



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA™

EUFORIA

Edition 53, Fall 2019

Dear friends, here is EUFORIA 2019, the fall edition. In this newsletter you can i.e. read about conferences, travelling, friendship between DKG sisters, sports events, the travelling lamp, and various activities in the of the participating countries.

Thanks to Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, Ingibjörg, Elsa Guðmundsdóttir, Marie-Antionette Hubers de Wolf, Cor Wolff-Heins, Jacqueline van Meeteren, Astrid H. Bie Skaaland, Elisabeth Stärner, Unity Harvey, Diane Billam, Terttu-Triin Tomusk and Kaija Teikari for your contribution. Enjoy reading!

Helga Thorlacius, Iceland

Europe

From the Regional director

Dear colleagues,

One of the reasons we are in DKG is that we want to stay connected to women in education. We are all women who have the same passion for education. While we are not all teachers or active in education at the moment, we are interested in hearing, talking about and listening to information about education, and to follow the latest trends.

What is it that connects us and how can we stay connected? I know that some states and some chapters are going to post their stories on the website in the coming months for inspiration for us all.

The DKG International Administrative Board (AB) meeting was held in Austin the second week of November. There are going to be some changes, i.e. in two years there will only



be three International conferences instead of five and one of them will be in Europe (Finland).

There are a lot of amendments and changes that were sent to the Constituion Committee this autumn, changes in the Constitution and International Standing Rules (ISR). They are all going to be published in March/April and explanations and rationals of these proposals introduced. Now there will be a possibility to make changes at every interenational convention and hopefully we will move forward in the fast changing world.

The European Forum committee met in the beginning of November in Tallinn. It was a very good and interesting meeting with a lot of new ideas.

Dear DKG members in Europe, I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. It was such a pleasure to visit you last spring and meeting so many of you in the summer. I am looking forward to more visits in the spring and hope to hear and be in contact with a lot of you in the near future.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir
Europe Regional Director 2018-2020



Iceland



The International Conference in Reykjavík, July 2019

In July 2019 the International DKG Conference, Professional Research and Practices was held in Reykjavik, Iceland. Over 250 delegates attended the conference which was a great success. We had 11 speakers, 29 workshops and 16 takeaways.



The opening session started with a young trumpet player, Finnur Ricart, a welcome from our outgoing State President Jóna Benediktsdóttir and our International President Cathy Daugherty, and following were inspiring speeches by “two voices” a young and an experienced one. The young voice, María Einarsdóttir, gave us a view on what she appreciated the most about her education. She got her education both in Iceland and Sweden. The experienced voice, Jón Torfi Jónasson, Professor Emeritus, looked

back on his years in the field, being in education all his professional live, for the longest period at the University of Iceland, and still very active.

Dean of The School of Education at The University of Iceland, Kolbrún Pálsdóttir was the keynote speaker in the First General Session, followed by discussions. Iceland by night was the first entertaining event. We were taken to a nearby community where we overlooked the sea in the bright Icelandic summer night. We had some music and food but most importantly a good chance to communicate, meet old friends and make new ones. A very good event to mingle and enjoy.

The Friday was a full day of activities, before lunch with two sessions, two lectures in each with time for discussions and takeaways in the breaks and in the afternoon four sessions of workshops with seven to eight choices in each. Professors, lecturers and other educators

gave us inside to their work, research and experiences. The workshops were very varied, from practices in the classroom and to professional research. In between, in the sessions we had young students perform, they read poetry and played music and Margrét Jónsdóttir got us to do some stretching.



The day ended with a grand dinner with lots of fun, singer and entertainer Bergþór Pálsson with accompanying pianist sang for us and got us to sing along. Our outgoing state organization president Jóna Benediktsdóttir performed with another DGK member Soffía Vagnsdóttir.



Saturday started with Forum meetings and continued with two more sessions; two lectures in each session with discussions afterwards. Ingibjörg Elsa Guðmundsdóttir the steering committee chair closed the Conference program, but the final event was a birthday lunch where we celebrated our anniversary. A sixteen year old pianist Klara Margrét Ívarsdóttir opened the event with beautiful music. There was an auction to collect money for the Emergency Fund, steered by Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir and an address by Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir.

