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## REPORT TO THE CORPS

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### **DR. ALGIRDAS GRIGONIS – A.P.P.L.E. HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AND CO-FOUNDER OF KAUNAS A.P.P.L.E. CHAPTER**

From 1991, the very first year that A.P.P.L.E. began its work, one of our staunchest supporters in Lithuania has been Dr. Algirdas Grigonis. Little wonder that, along with Vaiva Vebra and Maryte Speiciene, he was recognized with the distinction of honorary lifetime membership in A.P.P.L.E. at the opening ceremonies of the Vilnius seminars on July 16, 2001.

During the summer of 1991, Dr. Grigonis was working at the Teachers' In-service Institute in Vilnius, the home of the first A.P.P.L.E. seminars. He is quick to admit that the ideas shared by the American lecturers, particularly special education specialists Jurate Krokys and Dr. Karl Janowitz, both from Pennsylvania, and psychologist Dr. Rimantas Petrauskas from Toronto, had a profound effect on him. Subsequently, Dr. Grigonis took an active role in special education reform in Lithuania.

In 1996 Dr. Grigonis, with the help of others, founded the first and, to this day, the only A.P.P.L.E. chapter in Lithuania. In August of 1997 the chapter created a resource center in the city of Kaunas for special education teachers and for parents raising children with disabilities. Eventually, the Society for Special Education Teachers and Parents of the Kaunas region was legally incorporated.

Every summer seminars in special education take place through the joint efforts of A.P.P.L.E. USA and A.P.P.L.E. Kaunas. From 1996 to 2001 more than 2,600 of Lithuania's special education teachers have attended these courses.

In a five-year report on this work, Dr. Grigonis dis-

cusses the success of these courses. He writes: "Wherein lies the attraction and success of A.P.P.L.E. if so many Lithuanian educators try to attend these programs? I think the reasons are many.

"The first reason is that the lectures are very pertinent to the professional work of the teachers. The information is conveyed in a well-structured manner. The lecturers stress information, which is the basis of fur-



*Dr. Algirdas Grigonis was awarded the distinction of honorary lifetime membership in A.P.P.L.E. at the opening ceremonies of the Vilnius seminars on July 16, 2001.*

ther professional development. They give numerous realistic examples similar to ones teachers encounter in the field. Many fundamental questions are analyzed, which encourage the teachers to think and discuss critically. The lectures are supplemented with videotapes. Methodologies are proposed. If two-thirds of the time is spent in lecture format, one-third of the time is left for practical applications. Our teachers really work during the practicums. Every spring, teachers choose and discuss a topic after meeting with Professor Karl Janowitz. During the remaining time, teachers prepare for their work. When the topic is picked up during the summer seminars, follow-up activities are carried out while the lecturer and other seminar participants look on. This is followed by analysis and discussion among colleagues. Videotapes depict the work of the Kaunas region's teachers. Thus our teachers gradually become the lecturers' partners.

"The second successful practice of the lecturers, in my opinion, is the ability to socialize with teachers and parents, thus creating a meaningful exchange of ideas. A.P.P.L.E. lecturers are attentive to the needs and notions of Lithuania's teachers. Visiting lecturers respect our teachers and their decisions. Lecturers such as Ritone Rudaitis, Jacqueline Rickman, Marilyn Deasy, Karl Janowitz, Linda Melloy, and others share their personal values and their attitudes about the education of children with special needs. That way the teachers of Lithuania can better understand why their colleagues from America think or act in a particular way. A.P.P.L.E. lecturers encourage the teachers of Lithuania to experiment, to try out new ideas, but they never force anything upon their listeners.

"In expressing their views about educational practices in Lithuania, the A.P.P.L.E. lecturers always take into account our reactions. Our opinions do not always

agree, but our visitors always value what we have to say. It meant a great deal to hear Ritone Rudaitis and Jacqueline Rickman say that they were learning from us as well and that their experiences in Lithuania would influence their work at home.

"The fine qualities of the A.P.P.L.E. lecturers greatly enhance the success of the seminars. The result is not simply a friendly working atmosphere but, more importantly, increased self-confidence for the Lithuanian educators. Through such interactions we grow in our own sense of responsibility for the conditions of special education in our country."

