



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

## **GREAT BRITAIN NEWS**



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE AMSTERDAM**

**Autumn 2013**

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## CONTENTS

## From the Editor

	Page
State President's Letter	3
Dutch Night	4
Committees of DKG GB	5
Pre-Conference Seminar	6
First General Session	8
Night on the Town	9
Visit to the Anne Frank Museum	10
Visit to The Hague	11
Banquet at the Miranda Paviljoen	12
The European Forum	13
The European Achievement Award	13
The Canterbury Award	14
A 'First-Timer's' View of the European Conference	15
Third General Session: The Future of Teaching and Learning?	17
The Farewell Luncheon	19
Chapter Reports:	
Alpha	20
Beta	22
Gamma	22

This edition concentrates on the European Regional Conference in Amsterdam, for the benefit of both those who attended and those who were unable to. There were so many interesting events, visits and tours that it was difficult to fit everything in – apologies as always to anyone whose contribution was not included.

The next edition will be more difficult to fill, as there is no conference! Do please write about anything your chapter is doing, and in particular your own educational interests and activities. There is so much going on in our educational world just now and it would be great for our readers to hear about it, particularly as it is read abroad as well as here.

I hope a later deadline for contributions of **mid-December** will ensure that we get contributions about all the chapters' Christmas events, always so interesting and enjoyable. Contributions as always in Word, please, and these and photos sent as **attachments** to emails. If they are sent as emails themselves I have to retype them! Thank you for your continuing support.

*Front cover photo by Diana Bell*

**Photographs where indicated are courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, Texas, USA. They can be seen and purchased online through [www.photographsbyjim.org](http://www.photographsbyjim.org)**

## Diana Bell

### STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2013-2015



Twenty-two GB Members attended the European Regional Conference in Amsterdam. What an interesting, vibrant city it proved to be. Our Dutch colleagues provided plenty of good speakers, workshops, entertainment and visits. One of their best conference ideas was the red rose on the outside of our file, it took me two days to realise that the beautiful rose housed our tightly rolled up conference bag! There were about 170 members at the conference, plus a number of 'other halves', all of whom seemed happy to help out in various ways.

Although there was time for networking and chatting I still came home realising I hadn't even managed to have a proper conversation with all the GB members.

Delta Kappa Gamma is a wonderful organisation for making and renewing friendships. Attending the European Regional Conference at the start of my biennium allowed me to get to know other new State Presidents. We had some fun and even managed the flag ceremony without any flag poles damaging the low part of the conference room ceiling! Chairing the European Forum business meeting was not as 'lively' as I had expected. We even managed to get through all the business in the time allocated, including agreeing to go ahead with composing the music and creating lyrics for a new DKG song.

Taking over from our outgoing State President, Sheila Roberts, will be a demanding task. During the last two years Sheila has proved to be well organised, committed and helpful. She is a real professional! I'll do my best to live up to her high standards. I'm fortunate that Kathy Hodgson will be working with me in her role as Vice-President.

Organising our state committees has been one of my first tasks. Happily a number of experienced members have very kindly agreed to chair these. The State Conference Committee has already been in contact, by e-mail at least. So many members enjoyed the venue at Aylesford Priory in 2012 that it seemed a good idea to return there. Our conference dates are Friday evening 28 to Sunday 30 March 2014. I attach a brief guide to the state committees with this report. Thank you to all those who very kindly agreed to be part of these committees, it is very much appreciated. I know that the chairs of the committees will be in touch with their members during the next few weeks. If you have not been asked but would be interested in joining a committee, please do contact me.

My main task this biennium will be gaining new members. We cannot afford to lose anyone so do check on members of your chapter, ask why absentees are not attending meetings. Happily Sheila has agreed to undertake the task of membership expansion. Not the easiest job! Fortunately DKG has a wide educational remit, both for members and for meetings. We probably all know someone who would make an excellent member but we never thought of inviting them. Tell people about our organisation and the work we do, invite them to a meeting!

***Diana Bell*** (State President)

## DUTCH NIGHT

Dutch Night took place on our first evening, following the Flag Ceremony. It was a friendly, informal affair, held in the cafeteria of the College which was the venue for the Conference as a whole. The effect of festivity within the bounds of a carefully managed budget was happily achieved by attractive table settings, a free glass of wine or beer (or two soft drinks) and a buffet. A steel band got a lot of people up on their feet and dancing: I liked the music, but found it interfered with conversation and queuing for the buffet. We'd been warned not to be too greedy at the buffet (as if we would!) but in the end there was plenty for all – including my best gastronomic discovery of the whole visit – little croquettes called something like `bitte bolle` - delicious! And with fruit salad and ice cream to finish, this made for a very pleasant introduction to the Conference.

