

## **EUFORIA**

### **EDITION NO.45**

**JUNE 2014**

#### **From your regional director**

Since our last issue of EuForia lots of things have happened in DKG Europe. In life both joy and sorrow lie close. This also is true for DKG Europe.

I had the joy to attend several spring state meetings, which were very pleasant. But spring also brought news from **Denmark** which is heart breaking.

We recognize that Mette Plug, the state president, and Kamini Nielsen, a member of the Europe Forum, tried hard to continue DKG in Denmark.

Among many other attempts to get into contact with Danish members, I would like to emphasize the ones Norway undertook. In the past the members tried to set up meetings with Danish members and also invited them personally to their „Scandinavian conference“.

All of our combined attempts failed because there was almost no response from the remaining 18 members. The lack of interest of the members finally led to Mette Plug’s request to dissolve the DKG Denmark state organization.

According to the DKG constitution, such procedures fall under certain rules. The administrative board met in May, and the situation in Denmark was discussed thoroughly. The motion passed that the administrative board recommends the dissolution of the Denmark state organization to the executive board, which will meet at the international convention in Indianapolis this summer.

As RD I was not in a position to inform our membership prior to the administrative board meeting. Everybody involved deeply regrets the happenings, and our hope is that Danish members, who want to stay with us, will find a chapter in an adjacent country and continue their membership and involvement with DKG.

To quote Dr, Beverly Helms, international president, „No one knows the future, but perhaps the time will also come that the total educational situation in Denmark will be different, and it will be more receptive to an organization whose purpose is to promote the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.“

#### **Administrative Board meeting in Austin in May**

The meeting in Austin had a full agenda and many decisions regarding endorsements or proposals to the executive board were made. For your information you will find a list of the major actions taken in this newsletter.

As you know, at the upcoming international convention in Indianapolis the Constitution and the International Standing Rules will be discussed and changes are voted on.



I would like to encourage you to read the proposed changes (listed at the end of this edition of EuForia) as well as to attend the convention. If you are unable to travel to Indianapolis, please pass your comments to your state president. As a member of the international executive board, your state president will vote on all proposals on behalf of her membership.. The decisions we make in Indianapolis this summer will shape our Society for the next four years, and well into the future!



It is my hope to see many of you in Indianapolis!

I had the honour and pleasure to attend all but one state meeting this spring in Europe. Besides body language the **Voice** is the most important tool for teachers. This spring DKG members and guests were able to learn a lot about both modes of communication. In Great Britain Voice was the theme, picked up by speakers, the Society representative and two brilliant story tellers. What impact would a good story have without the body language going along with the story? This was shown by another speaker in Tampere, Finland, a speaker capable of outlining the importance of how to move about in such a hilarious way, one can only imagine if not present. Again the DKG states in Europe provided great learning experiences at their state conferences. One may only wish everybody could have enjoyed them. The first conference in a language other than English, our lingua franca in Europe, was held in Norway with great success according to organizers and attendees. The Estonian members reached across borders, their state meeting was not only highlighted by excellent speakers and reports but by the presence of three teachers who had come from Novgorod, Russia, to attend the conference. The ladies were deeply impressed by what our Society has to offer; it was promised to stay in contact. The Westfjords in Iceland add to the sense of being in a spiritual place, as one feels upon arriving. Though the Westfjords are remote, the state meeting was very well attended with excellent speakers, wonderful music and again, as felt at all DKG events, genuine fellowship was enjoyed. DKG Iceland hit the ceiling, it is now leading in numbers in Europe. **Congratulations!** The annual meetings in The Netherlands and Germany were both attended by Society representatives. Muiderberg near Amsterdam hosted the Dutch state meeting with focus on learning strategies. Gamma Chapter in Germany organized the conference in Rastatt (near Baden-Baden), a city that provides a lot of history regarding the democratic movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Regarding the visits to state meetings as society representative, I want to state that all conferences/conventions were unique in the different ways they were organized. In programs, topics and venues, each one was very well planned and carried out. The fellowship and friendship among members which I was able to experience during the biennium were outstanding as well as the generosity and friendliness I was met with.

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as Europe Regional Director.

All over Europe, members are given a voice, especially at the state meetings.

Voice is not only a teacher's important tool, but is important to be heard within our Society. When all voices are raised and heard they will move us forward, strengthen our members and our Society.

