

MS. STEIN: Now Bodie Brizendine, honorary member, will tell us about her trip to the UK.

MS. BRIZENDINE: Thank you, and thank you, Wanda. It sounds like a wonderful program.

I had the best time! If you get the chance to be able to do this, never say no. After two days with our dear friend Coreen Hester, where we did two museums, two plays, two meals -- we had a wonderful time in London -- I left and took a train to Harrogate in North Yorkshire and spent three days with 250 of our colleagues in England, joining the GSA, which is the Girls School Association.

The theme and title of their program was "Accentuating the Positive: Confidence Without Complacency." Each speaker turned our attention to the education of girls and future leadership in a complicated and dramatically changing world. In particular, the discussions drifted down and around and drilled down to the learning dispositions of girls, with a keynote speaker perhaps setting off the tone for the entire three days with her first three words: "Girls run deep."

It truly was a program-rich and fascinating conference, and I'm happy to have honored NAPSG and really appreciative of the opportunity.

Some interesting observations, four of them. One: The GSA takes its mission quite seriously in a long-standing association of deep, deep respect and national, national exposure. They apparently get much attention from the press. And the GSA president, you would be happy to know, Ellen, writes annually for the newspaper globally, in the entire UK, and also bats off whatever controversy or heat of the moment. So it's a huge job, and actually gets some release time to be able to do it. It's very politically alive.

The second one is: It is seemingly rare to miss one of these meetings. 250 strong and every single person with whom I spoke talked about never missing this meeting. In fact, they said, it's never a question about if you have time; it's always a question of you must have time and come to these meetings. Deep, deep loyalty.

The third one is: Interestingly, the program was driven completely by education for girls, and was also deep in statistics and in finding. It was really an incredible program.

And fourth, and probably most important for me, they dress up. I mean, it was incredible. I barely squeaked through both dinners. I brought the best of what I had. It reminded me of those early pictures of NAPSG where everybody was dressed up in gowns, if you remember. They didn't quite have the gowns, but they dress up. So if you are invited, remember that.

I want to close by just saying I think it might be interesting for us to think about this partnership in the future, in ways deeper than perhaps just exchanging conferences, particularly since most of us are really interested in sort of global connections in an increasingly small world. I bet we could put together something where we could work more collaboratively with our friends across the pond in deeper ways than the conferences. They're really ready to do that, Bruce, and I think I would encourage us to maybe think of some sort of outreach that we might do where we would learn from one another around the education of young girls globally.

So thank you all very much. It was an honor to serve, I had a good time, and Coreen Hester says hello to everybody.