Our website is still open and we will transfer some of the material to the [dkg.is](https://dkgerc2019.weebly.com/) website before we have to close the conference site <https://dkgerc2019.weebly.com/> Most of the lectures allowed us to put their overheads/slides on the conference website. You find them under speakers: <https://dkgerc2019.weebly.com/speakers.html>

It is a great pleasure to organize an event when the participants are all so professional, everyone planning, attending and performing, doing a great job. We send our warmest thanks to all those that contributed to the conference.

We do hope you enjoyed the conference as much as we enjoyed having you here.

*Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, RD Europe and
Ingibjörg Elsa Guðmundsdóttir, State President Iceland*

The Netherlands



Message from the Netherlands.

Summer has ended and the new biennium started. We had a great Convention in Iceland. There were six members represented The Netherlands. It was good to see so many old friends.

In August our last founder, Anneke Bolle, passed away, just before her 92th birthday. Although her high age and declining physical health she was still interested in what was going on in our society.

The amount of members in the Netherlands is stable and we are making plans to increase in the next two years.

May 25 we organized our State Convention in Nieuw Buinen. Our main subject was Executive Functions. We had Martin Timmer as our keynote speaker. What is the definition, why do we, and our students, need these functions? Martin did research on the relationship and a lack of these functions within the group of students who were high intelligent. What are the results if you give personal training on a few of these functions?

Donna Niday was our international guest. We had a good time together.

November 23, 2019 we will have our general meeting. In the afternoon we will discuss what membership mean to us and talk about the future of our society, communication, connecting with chapters abroad, etc.

In June three members went to visit the Epsilon chapter in Kristiansand and we have good contact with the Epsilon chapter in Uppsala. We are now making a program for an exchange in the spring. We hope that there will be more chapters, in Europe, who are interested. If you are interested to connect with the Delta chapter in Amsterdam please send me a email

With regards,

Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf

mac.dewolf@gmail.com, mhubers@novacollege.nl, State Organization President

The light, the lamp 2013 - 2019

In 2015 Marianne Skardeus, Regional Director, asked me to bring the benefits of the Regional Conference in The Netherlands of 2013, to the Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden.

The idea was to hand over a symbol, a little lamp, to the incoming state president of the country where the RC takes place and to continue that symbolic handover at each next RC.

How could I this? How to visualize this? There is no possibility to put bright ideas, friendship, the spirit of the meetings in a box and bring the box with me and to open it there.

Thinking of this I looked at the DKG Crest. And there I saw the symbol of what I wanted to bring to you. The flaming lamp! The light.

Such little oil lamp is difficult to travel with. Especially at long distances. You can replace this little lamp for a safety-lamp, used by miners. This lamp also warns when there is pollution in the air saying "This is not the right moment and the right place to tell about our mission."

But times have changed. The lamp could burn with a bright, clear light. Time for a hurricane lamp. It will give light in storms, in adverse wind but how to bring this lamp across borders, over seas and oceans.

No person is allowed to board an airplane with a burning lamp. But times are changing all the time. Now there is LED-light. That can be turned on and off at any moment but will never die out.

This light has been burning for the past six years. This is the lamp that will be handed over to the incoming state president of the organizing state with the request "Please, keep the light burning". Tell about DKG wherever you meet educators who are committed to education as you are.

And last but not least; take this burning lamp to the next RC in two years from now.

For now an inspiring, sparkling and a fruitful RC.

Let's do it! NOW!!

*Cor Wolff-Heins,
The Netherlands*



Being a top-athlete and a student

My name is Jacqueline van Meeteren and I work as a teacher in a vocational school, ROC van Amsterdam department Johan Cruyff College

In this article I will tell about the start of a special education in which students try to do their sport at the highest level and their study.



Hendrik Johannes Cruyff (Amsterdam, 25 April 1947 – Barcelona, 24 March, 2016), known as Johan Cruyff, was a former Dutch footballer and coach. He was the founder of the football philosophy known as Total Football. He is widely regarded as one of the great players in association football. In 1999, Cruyff was voted European Player of the Century.