Most important is listening to our young members, because they are our future.

With best wishes for a good summer,

yours in DKG,

**Marika**

**Maria Katharina Heimbach, RD Europe 2012-2014**

## **From the European Forum Chair**



Europe has lost one of the newest member countries, Denmark. We are so sad and will miss our dear Danish members and friends. We hope we will find a way to keep in touch and send our best wishes to them all. We thank Kamini and Mette for their effort in trying to keep the Danish country aboard the DKG Society.

The European Region is different from other Regions in DKG, since we have different countries with different languages, culture etc. The European Forum aims to unite European DKG members and encourage discussions between these countries to find ways to stimulate educational discussions and support each other within the DKG Society.

We have been reporting regularly in EuForia, our European Newsletter. We are so grateful for Joan Carroll's (GB) work. She has been the editor and from the beginning of the European website EuForia has been available there.

EuForia ties together our news three times a year and keeps together our history. For daily information our website is an important means of communication and should be more alive than it is at the moment. We have tried to encourage members to post news on the website of interesting things DKG women are doing, and also news of events in different countries or chapters. We aimed for more discussions about educational matters and social affairs. Now there are other media more suitable for that sort of information; i.e., Facebook can keep groups in touch. At our committee meeting in November the committee had ambitious expectations. We have not got as far as we wanted, but we believe we have made some progress. The Icelandic DKG Facebook is working very well and we are going to try a European Facebook. In Estonia they are working with other media. I believe that not working with technology means loss of opportunities.

We encourage diversity and recognise that each country has to find its own ways to attract new members. Every culture demands a different approach and we encourage them to share their experiences so others may find something that fits their culture.

We also encourage countries with similar languages to work together. The Committee Chair visited one such meeting last March, a very successful one in Norway about the school systems in

Scandinavia, and we are continuing the discussions in Indianapolis in July, expanding the discussions to school systems in Europe.

We are supporting the proposal for a new DKG song and so far have lyrics and music from Norway and GB. There is a lot of talent within DKG membership and our Regional Director has encouraged all the countries to submit possible songs.

The Forum Committee is now planning our Forum meeting in Indianapolis in July. There will be one hour of business where there will be a lot to talk about. There are differences we have to clarify. We encourage members to bring in their ideas and views. That is another very important factor of the European Forum, it allows the European member to have a voice and have an impact on the development of the Society.

After the business meeting we will have an hour discussing educational matters as I mentioned before. Since not so many European members manage to come to Indianapolis we will try to inform you through our website.

The agenda, the guidelines and information about the Forum is on the European website, [dkgeurope.org](http://dkgeurope.org).

If you want to make any suggestions for changes in the guidelines or other business please contact the Committee members.

The new European Forum Committee for the next biennium 2014-2016 is: Estonia, Liilia Oberg ; Finland, Heli Piikkilä; England, Diana Bell; Germany, Dagmar Ullmann; Iceland, Kristrún Ísaksdóttir; Norway, Ingrid Christiansen; Sweden, Ingrid Sternquist; The Netherlands, Riet Smits-Hoenderken, and she has been voted as Chair.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members in Europe for their support and wish you all a prosperous future in work and in DKG Society.

**Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir**  
**European Forum Chair 2012–2014**

## **Scholarships**

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### **Congratulations to our awardees from Europe:**

Rósa Marta Gudnasdóttir from Iceland, The Eunah Temple Holden Scholarship

Alma Dis Kristinsdóttir from Iceland, The Mary Frances White Scholarship

Catherine B. Nilsson from Sweden, The J. Maria Pierce Scholarship

Kaija Rautjarvi from Finland, The A. Margaret Boyd Scholarship.

## Great Britain



Our State Conference weekend at The Friars, Aylesford Priory was most enjoyable and was a real team effort. This is such a pleasant peaceful venue (except when Dorcas Rogers' Zumba - or laughter class, see Bettina Kulsdorn's photo, got going!). We had some wonderful displays of work, a book sale, and a raffle, both did well for the Emergency Fund



I really enjoyed leading the tour of Rochester especially in such sunny weather, (my castle and gatehouse pictures are here on both sides). Having lived there for years I had forgotten what an interesting city it is!