***Gail Gladwin*** (Beta Chapter)



You know you're in Amsterdam when you see the bikes (Diana's picture) and the beautiful canal-side houses (Editor's picture)

<b>Committee or State Position</b>	<b>Chair of Committee</b>	<b>What the Committee does</b>
Archives	Dorothy Haley	Reminds the State President to make an update for their biennium. (President keeps the archives).
Conference	Diana Bell	Organises the State Conference.
Editorial / State Editor	Di Billam	Publications: GB News.
Educational Excellence. (includes programmes).	Kate York	Advises on speakers for events. Can provide suggestions for chapter programmes.
Executive Secretary	Joan Carroll	Takes Executive Meeting Minutes, liaises with president. Writes official DKG letters.
Finance	Gloria Redston	Plans Budget, updates and checks State Finance Policy. Financial matters.
Leadership Development Training	Evelyn Goodsell	Promotes leadership opportunities. Plans and delivers leadership training during conference.
Membership / Expansion, Including Strategic Action Plan & Publicity / Communications.	Sheila Roberts	Increases membership. Plans expansion events. Promote positive public relations with the press and possible members. Creates quality publications.
Music	Jess Curtis	State Music.
Nominations GB	Unity Harvey	All GB Nominations.
Professional Affairs / Parliamentarian	Mary Wardrop	Reviews State Byelaws and Standing Rules. Deals with DKG parliamentary / constitutional questions.
Scholarships, including GB Award and Canterbury Award	Sandra Blacker	Advises members about the GB awards, timescale etc. Administers the awards.
State Treasurer / GB Membership Database	Kathy Hodgson	All finance related to state; budget, subscriptions, conference fees etc. Keeps up-to-date membership list.
World Fellowship	Carole Stirling	Advises about International Awards that are available. Promotes projects such as <i>Schools for Africa</i> .
Webmaster	Gloria Redston	Keeps website up-to-date. Sends appropriate information to European Webmaster.

## PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR: EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

Europe is a multilingual continent, where the diversity of languages, cultures and traditions is highly valued. This diversity is evident in the education systems, culture, assessment methods and values. It was most interesting to make comparisons throughout the day of how things are done: I found this one of the most valuable events of the conference, particularly as there was opportunity for discussion.

Dorcas Rogers (GB) spoke about 'Unlocking the Education Gate for the Unqualified Healthcare Workforce in the UK'. It was rather alarming as a Brit to hear that one third of caring in hospitals in this country is carried out by unqualified staff, and one half in social care at home. This could at least partly explain the alarming stories we have heard recently about care standards. Dorcas explained some of the different types of training available, and some of the difficulties for staff and tutors. She also described the steps through the levels of training, and the various kinds of credits that can be earned up to the level of the qualified practitioner. Ingiborg Jonasdottir (Iceland) spoke about the validation of non-formal and informal learning in Iceland, from the perspective of her experience in banking. An increasing proportion of banking employees are now graduates: from 10% in 1988 to 70% in 2010. Professional knowledge quickly becomes obsolete, with a consequent need for updating. The curriculum includes Banking, Finance, Legal affairs, Security, Sales, Communication/Service. There is also a need to recognise competencies acquired in the workplace, and give credits for them. Banks are recognising the importance of staff who have valuable experience, and helping them to become qualified.

Margarita Hanschmidt (Estonia) spoke about the integration of immigrant women into society. In Estonia there are 180 nationalities, with consequent small groups except for Russians who are often third generation. By 2013 60% of lessons are required to be in Estonian, even in Russian schools. Margarita found a contact in this community, explained what was on offer, and a project was set up. It planned to improve key competencies, strengthen self-esteem, create contacts, visit cultural centres, museums and art galleries, set up conversational clubs. There was discussion of adapted texts and a compilation of Estonian/Russian vocabulary. Over time both a teachers' manual and revision tests were developed. This has resulted in productive mutual co-operation, and the aim now is to expand and target representatives of other nationalities. Catherine Bringselius-Nilsson (Sweden) spoke on 'Technology and Teaching: Learning Possibilities and Problems in One-to-One Computing and Distance



Learning`. She discussed a research study on the need for political, scholarly and epistemological awareness when researching questions of one-to-one computer projects. It looked at how computers are used in the classroom, the resulting experience of learning, and the effect both on learners and teachers. It looked at how laptops were used in the researched schools: to write and give presentations using standard software, to do video editing and music production using advanced software, to undertake information research, e-communication, and the organization of knowledge content. Overall it appeared that the teacher`s attitude was an important determining factor in the success of one-to-one computing projects.