After his retirement as a player in 1984, Cruyff became highly successful as manager of Ajax and later FC Barcelona. After his retirement from coaching he initiated the Cruyff Foundation and Cruyff Institute with several different educations. One of them is Johan Cruyff College at vocational level at Amsterdam.

Why did he initiated education for top athletes? Johan himself always regretted that he couldn't do an education after his secondary school. And when he attended a reunion with former football players one of the main things he heard was the regret of not having a good education. And with this in mind he started The Johan Cruyff Education. Two things were very important to him: - 1. Sport and education next to each other should be possible - 2. top-athletes after their sports career should participate in the sport business management while Cruyff stated: 'people with a passion for sport are the best to lead sport organizations'.

In 2004 ROC van Amsterdam started to host the Johan Cruyff College (JCC) which is at vocational level. Students have to participate in their sport at the highest national level to join this school. Meaning they sport a minimum 16 hours throughout the week and next to this they attend school and follow a study on Marketing & Communication or Sport & Coaching. School takes into account that students have to have a tailored time schedule while they have to train or go away to matches or have a foreign training. These students are first of all eager to be the best in their sport and after that they do their education, make homework, have a life and try to fit it all together.

From the start I work at the JCC as a teacher (marketing & communication and English), tutor students and guide them when they fulfill their internship. After almost 16 years I have

noticed for the student it is possible to do two things education + sport but it isn't always easy. Also while both ask effort and dedication. Some of them stop while they get a (lucrative) contract as an athlete, some of them have to quit sport because of injuries and motivation slips away, and luckily the majority have the ability to finish their education with a diploma.



Jacqueline van Meeteren, Amsterdam



Norway



Greetings from Norway

First of all, on behalf of the Norwegian group who attended the Europe Conference this summer, I want to thank you Iceland, for some very well organized and interesting days.

It also became a special event for us Norwegians as one of members, Bjørg Nakling, received the European Award for all the work she has done for DKG, both on a national level as well as on an international, and also for her great social engagement, and valuable job she has done as a teacher and school headmaster. We are all very proud of her!

All three chapters in Norway are now working well during the first part of the semester. We are putting in much effort in finding interesting, relevant and engaging subjects for our meetings.

One pedagogical subject that has been debated in the media for some years now, is why girls are doing better in school than boys. Why do the number of boys dropping out of school become so much larger than that of the girls? Where has the school gone wrong? Is it because that the curriculum is more on the girl's premises than that of the boy's? Studies have been undertaken to try to seek the answers, and come up with sustainable solutions. It is a hot theme, but we have not yet reached any good solution.

As for Epsilon, my chapter, in our October meeting, we had a very interesting lecturer from our local university. She questioned: "Does the media focus strengthen the masculine crises?"

Instead of focusing on the bad boys all the time and thereby stigmatize them even further, would it be better to focus more on the girls, and give them credit for doing well? Interesting thoughts! We have certainly not concluded this discussion.

I wish you all a good autumn, now as the winter is on its way here in the north.

Astrid H. Bie Skaaland, Norway

Sweden



How you and your chapter can make a difference

World Fellowship is the DKG fellowship grant that has supported over 920 non-member women from 120 countries and given over \$3,349,100 in grants. The grant is a contribution for women all around the world, selected to study at a university for a master's or doctor's degree, either in The United States or Canada. We work with the Fulbright organization to select these women and then our members provide emotional support through their work in Canada and the U.S.

You and/or your chapter can make a difference for these women! Amongst other things you can "adopt" one of our recipients and include them in your chapter and state – maybe she will be one of your new members when she has finished her studies? Our International World Fellowship Committee would ask that you and your chapter consider sending them welcome greetings, holiday greetings, birthday wishes, and care packages, as these fine women are far from home and many are studying in a second language. They are very gifted women who are striving to make a difference in the world, so we hope you will extend your heartfelt support and encouragement to them.

