Ian Wicks). Unusual fountains close to the Hayward Gallery, the special exhibition inside the gallery and the sight of the Millennium Bridge added modern aspects. Did anybody else find the Regent Hall? Where a very young Serbian pianist played a wonderful concert during the middle of the day? I was lucky because Elsebeth from Denmark, member of our youngest State Organization, knew about it.

I was curious to see the venue "St. Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill in Twickenham, London". The name sounded promising. Historical and modern buildings. Curiosity drives me to ancient Walpole house with its cloistral architecture in Gothic Style. Most impressing

atmosphere! I heard that some people refused to sleep in this house, however, it added beautifully to the scenery during the British Night.

The conference was full of things to think about, to cherish. Hopefully someone wrote about the ceremonies, the most interesting programme everybody enjoyed tremendously. The only problem was: there never was enough time to attend all the workshops, to meet and chat. I am most thankful for all the innovations and enormous work the English members put into it.

Finally there was some unusual post conference programme for me to enjoy: a Shakespearean play at the Globe Theatre, a stay at a lovely English home in Maidstone and the outstanding Canterbury Cathedral I had yearned to see for a long time.

Heading home by plane high up in the sky – the clouds again
*** Breath of Wind***

IT WAS PERFECTLY LOVELY

Ulrike Gottlob, Germany

NORWAY

First, heartfelt thanks to Great Britain for a superb Conference, set in (partly) historic buildings but with high-quality modern accommodation.

Congratulations to the English members for keeping their calm while we were milling around them! You were certainly an inspiration to us in Norway. Our turn next!

We sent our largest contingent ever and we hope to see even more participants in Norway in 2009.

We are looking forward to meeting members of the GB Steering Committee in Oslo in October. We hope they will share their experience (and experiences!) with us and give generously of their good advice.

We have happy memories of a typically English “fair” on the lawns of Strawberry Hill, where we enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere and were served strawberries (but of course!) and joined in the improvised dancing.

Unforgettable was a boat trip on the Thames, through a lock up to Kingston, while we nibbled delicious finger food.

Last but not least, the keynote speakers were brilliant (and they spoke such good English!). Sigrún Klara’s analysis of our Society was thought-provoking and will surely be the subject of much discussion.

The programme for the autumn term is well under way in our chapters. A special event will be an Oslo week-end in November with a theatre evening, a dinner, and a museum visit. The members are already lining up to join!

(Did I mention 2009?)

Astrid Skaaland, Norway State President

NEWS FROM ICELAND

We are quite proud of being able to share with you that we had a group of 17 Icelandic ΔΚΓ members participating in the European Conference in London last July. Our members were active at the conference. Our webmaster conducted a full day course in information technology for the European Forum and two members gave workshops and an Icelandic writer was also introduced. Our former European Director, Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, was a speaker in one of the General Sessions. In addition many of the members participated in various meetings during the conference arranged by the ΔΚΓ Society International.

The participants were pleased with the program offered in London and the British ladies were highly praised for their good achievement, not in the least for the original and amusing British Night.

The annual meeting of our Executive Board was held towards the end of August. We had a full attendance of chapter presidents and almost all treasurers. For the first time all chapter treasurers received a special red folder, made by the State Organization Treasurer, in which all the different forms and information needed for their job were carefully organized. At the meeting, the focus of the work ahead was introduced and discussed. It will take into account the key initiatives put forward by our International President, Barbara Day.

All 10 Chapters in Iceland are now preparing their schedules for the coming year. One of the chapters, Kappa with 28 members, was founded last spring and is therefore making plans for the first time with a good support from an experienced ΔΚΓ member, who has been appointed as their mentor during the first year. At the beginning of a new biennium, Icelandic ΔΚΓ members look ahead to promising work, optimistic and expectantly, after having celebrated our 30 years anniversary.

Anna Thóra Baldursdóttir Icelandic State President

SWEDEN

As one out of 270 other Delta Kappa Gamma women visiting Strawberry Hill, London, this August I was stunned by the beautiful settings of the college. Imagine the contrast between my Nordic, harsh landscape at home and these green velvet-like lawns, the majestic chestnut trees and the sunny, warm weather!

Arriving at Heathrow, with a group of Swedish members, at once feeling the warm welcome of a true network – this was such a good start to my European Regional conference!

The leadership seminar was an excellent way of getting a deeper understanding of the Society and making all ends meet. Meeting with the staff of the Administrative Board from Austin made my assignment as state president much clearer. Meeting a person is different from mailing and writing messages! The seminar was not only informative but a really good chance to get to know Europe – coming together with the other seven country representatives. The fact that we now have Denmark networking with us is really an important step!

Networking is giving and taking – and I feel that we can gain so much of that in Europe on occasions like this!