Liz Day (GB) spoke on `The Changing Face of Education: does Global Competition impact on our School and University Systems?` She outlined the various changes to the UK system. This gave us a very useful introduction to research which had been done with our members in each country, about how we want to continue with discussion of educational subjects in Europe within DKG. Overall it looked as though we should continue, but make the seminar part of the main conference, so that delegates do not have to arrive earlier to take part. We had also asked about use of the European website: the conclusion here was that people are busy and only want to use the web for a specific purpose. Any discussion needs to lead to something concrete: one suggestion for a topic was `What is the educational policy of the EU?` On the question of how we could improve communications: it was suggested that we use what we have, ie the European website and Euforia, to keep members fully informed, prepared and ready by thinking forward, sharing topics, asking for suggestions and `in-state` discussions. It was strongly agreed that it is important to retain a strong Forum.

***Diane Billam*** (Gamma Chapter)

*Liz Day talked to the group about the changes to the UK educational system*



*Dorcas Rogers talked about Improving training for the Unqualified UK Healthcare Workforce*

*(Photos by Editor)*



## FIRST GENERAL SESSION

First a welcome, then Jane Veltman announced that 173 members had registered so far – more were to arrive at the Conference venue in due course. Corlea Plowman and the Head Quarters staff introduced the film “Ignite” with an enthusiastic cast of DKG Super Heroes. Corlea gave several examples of exemplary members, one of whom rescued her 17,18, 19 year old pupils when the bus in which they were travelling turned over in an horrific accident and she was so badly injured herself that her career as a teacher was finished. Nita Scott (Membership) encouraged the audience to serve on committees, seek out former members to rejoin and think of the founders in the 1920s who inspired leaders in the profession. Phyllis Hickey (Finance) emphasised DKG fund-raising activities including 11 countries in the Schools for Africa project. Her focus was on the education of girls, disadvantaged youngsters, and the DKG Scholarships for women from non DKG countries. Finally, Linda Eller (Information) quoted the new range of opportunities using electronic devices in order to keep in contact with the Society and enhance networking links with each other.

Yvonne van Buuler who had attended our State Conference in Tonbridge, staying afterwards with Jess and Gail in Plymouth, introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Carla van Cauwenberghe, an Education Inspector in the Dutch Ministry of Culture and Science. Dr. Carla explained how “Citizenship” is so much a part of the culture of the Netherlands. The nation has always exhibited the ability to work together and co-operate with each other, respecting freedom of foundation, freedom of denomination and freedom of organisation. However, in 2006 an Act was passed to build up a greater sense of awareness of social integration, ethnic minorities and social deprivation. Public documents were prepared and the Inspectorate formed a “supervision framework”. Educators were reminded to remain alert to risks of tendencies of intolerance or radicalisation.

After the lecture Mari Lauk from Estonia had everyone enjoying “The Art of Movement”, following her exercises to relax ready for the next part of the session led by the Nordic countries. First Kamini Nielsen described a sad four weeks of strikes in Denmark where schools were closed, the Unions and teachers could not agree on the salaries for teachers and the Government had to intervene. Astrid Skaaland and her countrywomen from Norway, reminded us of how the Women’s Right to Vote was initiated by Norwegian Women in 1913. Their delightful songs, Little Fly, a Lonely Rider and the Elf Queen and gracious



dancing transported our members present and reminded them of a happy visit to another European Regional - in Oslo in 2009. Finally, Sigrun Klara led her Icelandic choir, not for the first time, to join in with their national songs completing an action-packed first General Session.

**Mary Wardrop** (Gamma Chapter)

## NIGHT ON THE TOWN

The conference party met at the Town Hall in the Old Jewish District of Amsterdam and were treated to nicely presented and very tasty light refreshments. It was a chance to chat before we were given a welcoming and very informative address by the lady Deputy Mayor, Dr Carolien Gehrels.