Where can you find more information? As you can see on the DKG webpage, the 2019 World Fellowship recipients are enrolled in their universities in the US and Canada and are now available for your greetings and support! Sign in, go to the World Fellowship Committee, and find the recipients' names, addresses, emails, and birthdays, as well as the university location. *Please keep their personal information private to protect their security.*

*Elisabeth Stärner
Chair of the European Forum Committee, member of the World Fellowship Committee, and
member of Mu chapter, Sweden*

Great Britain



Northern Iceland Adventure

Excitement and adrenaline motivated Diana, Lavinia and me to rise early to catch the 7 am plane to Akureyri for our day long exploration of the north of Iceland. Tiny gaps in the cloud cover tantalized us as we tried to see volcanoes in the ice cap below. Then two caldera enabled us to distinguish the ice from the clouds, just for seconds.

On alighting from the plane, which looked a bit like a catamaran with the wheel housing far out on the wing, we boarded a minibus with our guide and other tourists. We crossed the estuary, climbed the mountain road and looked back at the fishing port and the giant liner moored nearer the sea. An isolated shop and small farm had established a toehold on the many acres of angular rocks thrown by the recent eruption 2300 years ago so we purchased picnic extras before going on to Godafoss, the waterfall of the Gods. The enormous water supply from the melting glacier had cut deep, forming a canyon but I was captivated by fascinating rock shapes which remained in the river water.



On to Lake Myvatn named after the insects that make the area a favourite breeding ground for birds like Bewick's swans and White fronted geese. It was beautiful but sadly for the birds, we were told there were far fewer insects this year. From there we passed the "gold building," protected from radiation and where there is multinational research on the Northern Lights in progress. For me the next stop at Selton and Badstofa

was the highlight of the tour. We witnessed surface level geothermal energy and ground alteration. Steam dominates the area so we saw steam vents, boiling hot springs and sulphur mounds together with mudpots and fumeroles. Cairns of stones, built on steam vents, were in various states of disintegration. This activity was quite unlike anything I had seen before in other parts of Iceland and in America where there are geysers spouting.

On again to Dettifoss, Selfoss and Hafragilsfoss all in a canyon 25 km long and up to 120m deep. Selfoss is said to be the biggest in Europe. I've never seen water carrying so much sediment. There was easier walking terrain at Asbyrgi National Park where we reached a small lake via pretty undergrowth and birch trees. Our energy was flagging so on our return to the coach we mocked the driver's estimation of 2 or 3 minutes to reach it, a time too short even for a fit young man. Even so, it was a beautiful place,



a green oasis in the mostly barren neighbourhood so well worth the effort. Around Husavik was a thermal spring where Diana and Lavinia enjoyed a swim overlooking the sea and I enjoyed apple cake. We were energised to walk again at Vesterdaler where there were cliffs, honeycomb weathering and caves with strange acoustics together with prominent unique basalt columns formed as the lava was forced up through vents.

On to the coach once more for our journey back to Akureyri via short cut through a mountain tunnel 8 kms long, newly opened last December. Then, after our flight and subsequent journey back to our apartment, we arrived feeling exhausted but confident to highly recommend the tour to others.

Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)

European Regional Conference 2019

What an experience this was for the 6 Brits who attended: our State President, Evelyn Goodsell, Diana Bell, Liz Day, Unity Harvey, Lavinia Soul, and myself. Our hotel was next to the old airport, now superceded for international flights by Keflavik Airport, and the conference room was very spacious and well lit.

As Evelyn was attending training as State President, I had a couple of days to explore the city, and found walking round it very pleasant, visiting the extensive city museum, and the culture centre in particular. Iceland has an unusual history for Europe, as it was not inhabited until the 8th century, and habitation has always been concentrated around its coasts. Tourism is booming, and new developments are going up whichever way you look, many of them very impressive. It is also blessed – or cursed – by frequent visits from enormous cruise ships.

Everything at the conference was well organised, and our Icelandic sisters are to be congratulated on a stimulating and enjoyable event. The printed programme included abstracts of talks, and photos of the speakers, and details of the 7 or 8 workshops available in each of the four workshop sessions. The title of the conference was `Professional Research and Practices in enhancing the Learning Community and the 6 Cs: Character education, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking`. We should remind ourselves that apart from us Brits and some Americans and Canadians, the remainder of the 250 delegates were operating in a foreign language. What an achievement, and how humble it made us feel.