At the conference members and guests heard from a number of eminent speakers all keeping to the theme of **Develop Your Voice: Inspire Others**. It was a pleasure to have as our guest Dr Lace Brogden, North West Regional Director, seen with Kate York (photo by Bettina Kulsdorn).



We very much enjoyed Dr Lesley Hendy's talk on the use of the voice, with Jo Palmer-Tweed giving us the teacher training perspective. I still find it amazing that members of a profession who use their voice so much are rarely taught to use it properly and keep it safe. (Do other countries give their teachers voice training?). It was also surprising to learn that Kevin Sewell, who spoke movingly about his experience of training to be a teacher, was not always well supported or mentored properly in school. (Does this happen elsewhere? Another question that might be answered in the European Forum meeting at Indianapolis).

After some fascinating stories – a real art to doing this well - we got down to the business meeting. It was good to thank the present chapter officers for their hard work this year. We have enjoyed some very interesting and lively events with varied programmes; from a school visit and learning to play the Gamelan to Felicity Ashton's exploits in Antarctica to visiting Pestalozzi International Village - and plenty more to look forward to.

On May 11th DKG celebrates its 85th birthday. I am sure that Dr. Annie Webb Blanton would take pride in the organisation today and be pleased to see how international we are. Our Convention in Indianapolis should be an interesting opportunity to hear excellent speakers, find out more about the International Executive, see a new city, meet new people and, hopefully, greet old friends.



I am looking to continued excellent regional leadership as Marika Heimbach, our European Regional Director, hands over to Marianne Skardéus from Sweden. I am also looking forward to working with the new European Forum Committee.

**Diana Bell, Great Britain**

## **BENEFITING FROM THE EMERGENCY FUND**

It was Christmas Eve and we were all ready by noon, which was unusual in itself, and then slowly but inexorably the water from the River Medway came closer and then in the mid-afternoon with an unwarned rush it rose into the house. The very first time that had happened! So, furniture was lifted and the photo albums went quickly upstairs and then we watched as six inches of water covered our floors. We were fortunate though as the next day willing grandsons carried us through the water to celebrate Christmas with our daughters. By Boxing Day the water had gone, leaving behind its signature of damage. Grandsons helped us to remove all carpets and we waited for the loss adjuster. And so began our winter project of restoration. We were out of our house for two months whilst an army of skilled workmen moved in.



I always thought that the Society Emergency Fund was impressive in its aim to help those suffering under a natural disaster and, mostly, to let you know that members cared. I had heard the odd niggly at European Regional Conferences that it was only American members who benefited. What nonsense! Had any of our members ever applied? Fortunately tornadoes, forest fires, hurricanes, etc. are not common over here. DKG is for all our members wherever they may live.

I never, ever thought that I would be one to benefit! Very quickly came a gift from the Fund. It was most heartening to receive such a gift especially when one was still at the traumatic stage. It showed sympathy in a practical way and was greatly appreciated.

**Gloria Redston. Gamma Chapter GB**

## **Norway**



**A short summary of a meeting on March 15th 2014 at Henie-Onstad Art Centre in Bærum just outside Oslo. The topic of the lectures was a comparison between the school systems in Sweden and Norway. The meeting was organised by DKG Norway in cooperation with Delta Chapter.**

Thirty members were present, six from Sweden, one from Iceland and twenty-three from Norway.

State President Ingrid Christiansen welcomed the audience, and Bjørg Nakling introduced our guest, ass. Professor Ann-Katrin Swârd, State President of Sweden.

From her lecture, we will point at her emphasis on Sweden's efforts in giving priority to the kinder gardens and the teachers in this part of the school system. The teachers in kinder gardens receive higher salaries than primary school teachers.

We will mention some key points in her lecture:

- Some kinder gardens are open all through night
- All children are served a free lunch till they leave high school
- Open kinder gardens for children up to 3 years
- Free classes for 6 year old children
- Primary school starts at the age of 7
- There are activities for children between 6 and 13 after regular school hours
- Children with  $IQ < 70$  may be included in the ordinary school or go to special schools, the parents decide.

There are different colleges with different curricula, e.g. vocational colleges

For those who prepare for a university entrance the colleges offer different programmes

- Economy
- Aesthetical programmes
- Humanities subjects
- Science
- Social studies
- Technical programmes

Students can get introduction to different areas such as:

- Vocational guidance and preparation for occupation
- Individual alternatives
- Introduction to languages

Alternatives:

- Special schools for students with learning difficulties
- International schools
- International Baccalaureate
- Peoples colleges

Many students, approximate 20%, fail in obtaining their planned goals.