*On the left, Margarita Hanschimidt of Estonia and Mildred Welch of Rogersville, Tennessee, USA, taken by Janet Cuthbertson also of Tennessee, centre Dr Carolien Gehrels taken by Jim Miller, on the right a very mixed group of members at the Town Hall reception, taken by Diana Bell.*

After a short wait in the sun on the quay we boarded canal boats and went for a trip along the canals and into the river mouth to arrive at the old harbour area. Dinner was in an interestingly renovated factory and again the food was excellent: carpaccio of beef, guinea fowl and fennel, rounded off with a heavily laced lime sorbet. Entertainment was in the form of an accordion player who also accompanied the Dutch members singing to us and also leading the assembled company in `Tulips from Amsterdam`.

**Carol Dawson** (Gamma Chapter)

*Staff mixing the delicious and decidedly alcoholic dessert which brought our Night on the Town at the Stork Factory to a very satisfactory close*



## A VISIT TO THE ANNE FRANK MUSEUM



**Anne Frank**

I was supposed to write about a workshop – I attended four – all were interesting, but I was particularly impressed by Dorothy’s tapestries featuring unicorns. How does she keep all that knowledge in her head and share it with such passion and humour? The following day, my eyes were truly opened by Dorcas as she spoke of the growing unqualified workforce in the NHS – often the people on whom we rely to deliver a service.

However, I wanted to share an unrequested memory – that of a visit to the Anne Frank Museum. We all know the story of Anne Frank, but the visit to the house where she and her family hid was so moving. The museum has been sensitively created – quotes from her diary were written on the walls, accompanied by photographs. Films of concentration camps and Jews being forced into trains with no windows, food or sanitation were a chilling reminder of almost inconceivable cruelty and inhumanity.

A simple circular picture created by Anne, using a set of compasses and coloured in to create a geometric pattern – just as I did at the same age, not that many years later – made me cry. However, the overriding memory is of a normal young girl, entering her teenage years and looking forward to a future *‘One day this war will be over. The time will come when we’ll be people again and not just Jews.’*

In one of the last rooms was a large black and white photograph of Anne’s father, Otto, standing in that same room just after the war, looking so desolate – a very poignant moment. But what he said has resonance today, as it did then: *‘We cannot change what happened anymore. The only thing we can do is to learn from the past and realise what discrimination and persecution of innocent people means. I believe that it’s everyone’s responsibility to fight prejudice.’*

**Kathy Hodgson** (Gamma Chapter)

## A VISIT TO THE HAGUE

It was a bright, sunny morning when a full coach load of members set off for a day visit to The Hague. Travelling along the Netherlands' motorways, I could only envy the emptiness of the roads compared with the M25! Our first stop was in the ancient city of Delft and the Royal Dutch Delftware factory. This factory was established in 1653 and is the last remaining Delftware factory from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. We were taken round the factory and the guide explained the process of production from start to finish. We witnessed a worker hand-painting a piece and were told that all Royal Delftware is still entirely painted by hand according to a centuries-old tradition. The Royal Delft factory always makes special pieces for royal events and plates were already on display to celebrate the new king and his family. There was also a copy of Rembrandt's 'Nightwatch' produced completely in Delft tiles and the exact size of the original to be seen in the Rijksmuseum. A quick coffee and visit to the shop and we were off to the International Court of Justice.

The journey there took us past beautiful houses which, our Guide told us, were the Embassies and Residences of various Countries and Ambassadors. The International Court is situated in a beautiful building, set back from the road and approached by a lovely wrought-iron gate and a long drive. Outside the gate was a sort of, what I can only describe as being, a memorial. There was a roughly-shaped block of granite surrounded by various stones given by, and symbolising, different countries. They were discreetly labelled and we were able to find ours. We were a little disappointed that we were not able to enter the International Court of Justice and were only able to visit the Visitor Centre. This was interesting and informative but not quite what we were expecting. You apparently have to apply months ahead if you wish to enter it.

From there we went into the city and our next stop was the Binnenhof (the Inner Court) government buildings with the mediaeval Ridderzaal (Hall of Knights). This is the most central and photogenic sight in The Hague. It was built in the thirteenth century by Floris IV, a Count of Holland. Today it is where the king opens the Netherland Parliament, and, although in the centre of the city, it is set apart in its tranquillity.

