

A Danish Duckling

A great day in a small country: Denmark joined *Delta Kappa Gamma* in March this year when the first chapter, *Alpha Chapter*, was installed in Hjørring, in the most northern part of the country.

It has been the most warming and encouraging experience for us to become members of the network of professional women educators, and being still only the young (but not the ugly) duckling, we have lots of enthusiasm and are full of confidence that our feathers will soon grow to be like those of the many experienced other birds in the society.

Thank you to everyone for all your generosity, for having sent greetings to congratulate us on our installation, and even though we have not been able to reply to everyone, we have been touched by every single mail, card, picture and gift you have sent.

In Alpha Chapter we have added a couple of new members since the installation, and we have now begun setting up our state organisation and organising our chapter organisation. Since our group so far consists mainly of teachers, we have started our chapter activities by building a local network through getting to know one another's schools and educational projects.

"....I think I'd better go out into the wide world," said the duckling." - Our plans for the future are to strengthen the Scandinavian DKG relations and to begin to explore the possibilities of professional as well as personal contacts in the DKG. Two of us attended the European Regional Conference in August and have returned greatly inspired, and we are now ready to form sub-committees and launch projects that we think are important within the educational profession in our context.

But the little duckling is already growing! We are happy to announce the installation of a new chapter in October, which is based in Odense, H. C. Andersen's own town – how about that! There, 12-15 new members are ready to be installed as the *Beta Chapter*, and we all feel very proud.

The little duckling – soon the proud swan – is stretching, flexing its wing muscles, preening itself, testing the water and, to slightly misquote H. C. Andersen, "...she cries out with full heart: 'I never dreamed there could be so much happiness, when I was just a duckling.'" Elsebeth Gabel Austin, State President and Chapter President (Hjørring), Denmark, <u>austin@post5.tele.dk</u> <u>http://home5.inet.tele.dk/austin/DKG.htm</u>



Alpha Chapter Denmark