What else is there to say about the conference? Are there words enough to express my admiration of the British hosts and the excellence of all the arrangements?

Some of my on-the-spot memories: The Opening ceremony with the solemn atmosphere in the College Chapel, the Great Britain Night where our hosts made joy and fun in music-hall live-sounds and the wonderful choir of talented youngsters.

The London visit with “Night on the Town”. Imagine the sunset on the Thames together with a company of new interesting contacts in our network – what a lot of impressions!

Or the interesting workshops and the outstanding keynote speakers! The banquet with the wonderful girls’ entertainment and all the getting-to-know by dinner-time!

Europe is growing – and during the last weekend of August I was lucky to join a group of Delta Kappa Gamma members visiting Tallinn in Estonia. We met with Estonian sisters in a true pedagogical relationship! The theme of this arrangement was equal opportunities in education and language teaching. Twenty four Estonian teachers, ten Swedish, two from Germany and three Finnish Delta Kappa Gamma women came together. Merike Saar and Marge Kusmin were our hosts and responsible for the seminar and had done a great job to make this great event come through. We were impressed! Former Minister of Education Mailiis Reps was opening the seminar by giving an overview of the educational situation in Estonia. In our discussions we found that we have a lot in common, when it comes to classroom situations. The biggest

difference as we understood was that in Estonia most principals are men, while in Sweden the gender level in that respect is fifty-fifty!
Ann-Charlotte Berglund , Sweden State

FINLAND

It is a great pleasure to thank all of you sisters in Great Britain for organizing such a wonderful regional conference in London. The programme was inspiring and professionally enriching. It made me think about our possibilities as members of this society, together with other organisations, to influence on policy makers in our own communities and states. Our Finland State organisation is a member of the National Council of Women of Finland, est. 1888. The purpose of this National Council of Women is to promote human rights, particularly equality and the position of women, taking into account the benefit to society, family, and the individual.

Transition phases are very important in our lives especially among young people after compulsory education. I loved the idea in London how all the young people can participate in Olympic Games 2012 by organizing, working for the games and constructing their future lives during the process.

We discussed about the initiative how to support young teachers during their first professional years. Chapters are encouraged to invite new younger members also here in Finland. One of the most important issues in our action plans is to promote wellbeing of our members in many different ways.

In order to promote the Delta Kappa Gamma society here in Finland my own Zeta chapter has organized a visit to the Parliament of Finland in October. I am looking forward to telling you more about our visit.

Heli Piikkilä

THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Delta Kappa Gamma friends,

What an interesting and nice experience it was to join the European Conference in London. It was my first visit to a ΔΚΓ conference and I will never forget it; so many interesting female educators, so much information about our Society and its global activities.

Education is an interesting segment of daily life and it is necessary that everyone contributes to this field. With education there will be a brighter future for children, without there is none. Our Society knows the importance of education and could proudly tell that in this last year the members contributed over one million American dollars to educational projects, the Afghanistan project is particularly outstanding.

But not only the Society contributes, I assume that there are a lot of individual members who do so too. Let me tell you about an outstanding member from the Epsilon chapter in the Netherlands. Her name is Florence Naduk. She was born in Uganda and with her hazelnut coloured skin and her pretty laughter she brings a lot of joy into our chapter (I am a member of this chapter as well).

In her home town in Uganda children can attend school free, can stay there overnight, get a meal and share books, paper and pencils. They need to wear a school uniform, however, which is a difficult point because too many children cannot afford to buy one. Therefore, Florence started a foundation and tries to collect as much money as possible. Together with her board members she has inventive ways of collecting. One of their projects is a cooking project. One can hire them and they will come with pots and pans, in traditional clothes and cook a good Ugandan meal. With the collected money they buy mattresses, pencils, paper, and of course the uniforms. Once a year she takes all the things herself to Uganda to ensure they are collected and used safely and properly. At many of the Dutch events Florence asks us to donate for specific items. Last year at our state meeting we raised enough money for about 35 uniforms.

Florence really is a special person and we are glad she is a member of our Society.

Riet Smits Netherlands State President

I hope you have found this edition of EuForia interesting. I shall be sending out a EuForia Special Denmark edition shortly after you receive this one to celebrate the Society's move into the eighth country in Europe and the formation of its second chapter in Odense. I know we will all be thinking of them on 5th October and sending them our good wishes. The deadline for items for the Spring edition of EuForia will be 21st January, 2008. Thank you for your continued support.

Joan Carroll, Editor

GB News.

European Regional Conference Souvenir Edition

We have dedicated our latest edition of *GB News* to the events of the conference.

Copies may be ordered from Kate York – yorkacm@tiscali.co.uk

Price: €2 or £1 for postage to Europe

\$4 or £2 for North America

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Gloria Redston