Our last stop, before returning to our hotel was to see the brilliant Mestag Panorama. Hendrik Mestag was thirty-five years of age in 1866 and decided to become a painter. He eventually left Brussels, (his home town) and moved to The Hague. It was then and there he developed a passion for the sea and painted many seascapes and, eventually, the wonderful Panorama.. To view the Panorama we ascended a circular staircase to reach a round platform. The canvas is 14.5 metres high and 114.5 metres long, and conveys a uniquely tranquil seascape 'after a natural landscape'. As the guide-book stated, 'hardly anyone can avoid the charm of the illusion and people leave the building in a state of wonder and admiration - sometimes quite overwhelmed by it all'.

A long day but most interesting and enjoyable.

*Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)*

## BANQUET AT THE MIRANDA PAVILJOEN



*Bettina Kulsdom's evocative picture of Guzel the beautiful singer*

After a great afternoon on a boat on the River Vecht and some hairy escapades in a coach stuck on a narrow lock bridge over a canal, some of us had just a very few minutes at the hotel to don the glad rags and then board the coaches for the evening banquet. We

made it with everyone looking smart and unruffled as though they had spent the whole afternoon resting and preparing!

The banquet venue was a restaurant overlooking the Amstel River and what a perfect and very glamorous setting the 'Paviljoen' was, the impression only being enhanced by the very welcome drinks on arrival. The food was delicious—all ingredients products of Holland.

The choir entertained us, singing two songs very beautifully. Beverly Helms entertained us too with some very clever jokes breaking up the serious side of her message on recruitment. The star of the show was a singer, Guzel of the Volga. She was born a Tatar on the banks of the Volga River. The Tatars were somewhat discriminated against by the Soviet overlords but against the odds she managed to gain a good education and finally to study in Holland. With her multi-national background, she entertained with songs in various languages and styles including Chinese, Japanese, Tatar, and English. She changed her image by hats, voice and demeanour to suit the songs. I think she could have entertained us all evening except. for some odd reason, we were suddenly told to decamp from the comfort of our elegant tables and go downstairs to choose and eat dessert. (The desserts were delicious and what a choice!) However, it meant that we all suddenly abandoned a superb entertainer, practically in mid flow. Very bizarre and the singer was as far from happy about it as we were. Coaches were duly boarded and off we trundled for a few hours sleep before the onslaught of the next day.

**Sheila Roberts** (*Gamma Chapter*)

*Bus stuck on a bridge (see Sheila's article—photo by Diana Bell*



## THE EUROPEAN FORUM

The European Forum was opened by Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir who introduced the Forum Committee. “Words of Inspiration “ was presented by Marianne Skardéus summing up “ What kind of education do we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?” An In Memoriam poem for past members was read and a white rose placed in the vase of red roses .

Sheila Roberts presented Kate York with the Achievement European Award, Changes on voting for next year were discussed and delegates were encouraged to follow developments on the internet

The business meeting was efficiently chaired by Diana Bell. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and financial matters explained. A report of The European Forum, its aims, goals and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) were discussed. Eygló Björnsdóttir urged people to look at the European Web Site. Jess Curtis proposed holding a competition to find an alternative DKG song. This was approved almost unanimously . Marika Heinbach suggested forming a Youth European Forum which will be put on the agenda for the November meeting. The final talk was given by Gitta Franke Zöllmer “ Rethinking Education”: Our Future in Europe.

***Robina Scahill*** (*Gamma Chapter*)

## THE EUROPEAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

During the European Forum meeting on Saturday, it was wonderful that our very own Kate York should be honoured as recipient of The European Achievement Award. The European Achievement Award is given biennially in recognition of distinguished service given to Delta Kappa Gamma in Europe. Kate received a totally unanimous vote from all of the countries in DKG’s European Region, in recognition of her amazing and unstinting level of commitment in her work in Europe as European Regional Director 2010-2012. She encouraged all with her vision of DKG Europe. She visited every country, some several times, and always managed to give clear directions in any situation. She was a calm, reliable fount of information, always available to point the way forward, and to bolster morale and flagging spirits. She has been a real ‘rock’ to all European Presidents and members, - I can personally vouch for that. She has probably lost track of the enormous number of air miles she clocked up in supporting so generously any State President or country when asked for help, guidance or support.