- The level of knowledge has decreased
- Computer technology is heavily emphasised
- 3 trusts own private schools
- Cooperative schools do not give profit
- Many students go back to government schools
- Many private colleges have taken over government schools
- Many private schools close down and the government must take over

## **A short summary of the lecture given by director Borghild Lindhjem-Godal, Ministry of Education and Research in Norway.**

Borghild referred to the National Curriculum for Knowledge Promotion in Primary and Secondary Education and Training. (Kunnskapsløftet). The aims for the students are now on competence and not merely content. In a White Paper which is a report to the Storting (Parliament) St. melding nr. 20 (2012-2013) 'On the Right Track' the National Curriculum is evaluated through research done at universities and colleges. This makes it possible to implement adjustments continuously.

Supplementary programmes for general university and college admission certification made for students who have chosen a programme area for a vocation got much attention in recent years, as it appears that the dropout rate is up to 45%. Some of the students make new attempts, and approximately 15% more will succeed in passing the exams. It seems to be a problem that the students overestimate their capacity and consider this certification more easily attainable than it is in reality. In the other programme areas, 70% of the students succeed.

Among the main initiatives for the years to come will be attempts to reduce the rate of dropouts among the students between 16 and 20 years of age. Special attention will be paid to '21<sup>st</sup> century skills'.

There were questions and an interesting discussion took place until it was time for lunch.

After a good meal, we went on a guided tour in the art centre to watch the exhibition "We live on a Star" which has been inspired by the tragic event in Norway on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

**Oddny Damsgaard      Anne Frodahl**

## **Iceland**

### **Spring Conference in Iceland, May 10th 2014.**

The spring conference of Delta Kappa Gamma in Iceland was held in Edinborgarhús in Ísafjörður Saturday May 10th. The conference was well attended with more than 60 women from all parts of Iceland. The theme of the conference was „**The School in new times – Democracy, Innovation, Technology.**“ All presentations discussed these subjects in one way or another and all school levels were covered.

State President Guðbjörg Sveinsdóttir welcomed the participants and then, Mikolaj Frach a 14 years old musical



**Participants from Akureyri and surroundings enjoying a picnic on the way to Ísafjörður. The temperature is about 4°C**



student entertained us by playing the piano with very positive response from the audience. When he had finished his playing the European President, Maria Katharina Heimbach, addressed the conference.

The first presentation was titled „ **Information Technology and new media in education**“ . Dr. Svava Pétursdóttir discussed the use of Information Technology in education from various angles. It was interesting to hear how social media can be used in schools and to learn about how media like Facebook can be a forum where teachers support each other in practice. You can see the slides from her presentation at this link:

<http://www.slideshare.net/svavap/ut-sklastarfi> )



**Waiting for the presentations to start.**

Jóna Benediktsdóttir and Guðríður Sigurðardóttir who both work at the Primary school in Ísafjörður told us about The Student Congress, a project which has been ongoing in their school. It was interesting to hear how things were organized, followed by a lot of work for the students and how the students sorted everything out at the end. It will be interesting to follow the development of this project in the future.



**Coffee breaks are always welcomed and enjoyed**

Albertína F. Elíasdóttir project manager at **FabLab** in Ísafjörður told us about the many possibilities that FabLabs gives in creating all kind of objects from the very beginning to the end. While telling about it she showed us many objects that have been created at the FabLab in Ísafjörður . It seems that there are practically no limits to what you can create when working at FabLab. If you want to know more about the FabLab idea you can read about it on this page:

<http://www.fabfoundation.org/fab-labs/what-is-a-fab-lab/>

The last presentation of the day was given by Elsa Maria Thompson principal at Laufás , a health oriented preschool in Þingeyri. She told us about the preschool's daily work and its diverse collaborations with other preschools in Ísafjörður as well as the elementary school in Þingeyri.

The last item on the program was music. Sigrún Pálmadóttir, a singer who lives in Ísafjörður , entertained us with her beautiful singing. After Coffee break we all went on a "history walk" around the oldest part of the town guided by local citizens. The walk ended at the **Culture House** in Ísafjörður where Iota members had planned a short reception.