The talks were all of interest: `Preparing our students for their Future, not our Past` particularly interested me, as did `Changing perspectives on education in the course of an academic career`, by a Professor Emeritus, and `Guidance and Orientation for Adult Learners: results from a European project at policy level`. I particularly enjoyed two workshops: `Using Small Robots to develop student skills in different subjects`, where I got to use a small robot and programme it to perform a pre-set task! What fun, and what a good way to attract the attention of students. The other was `Young Female Role Models in the Oasis of Siwa`, which is in Egypt. The Norwegian members who have worked there first went 13 years ago, travelling on donkey back, and learned so much about life for women there. They set up a training school for traditional handicrafts, and students also wanted to learn English so that they could talk to tourists, so they did this, and offered micro-loans to start businesses. The language there is non-written, and not related to Arabic. Some students have even been successful in training as teachers, and setting up schools. One silversmith trainee, married at 17, 3 children, husband unemployed, is now teaching women aged 16-60 to read and write Arabic. She has also been offered a shop in Siwa Tourist Centre for her silver, and an upstairs workshop. One Norwegian DKG chapter supports another woman. It was obvious, talking to the Norwegian members, that they felt they had gained as much as they had given by this collaboration.

There were fascinating outings to enjoy as well. Do look up reports, photos etc on dkgerc2019.weebly.com for more information, and enjoy the reports from those of us lucky enough to attend.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)



Finland



A VISIT TO AND FROM CALIFORNIA

Norma Williams lives in Fresno, California, I don't remember the name of her chapter, but she had told about the Finnish educational system to her chapter members. Maybe she had read my article in the Bulletin (2016) and started emailing with me. Then we met in the Austin Convention (July 2018), and more discussions followed when we flew together (after Austin) to California – both Fresno and San Francisco! It was my first experience of California; I didn't know very much about educational systems there, but I learned something when listening to Norma's DKG-sisters. Maybe they also heard a few facts about Finnish schools that they had never heard before! So, Norma was the one to find out these secrets about Finland: I kindly asked her to start planning a trip to this far away country!

And she did and arrived in Helsinki on September 16th, 2019! Though most Alpha-sisters live in Helsinki, I don't: my husband and I have a farm in a small town of Hamina (about 22.000 inhabitants), and about 60 kilometers to the Russian border. Driving from the airport to our house took about two hours: so, just a small welcome-drink and a good night's rest before a visit to Hamina upper secondary school the next morning! As was planned, we met the principal and were taken to an English lesson of students of 17-18 years of age. Norma made a very thorough and interesting presentation about her city and its schools and multicultural situation there in general. She also made students wonder about the mostly spoken language in Fresno schools; one student knew the right answer: Spanish! A nice lunch with the principal in an old fortress, and after that a look-around in Hamina. In the evening we met two of my former colleagues – one of them was a little worried about her 'very short course of English' – she had studied a long one of German once!

The next day was reserved for our visit to the middle school where I had worked as the principal for 14 years

It was nice to meet colleagues who still worked there – one of them took us to her English class of 14-year-old 8th-formers. These students had prepared questions (having studied English for 5 years), and also learned and were amazed by some facts about California – geography, number of people, climate...(such as minus eight degrees one winter)! At eleven

o'clock: warm school lunch, tasty and free for students! After lunch it was time to listen to the concert that the students of the music group had prepared.

Maybe these 'school days' in Hamina were met with interest on the pages of Norma's notebook: she had met students not wearing school uniforms; male principals with casual outfit; good behavior and general free or informal atmosphere in classrooms or corridors...

Our capital Helsinki was awaiting next. One of Alpha-sisters invited us for dinner: meeting a few members, talking and sharing views about DKG, both American and European, though today our conventions are called *international*. Norma had visited Helsinki once on her Baltic tour. This time I took her to Oodi, the most beautiful library of the world, and the Atheneum, the Arts Museum, to see paintings about Finnish history. Then: some shopping in Marimekko-land, as Norma calls Finland! Norma, a musician herself, then had a taste of Berio's songs and Tchaikovsky's symphony no 5 in the Music Hall – and on the night before good-bye, Bizet's Carmen in the Finnish National Opera! When I took Norma to the airport on September 22nd, it was not a good-bye to Finland yet: Norma was going to fly to Norway, to have a look around in Tromsø far away in the north! When finally at home (after flying from Tromsø back to Helsinki and then to LA and Fresno), she emailed me promising to check more accurately about some details that she wanted to open thoroughly to her chapter members...