As a member of the Administrative Board, Kate constantly put forward the views of Europe, thus ensuring that everyone understood the different issues found in our Region. By her manner and efficiency she impressed all and consequently managed to raise the profile of the European Region. This she continues to do via her membership of The Nominations Committee. I feel very privileged to have

been asked to announce Kate as the Award winner at this year's Forum meeting. Ingibjorg Jonasdottir, Chair of the European Forum had a beautiful silver pin commissioned in Iceland. She explained that it is based on a knitting basket symbolising that our countries are knitted together in a common purpose, held together in a basket, supported and carried by Kate.

Many congratulations Kate and thank you for all your hard work.

***Sheila Roberts (Gamma Chapter)***

## THE CANTERBURY AWARD

**This award can be granted for either an educational project, or a travel award to assist a member to attend a state, regional or international conference for the first time. For further information apply to Sandra Blacker (for contact details see page 24 under Gamma Chapter).**

**Deadline for applications 10 January 2014.**



## A 'FIRST-TIMER'S' VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

The conference was held in Amsterdam, the city of canals and merchants' houses. The venue was ROC a technical school, one stop from Amsterdam



Central Station. The school itself had an interesting design with a central atrium, surrounded by workshops and classrooms. The conference delegates were housed in a brand new Holiday Inn Express just a short walk away. Delegates were from across northern Europe – Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Estonia and, of course the Netherlands. It was an amazing opportunity

to meet people in education and discuss matters of common interest and find out how education was approached in different parts of Europe. There was a taste of different cultures in songs from Iceland and exercises in Korean!

The main sessions for all 173 delegates were in a lecture theatre without air-conditioning! This meant speakers needed particular skill! Two themes were Citizenship and Teaching languages to non-native speakers. There was also an inspiring welcome to Amsterdam by the Deputy Mayor, Carolien Gehrels whose enthusiasm for her city and its ethos was infectious. On the final morning, the European Forum was held and there was also a fascinating presentation on Education and Technology. The Director of YouTube in northern Europe, Jelle-Jan Bruinsma, talked about the uses of the media in education and how YouTube is at the forefront of new methods. ie gave an illustration of an algebra lesson which could be used as central material, freeing lessons for individual contact with the teacher.

There was a bewildering array of Workshops - making a choice was extremely difficult! It would take much too much space to go through all of them! There were Education topics with a career and personal development bias such as 'Excellence in Leadership', and others aimed at teaching developments, for example 'Girls' Education in Karamoja, Uganda'. To balance this there were general topics, a fascinating description of the experience of singing at the Paralympics in 2012 and the story of the French Unicorn Tapestries.

There were also wonderful excursions around Amsterdam and three excellent evening functions. Dutch Night got everyone together dancing to a dynamic

band. The Night on the Town started with a reception at the Town Hall, then continued with a canal boat trip to a riverside restaurant. The banquet at the Miranda Pavilion, in a wonderful setting, combined delicious food with International songs, performed with panache by Guzel van de Wolga; it was also an opportunity for new officers to be introduced, an address by Beverley Helms, International President, and songs from the conference choir. A good time was had by all.

From the perspective of a 'First Timer', the conference was packed with activities, opportunities to meet new people, enjoy the company of old friends and hear new ideas. This conference showed that DKG is a blend of professionalism and fun! Here's to Sweden in 2015.

**Hilary J Goy** (*Alpha Chapter*)

*Picture of the Atrium of the ROC Amsterdam by Diane Billam*

**The European Conference in 2015, referred to by Hilary above, will be held in Boras, with accommodation at the Grand Hotel. More information nearer the time, of course.**

## THIRD GENERAL SESSION; THE FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING? EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY



*Photo of Dr Bruinsma by Jim Miller*

At the third general session on Saturday morning the main speaker was Dr JelleJan Bruinsma, manager of YouTube Content Partnerships in Benelux and the Nordic countries. He emphasised that YouTube works closely with its content partners, and is actively bringing learners and educators together in a global video classroom. He spoke about one of their key partners, the Khan Academy, a non-profit organization supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Their mission is to provide a world-class education to anyone, anywhere. He gave some statistics: people are on YouTube for 6 billion hours a month, it has 1 billion visitors, 100 hours of video is uploaded every minute, and 25% of viewing is now via mobile platforms. This reach is uncontrolled: there are no gatekeepers. It can now have very important political consequences, and it has become increasingly difficult for governments, however repressive, to put out propaganda which is not contradicted by what appears uploaded to YouTube. The medium gives so many educational opportunities.