“History walk” in Ísafjörður

The very last item on the agenda was the Conference banquet at Tjöruhúsið where we had a wonderful meal and enjoyed the company of each other as well as some entertainment.

Like all other DKG Conferences I've attended, this one was run expertly and smoothly and the program offered something for everybody. It was a great joy to meet old friends again and build new relations and friendships. Hope to see them all again at the State Conference next year.

**Eygló Björnsdóttir, Icelandic State- and European Forum Webmaster.**

## Finland

Finland State Organization held its annual State Meeting in Tampere on April 5. An informative and versatile programme followed the meeting. The title of our annual convention was Well-being from Art and Culture. The premises were very suitable for this, because the venue was The Tampere Arts Oriented Senior Secondary School.

Fulfilling our wishes and expectations, Regional Director Marika Heimbach was the International Representative of the meeting and one of our inspiring guest speakers! We had several other speakers as well. Ms Maija-Riitta Hirvonen was talking about her work as a music therapist – her title was “Empowering music”. Ms Marja-Leena Haapanen, a theatre director, gave us a very eye-opening presentation on body language and non-verbal communication. Ms Tuula Penttilä and Ms Ritva Norhomaa told us about the Alpha Chapter book club, which is very active and popular among the members. They gave a very good example of good practice.



In the evening most of the participants went to see the musical Les Misérables at the Tampere Theatre, which was an extremely inspiring experience.

The contents of EuForia were also discussed and suggestions were made to give chapters an opportunity to present their successful projects to EuForia's readers. Gamma Chapter from the Turku region volunteered to present its project of Teaching Finnish Language and Institutions to Migrant Women in the May issue.

This project started nearly five years ago when the Association Daisy Ladies invited Gamma Chapter to participate in its multicultural programme. The local association was established in 2002 to help



**Group of Daisy Ladies visiting Vocational School Institute Livia in Kaarina town Finland. After the visit in Livia we were served in lunch by a lady from Tunisia**

immigrant women in their efforts to adapt themselves to new circumstances in Finnish society. The association needs volunteer workers to run its programme because it is only partly financed by public funds. Five retired Gamma members were willing to participate in the programme. We considered it a challenging and inspiring task. It suited us well since we all had a long teaching experience and enough time to do volunteer work.

The main goal of our project is to improve the women's listening

comprehension and oral expression by offering them conversation sessions once a week. The class

for a group of 20 immigrant ladies lasts each time for about 75 minutes. As the women represent a dozen different nationalities and have varying educational backgrounds we face a number of problems. It is difficult to find a suitable method for a group in which some students are practically illiterate and others are somehow or even well educated? We have improvised and experimented with all kinds of methods: using pictures,



gestures, self-made drama, making use of the blackboard, wall maps and videos, drilling and repeating new words and phrases, asking questions, helping students in their replies, etc. Those who can read and write words written in our alphabet enjoy having simple written exercises or tests, but then we have to do something else with the illiterate ones. The participating teachers work in pairs or have a turn alone. In the conversation sessions, we discuss ordinary every day matters like housing, meals, clothing, customs, schooling, national festivities or holidays, illnesses and social welfare. We also compare cultural differences. We have occasionally arranged some social events like study trips or small parties with ethnic meals. Most of the immigrant women have been highly motivated and made good progress which is very rewarding. The project has also been an interesting learning process for the whole Gamma team! I and my colleague Anne-Marie Salonen greatly appreciate the award that the Educational Foundation granted us and our team in the past three years. The financial support has made it possible for us to develop the project into an effective and continuing programme. Liisa Peltomaa

**Anne-Marie Salonen, Gamma Chapter**

## **iPads as a Tool to Excite a Desire to Learn**

### **Introduction**

I received 4000 dollars for a project 'iPads as a Tool to Excite a Desire to Learn' from DKGEF in March 2014 for the academic year 2014-2015. The project has four goals:



- co-operation with different parties internally and externally to ISV
- bilingual education
- increasing students' learning motivation
- using modern technology equipment as a pedagogical tool with grade 1 and 2 students.