Kaija Teikari, Alpha, Finland



Estonia



A Challenge, An Opportunity:

being a member of the European Forum Committee

This was supposed to be a short overview of hosting the European Forum Committee meeting in Tallinn. I ended up writing something completely else.

European Forum Committee meeting was held in Tallinn, Estonia this year. The official dates for the EFC meeting were November 1st to 2nd, although some members arrived earlier and some left later.

As the current EFC representative from Estonia it fell to me to arrange some details of the meeting (such as, for example, the venue of the pre-meeting on November 1st and the meeting on 2nd). I must say that this was an interesting experience for me – and I mean interesting in a positive way here. But that also holds true when looking at my whole DKG experience.

I became a member of DKG Estonia (Alpha Chapter) in 2017. It was a good year to become a member, because in summer that year the DKG Europe Conference was held in Tallinn. It was a busy summer preparing for the conference and then an absolute joy of being part of.

And that was not the end of it. Later that year (at the end of October, to be precise) I was quite suddenly and unexpectedly entrusted with representing Estonia in the European Forum Committee. While I really was quite unprepared for the role I am now truly glad that I accepted, although at the time accepting meant rushing to buy the ferry tickets to Helsinki because the EFC meeting was taking place there (I am very glad that it was Helsinki that year because I doubt I would have managed to make it anywhere else – and that would have meant losing the chance to meet the other ladies of the European Forum Committee). As a fun fact – while I was 36 years old at the time I had never bought ferry tickets or been to Helsinki on my own. It was actually quite daunting, but I managed everything fine with Ida's guidance (Ida Hyvönen is the EFC representative from Finland and was our host that year) and became more confident in myself and my abilities to travel on my own.

The next year the European Forum Committee meeting was held in Rastade, Germany. For me getting there meant two planes and three trains. There and back again. And once more it was a trip of firsts to me – first time buying my own plane and foreign train tickets, first time flying on my own... I am deeply thankful to Daniela (Daniela von Essen, the representative from Germany in the EFC) for

patiently answering my frantic e-mails and finding the train timetables for me. I remember being both panicked and terribly excited on my way there. Getting back was easier – after all, I had done it before. Quite an experienced traveler, me.

Thus, when in Rasteade I was asked if Estonia might be the next place for the EFC meeting I was both a bit disappointed (no new country to visit!) and interested (an opportunity to see a side of an EFC meeting I had not seen before).

Like I said above, organizing all the things that need to be organized took some doing but it was very interesting to try to think about things that would be needed to be taken into account. For example the main EFC meeting on the November 2nd needs in addition to the room, tables and chairs also the WiFi connection, computer, projector, perhaps a possibility of printing, food... I was really lucky in the people who supported me with their kind advice and suggestions. I was also lucky the the Estonian History and Civics Teachers Association (<https://www.eays.edu.ee/en/>), which I'm a member of, was holding their yearly conference in Tallinn the same day. I had an opportunity to approach the leader of the EHCTA, Madis Somelar, and ask if possibly the DKG EFC meeting could be held in the building where the conference was (what I actually asked, really, was: „Madis, could I get a classroom for the DKG meeting?“ and he said „Yes.“).

The school where we had our meeting, Tallinn French School, is a old school with interesting history that prides itself in teaching humanities and emphasizing subjects related to arts and culture. I loved how the school looked like and I hope all the other members of the EF Committee enjoyed it too.

Taking all my previously written words together I must say this: I love being a member of DKG and I am happy that I have had the chance to be a member of the European Forum Committee. It has given me so very much in my personal development and in ways I see and understand the world now that I have had the opportunity to hear it through the words of all the wonderful ladies of DKG. Thank you!

Terttu-Triin Tomusk, and European forum Committee member

Alpha Chapter, DKG Estonia