In the traditional classroom many students are bored, since everyone gets the same. The TED series of talks by eminent people in various walks of life allows access for all to the best minds. Dr Bruinsma showed a video of Salman Khan, who explained that 5 years ago he was a hedge-fund analyst. He began to teach his cousins, and put material on YouTube. He said `They soon preferred me on YouTube rather than in person`. They can pause or repeat their cousin on YouTube, can remember/revise, learn at their own pace. When trying to get their head round a new concept, a live person is often too quick.

In this new classroom setting, teachers can spend 100% of their time on people who need help. As a teacher you can concentrate on the most fruitful Interactions. Dr Bruinsma described YouTube EDU, for schools and teachers, with 1000 channels, 700,000 videos, and 300+ playlists aligned with educational standards. He concluded by saying that there are no gatekeepers, it gives global

democratic access to the best teachers. A very lively panel discussion followed on 'Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. The panel consisted of Dr Bruinsma, Ria Bleeker of the Netherlands, and Linda Eller, Information Services Administrator from DKG Headquarters. Questions included the use of books in the classroom, copyright, how expert are teachers who upload material to YouTube, and how can teachers help students who simply cannot keep up/pick it up in the first place. Discussion afterwards made it clear that this had been a thought-provoking session, of great interest to delegates, sharply dividing opinions.

***Diane Billam*** (Gamma Chapter)



*Picture of Diana Bell, as incoming GB State President, withdrawing our Flag at the end of the Conference, by Jim Miller*

**The DKG International Convention, 2014, referred to in Carole's article on the Farewell Luncheon, opposite, will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, from 28 July to 1 August 2014.**

## THE FAREWELL LUNCHEON

It hardly seemed possible that it was already time for the Farewell Luncheon. After an amazing few days in Amsterdam, and some excellent speakers and challenging workshops, it was nearly all over. That morning we had listened to an entertaining speaker who had introduced the wonder that is 'You Tube' to us. We certainly had plenty to think and talk about - no surprise there.

We were some of the last to arrive and so we sat at a table close to where the food was being served, but unfortunately a long way from the microphone. We were treated to an absolutely fantastic Indonesian meal; it was delicious and there was plenty of it. Our table was always the last to be invited to go to the buffet and collect their meal – this has many obvious advantages!

The fact that we were a long way from the microphone often meant that we were unable to hear what Trijny (our host) was saying, which was a great pity as I think we missed some vital information. However we were pleased when Coby stood up to lead us in singing, and our attempt to sing 'Shalom' in a round was quite passable and very enjoyable. Unfortunately we were being pressed to finish our meal so that everything could be cleared away, and we were unable to join in the rest of the singing, as Kathy still had to climb to the top of her mountain of ice cream! During the meal she had been handed a prize which she had won in a random draw - lucky her. She has won the registration fee and costs of the banquet, the regional breakfast and celebration luncheon for the International Conference in Indianapolis in 2014. Needless to say she was so overwhelmed that she actually stopped eating for a while and so she had to catch up.

The 'Farewell Luncheon' is always a sad time as once again we have to say goodbye to friends from across Europe. It is a time for exchanging email addresses and other forms of contact and assuring each other that we all will meet again if only at the next regional. Goodbye and Shalom.

**Carole Stirling** (*Gamma Chapter*)

## ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

At the first meeting of the new DKG year in July, Alpha and Gamma members and guests met in the Hall of Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe. This was the first church to be destroyed during the Blitz and was rebuilt in the 1960s. Dorcas explained that the mural that dominates the church is by Hans Feibusch, a German convert to Christianity from Judaism. Following an excellent lunch, Barbara Kern spoke about her experience of singing at the opening ceremony for the Paralympics last year. She showed her outfit (see photo) and also saw the dress rehearsal for the Olympic Opening Ceremony.

We then listened to Naomi Riches MBE, Paralympic rowing Gold Medallist, who described her sometimes difficult journey from the first phone call to taking part in the 2012 Paralympics. Naomi proved to be a very uplifting speaker and a wonderful ambassador for sport. Everyone loved holding her gold medal, surprisingly large and heavy, and had a wonderful day.



*Barbara Kern demonstrates part of her costume for singing at the Opening Day of the Paralympics (left) and the group in front of the beautiful church mural (below)*



*These two photos plus Naomi on page 21 by Diana Bell*



The schedule for the autumn follows:

**14 September:** Business meeting by email.

**12 October:** Meeting at LSBU, probably 10.30. Speaker Sandra Doyle, who will talk about her work as an illustrator for the Natural History Museum.