Cooperation with the University of Eastern Finland, Savonlinna teacher training school



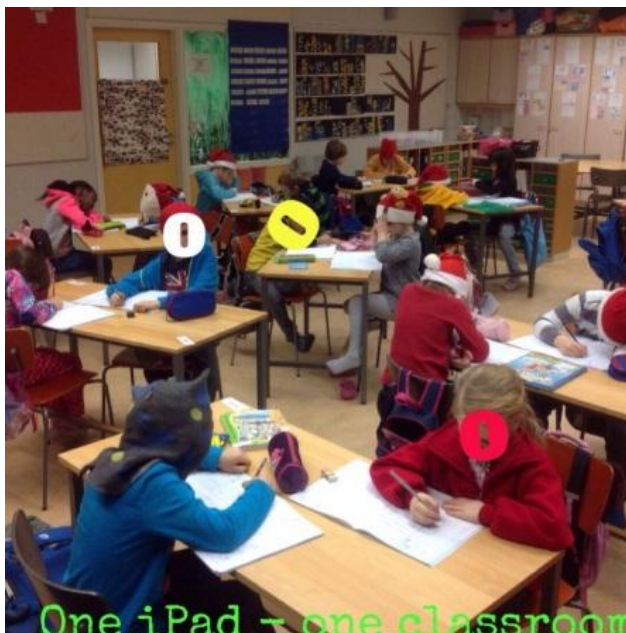
### Planning period

This project was launched at the International School of Vantaa (ISV) in the spring 2013 when I received the first project funding from DKGEF. Even though the school had ICT equipment before, iPads had not been extensively used prior to this project. Therefore, we stepped out of our comfort zone. This project was started from zero and has required a lot of preparation.

Several actions took place during the planning period: We contacted different IT firms, consulted the teachers of University of Eastern Finland, informed the parents of the grade 1 students, tried out preliminary classroom projects with grade 2s in the spring 2013, read different app recommendations online, joined Facebook groups for using iPads in the classroom and finally decided on the budget. In December 2013, we bought seven iPad minis and covers, a charger for 15 iPads, iTunes gift cards and four AppleTVs with the funding from DKGEF, financial aid from Vakka parents' association and ISV.

### From one iPad: one classroom strategy to a small group set

In January 2014, the next step of the project was using a one classroom: one iPad strategy. It allowed the teachers to become familiar with the iPads as a pedagogical tool, so it was an easy step to get started using them in the classroom. Since March 2014, the seven iPad minis have worked as a small group classroom set rotating in different classrooms.



My first classroom project with the students was a Toy Day activity. We created an iBook for 1B Toy Day in Finnish lessons. The students became familiar with using the iPads, learned to take and edit photos of their toys and write sentences about their toys. The students loved using the iPads and they certainly helped to excite the desire to learn.



I was surprised how fast the 1st grade students grasped the idea of using the iPads – my role was not to teach but to guide the learning process. Furthermore, the use of iPads supported collaborative learning because the students learned from each other and worked in small groups.

Other classroom activities in the spring 2014 have been creating animations, video taping, QR codes, creating mind maps with Popplet, recording reading and using different game apps for language learning and mathematics.

#### **Future steps**

The iPad project continues in the academic year 2014-2015 with doubling the number of iPads in our classroom set. This will also enable us to diversify our teaching methods in the classroom for the whole class – not only a small group for each session. During the start of the project it has become apparent that the participating teachers need training. The funding will make it possible for the teachers involved to have further training on the pedagogical use of iPads in the classroom.

**Iida Hyvönen      President of Alpha chapter, Helsinki, Finland**

#### **The Netherlands**

“Learning Strategies” was the topic of the Dutch Conference in Muiderbroek. More than 30 members and guests came to the Dutch Conference. The Dutch board had organized a very interesting programme. There were two speakers: Rianne Malschaert and Beja Koops, specialists in learning strategies. They came with refreshing and interesting ideas about special learning methods with a focus on becoming a reflective teacher and effective ways of teaching. There was also a presentation on the work of Robert Marzano (information about him is on his website). They offered workshops with a lot of interaction for the visitors which everyone appreciated very much.

Our special guest from HQ was Carolyn Pittman, First Vice President 2012-2104, who informed us about the latest developments in the Society and also talked about communication among members at all levels in the Society. After the official part and the election of the new officers there was a



boat trip in the Bastion of Naarden. The day ended with a dinner in 'het Rechthuis' the location where the meeting and lunch also took place.

There were some guests who decided to become members! They had got a very positive impression of our society they told us!

**Janny Kisteman**

In December 2013 we got the news that Carola van Zanen – van Rijn, Delta chapter, had been elected for the Golden Gift Seminar 2014.

In March this year we received a letter from Sandra Smith Bull, chair of Arts & Humanities Jury, informing us that Ank Janssonius, Alpha chapter, will be represented in the Galley. Her sculptures, "Woman with a rose", and "Kneeling woman" and her art work "Mauro" have been chosen for the online gallery which will be updated in May. Congratulations Ank.

Visit the gallery and admire her work.

The chapters are busy. We enjoyed several activities. Alpha chapter had their yearly model meeting in Ank's studio. Delta celebrated, its birthday of 34 years on March 21. They went to a workshop to learn "How to make chocolate drops". We all went home with a box of self-made chocolates.

Epsilon is working on a reading project for people who have problems with reading.

The three chapters, Alpha, Beta and Delta had a meeting with the title, "Music makes you smart, singing makes you happy". There was a lot of fun that meeting.

From The Netherlands we wish you a wonderful summer and hope to meet many members in Indy.

**Cor Wolff-Heins.**

## Germany



*Photos by Dagmar Ullmann*

This spring Epsilon chapter of The Netherlands enjoyed a theatre workshop organized by Delta chapter of Germany. Every year the two chapters have celebrated friendship across the borders! The new Dutch chapter Zeta will be part of this connection in future.

**Monika Huber, State President, Germany**

## **Estonia**

The annual state conference of DKG Estonia took place on April 12 at Tallinn University of Technology. We were happy to greet our guests - Marika Heimbach, European Regional Director as the Society representative, Janny Klistemann from The Netherlands, Gudrun Nylander from Sweden, and three very special guests from Novgorod, Russia - Alla Lyutikova, Valeria Bespalchaya and Viktoria Bedareva.

It is amazing how efficient the networking within DKG is - thanks to the contacts and initiative of Carol Hughes, Illinois, we had the chance to invite educators from Novgorod to join our annual state conference.



*Photo: Meeri Sild*

The theme of the conference was "Contribution of a small country to the common global educational culture". It should be mentioned that this year all speakers at the conference were members of our chapters, which gave us a great opportunity to learn about and share each other's experience and achievements.

**Kristi Kiilu** (Alpha Chapter), Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Music Education Department, made a presentation about music education and music teacher training in Estonia. We are the only country in the world where the system of music education is designed from nursery school to the end of gymnasium. Estonia is member of ISME (International Society of Music Education). Several

international conferences, contests and Olympiads have been organized in Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. We have to thank Kristi for the wonderful musical interludes performed by her students at our conference ☺

**Tiia Rüütmann** (Alpha Chapter), Estonian Centre for Engineering Pedagogy, Tallinn University of Technology, talked about new aspects in engineering education and the mission of IGIP (International Society for Engineering Pedagogy), which include: improving teaching methods in technical subjects, developing practice-oriented curricula that correspond to the needs of students and employers, encouraging the use of media in technical teaching, integrating languages and the humanities in engineering education; fostering management training for engineers, promoting environmental awareness, and supporting the development of engineering education in developing countries.

**Anu Joon**, Alpha Chapter, shared her experience on volunteering in Ghana. In Ghana Estonian NGO Mondo started with children supporting scheme, partnership schools and supporting widows in 2009. Mondo's partner is a local organization - Kongo Village Community Development Association (KoCDA). This year 135 children could attend school with the help of Estonian sponsors. These children from 7 to 14, either orphans or lost one parent, are most probably unable to get education otherwise. One of her tasks there was to carry out workshops for primary teachers in the topic of *"Getting ready to read"* and *"Teaching English phonics"*. In order to get to know better the local conditions she drove her motorbike every morning to one or two of the fifteen schools around the area. Very often she ended up by teaching the class herself because the teacher had not turned up for some reason or another. Anu said, "I wanted to make sure that my workshops had practical, realistic value to the teachers."