**30 November:** Holy Trinity Church Hall, Rotherhithe. 'Prepare for Christmas' party with activity.

**18 January 2014:** Business meeting at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School.

**22 February:** Visit/lunch/business meeting: venue to be agreed.

**28/29/30 March:** GB State Conference at Aylesford Priory.

**17 May (to be confirmed):** Institute of Education meeting with speakers.

**June/July/August:** Summer outings to fit with members' wishes.

The International Convention is in Indianapolis, 28 July – 1 August 2014.

***Dorcas Rogers*** (*Gamma Chapter President*)

*Naomi Riches shows her splendid gold medal for rowing in the Paralympics (which includes mixed teams) (photo by Diana Bell)*



*The Editor just had to find room for this photo of a beautiful Henry Moore statue (which she had last seen in front of Leeds Town Hall) in front of the splendidly refurbished Rijksmuseum!*

## BETA CHAPTER REPORT

Due to the continuing ill-health of some of our members, and the ill-health of the close relatives of others, we are lying dormant for the summer, but hope in the Autumn to pick up again. Meanwhile, we are keeping in touch informally. Not all is doom and gloom – some chapter members are vigorously pursuing projects which are educationally significant and in the spirit of DKG. In addition, Jess and Gail have attended and greatly enjoyed the Regional Conference in Amsterdam, and look forward to sharing the experience with their chapter in due course. They also very happily renewed their contact with Yvonne van Buul, who had been their guest earlier in the year. They were delighted for the opportunity to receive her hospitality and explore Groningen (in N.E.Holland) where she lives.

**Gail Gladwin** (*Beta Chapter President*)

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT



**Wakehurst Place 29 June 2013** \_On one of the hottest days of the year, we met to explore the wonderful gardens of Wakehurst Place. Some of us were visiting for the first time and others returning to experience the many changes to the ageing infrastructure, including paths through the woods and irrigation systems which have been repaired recently. The water gardens and Westwood Lake were particularly popular. We felt like sitting under the enormous Gunnera's umbrella leaves with our feet dangling in the water. We were also delighted that the famous Japanese Iris ensata were just coming into flower in the Iris Dell. The resurrection bush and 'handkerchief' tree (*photo by Bettina Kulsdom*) were also admired. Judging by the number of butterflies and bees we saw Wakehurst has definitely created a great environment

After walking in different directions we met outside the restaurant where we pulled three tables and parasols together to enjoy a delicious lunch. On the way out Sandra and I visited the seed bank with its very impressive displays of seeds from all over the world. It is incredible to think that 64,000 seed collections are banked there and that this important work continues. I am sure that a very rewarding and happy outing was experienced by all.

**Liz Malik** (*Gamma Chapter*)

**Visit to Titsey Place 28 August 2013:** Titsey, the sea or spirit of life, was a very inspired choice for a summer outing. Ten Gamma chapter members and Rosalind's husband Barry were impressed with the house and gardens nestling in rolling parkland of four hundred acres only a few miles from the M25. John Gresham, who acquired Titsey in 1534, showed great foresight by planting trees as woodland and leaving large open spaces. This created a great feeling of peace and tranquillity that we all appreciated.

Most of our group went into the house where we heard that Titsey's historical significance dates back to Roman times. As the guide took us around she gave us a good account right up to present day showing many paintings including four Canalettos and exquisite antique furniture. A wing of the house is inhabited by a family with four children.

It was such a beautiful day to stroll around the gardens or sit on garden seats chatting and enjoying the view. The walled kitchen garden was very impressive with every vegetable imaginable. Kathy loved the colourful asters growing in abundance and Rosalind enjoyed the exotic plants in the hot green house. Naturally we all stayed for tea, which Barry said must have a mention as Titsey is worth a visit just for the cake!

**Liz Malik** (*Vice-President, Gamma Chapter*)



**Saturday, 7 September 2013** at 13 Longmeads, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0AT, 10.00 for 10.30 starting with refreshments. Gloria Redston will talk about ataxia awareness, our present scientific knowledge, the symptoms, genetic causes, research and prognosis, based on what she learned at a recent awareness day. She is anxious to `spread the word` since she would like her fellow members to understand how this is affecting her. This promises to be a very interesting meeting. Please bring books for our `Schools for Africa` charity, and cheque-books to pay your £45 annual subscription!

**Sandra Blacker** (*Gamma Chapter President*)

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**Mission Statement**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.