**Reet Soosaar** (Beta Chapter), University of Tartu, Pärnu College, reflected on the results of the study "How popular is the job of a teacher among the school leavers in Pärnu?". As part of the national campaign for popularizing and adding value to the teaching profession the Beta chapter members Katrin and Reet carried out a research among the local graduates of Pärnu gymnasia. The purpose of the study was to find out the views and attitudes towards the teaching profession. It came about as a cooperation project with Pärnu City Government where Beta chapter contributed to the educational life of its home town.

**Helen Hiimaa** (Gamma Chapter), Avita Publishing House, made a presentation on E-lessons which are becoming more popular amongst teachers and students in Estonia. E-lessons follow the requirements of the national curriculum and enable teachers to offer their students a varied lesson with high quality materials. Helen introduced the possibilities and advantages of E-lessons.

Many thanks to all speakers, organizers, participants and our dear guests! It is just wonderful to share experience within your organization, but above that to share it "across the borders". We are really grateful for the kind feedback from our guests and I would like to share it with you.

Alla Lyutikova from Novgorod wrote, "The Conference was a success! Of course I'm not a judge but I enjoyed the company of amiable, clever, professional educators! The Conference was so well-organized, so thoroughly thought through, interesting, informative, at times entertaining. We enjoyed such good care that we felt ourselves just at home!"

Tervitused Eestist! With greetings from Estonia!

**Anu Ariste, Estonia State President**

## **ACTIONS TAKEN: Administrative Board Meeting, May 15 -17, 2014**

1. Approved the resolution required by Texas Secretary of State naming Sandra Smith Bull as the interim executive director of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.
2. Approved the 2014-2015 Replacement Schedule.
3. Approved List IV of vendors/exhibitors for the 2014 International Convention.
4. Approved the update to the International Scholarship Selection Process.
5. Approved the appropriate percentage of the rental fee for the president's apartment as an appropriate expenditure to be paid from the Permanent Fund, and to recommend to the International Executive Board that these expenditures be paid from the Permanent Fund.
6. Approved the contract with Intuitive Business Concepts (IBC) and Advanced Solutions International (ASI) for an integrated delivery of an updated database and website program and recommend to the International Executive Board its approval for the funding, an amount not to exceed \$300,000 from the Permanent Fund.
7. Endorsed the resolution submitted by the Golden Gift Fund Committee of the Platinum Century Collection and its presentation the 2014 International Convention.
8. That the elected members of the Administrative Board, plus the parliamentarian and the interim executive director go into executive session to review/edit the agenda for the executive session on Saturday, May 17, 2014.
9. Approved the revised Strategic Action Plan as presented.
10. Approved the procedures manuals of the following international committees: Educational Excellence, Eunah Temple Holden Leadership Fund, Golden Gift Fund, and Educators Award.
11. Approved the checklist for reviewing the International Committees Procedures Manuals.
12. Revised the Administrative Board Policies II. Society Headquarters A. Personnel. by inserting a new number nine and renumbering.
13. Approved the recommended changes to the Employee Handbook.
14. That the elected members of the Administrative Board, plus the parliamentarian and the interim executive director go into session at 8:30 a.m. Saturday for the purpose of considering the agreed upon executive session agenda.
15. Accepted the annual report of the professional administrators' performance.
16. Approved the renewal of the contract for the operations services administrator.
17. Approved the renewal of the contract of the membership services administrator.
18. Accepted the resignation of the information services administrator effective June 30, 2014.
19. Renewed the contract of the Bulletin Editor.
20. Moved Nita Scott from Level 6, Step 2 to Level 6, Step 3 on the Headquarters Staff Salary Schedule.
21. Recommended to the International Executive Board the dissolution of Prince Edward Island state organization.
22. Recommended to the International Executive Board the dissolution of Denmark state organization. Page 2 of 2 May 2014
23. Recommended to the International Executive Board a less restrictive investment policy statement for the International Available and Permanent Funds.
24. That the International Membership Committee includes in its procedures the following statements regarding the Celebration of Life Ceremony (Hour of Remembrance) held at the international convention.

Deceased international presidents shall be given special tribute during the Hour of

Remembrance at the international convention.

The names of deceased members shall be listed in the Hour of Remembrance program booklet.

Thank you all for the most interesting articles and photographs for this edition and for the comments that EuForia still has an important role to play in the European region, one that with the links to our region's website can be an even more useful tool for communication and information. The deadline for submission of contributions for the Autumn edition will be 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

**Joan Carroll, Editor**