Later in his report Dr. Grigonis evaluates the success of the Kaunas resource center: "Thanks to the many gifts from the A.P.P.L.E. lecturers, the Society for Special Education Teachers and Parents of the Kaunas region has a very extensive library, which is administered by special education expert Valerija Lesciukaiene. Our library has the latest books on special education and psychology. Our first benefactor was Jurate Krokys. The books, journals, and videotapes that she donated were the foundation of our library. Many of the latest publications have been donated by Professor Karl Janowitz of Temple University. For the third year in a row, he has been ordering four important journals for the library. Professor Jacqueline Rickman from Illinois University left us many publications about child development and visual impairments. Professor Linda Melloy, also from Illinois University, recently sent us a new book for parents. We are always grateful for the assistance of Ritone Rudaitis. She systematically sends us books and articles about assessment of students with special needs . . . . We also have a very rich videotape library. Almost every single lecturer who visits from America leaves a videotape of practical applications which was used to illustrate the lecture."

This fruitful cooperation between the educators of America and Lithuania and the ever-increasing self-confidence of Lithuania's educators has been very rewarding to A.P.P.L.E. members on this side of the Atlantic. Thanks to Dr. Grigonis, we clearly see that in the field of special education, we have, indeed, been of great assistance to our Lithuanian colleagues. We wish him and the Kaunas A.P.P.L.E. chapter much success in the future.

*Gita Kupcinkas*



*Dr. Grigonis is shown here with other members of the Kaunas A.P.P.L.E. Chapter, which began in 1996. The Kaunas A.P.P.L.E. Chapter is the only A.P.P.L.E. chapter in Lithuania.*

## **SUMMER SEMINAR TAKES SHAPE**

Plans for the Summer Seminar set for Vilnius July 15 to 26 are on schedule. As of mid-January, nine strand coordinators have expressed an interest in participating in the 2002 A.P.P.L.E. In-service Seminar. Twenty-two applicants have submitted applications to participate as course lecturers. Gita Kupcinkas has agreed to serve as the Program Director for the Vilnius seminar.



*A.P.P.L.E. President, Phil Taylor, will be traveling to Lithuania in March to make plans for the summer seminar. (Photo by Jane Serbent, Lithuania, 2001)*

Iлона Laucius will lead the A.P.P.L.E. group working at the Viltis Camp. Katie Hoyle has promised to be a part of this summer's courses after several years when she and her heavenly voice were missed.

I was most encouraged to hear from the Lithuanian Ministry of Education that five towns have invited A.P.P.L.E. to hold regional programs in their area. Final decisions regarding people, places, and programs will be made after my visit to Vilnius in mid-March. What is needed now are completed applications from those members of the corps who want to be a part of A.P.P.L.E. 2002. Shirley Sabo, Vice President for Human Resources, will be contacting some of you who we have not as yet heard from.

Please contact Phil Taylor by e-mail (kphiltaylor@hotmail.com) if you want to be considered for a spot on our lecturer team for July and have not received the application.

*Phil Taylor*

## SPRING MEETING SET FOR CLEVELAND

The spring meeting of the A.P.P.L.E. officers and Board of Directors is set for April 5, 6 and 7 in Cleveland, Ohio. Plans for the weekend are being handled by local arrangements chair, Irene Gedris. Friday evening will feature arrival and an informal get-together at the Holiday Inn, 28600 Ridgehills Drive, Wickliffe, OH 44092 (Telephone: 800 - 752 - 2582 - e-mail: holidayinn.clene@buckeyeweb.com). The A.P.P.L.E. conference price is \$79.00 plus 10% tax. The reservation deadline is March 26, 2002.

Saturday meetings will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Transportation will be provided to and from the Holiday Inn. Saturday evening will include a cocktail party at the home of Honorary General Consul of the Republic of Lithuania, Mrs. Ingrida Bublys, followed by dinner at the Holiday Inn.

The Sunday schedule includes meetings of the Board of Directors, a meeting of the officers and Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Although the meeting is primarily intended for the A.P.P.L.E. officers and Board of Directors, all interested A.P.P.L.E. members are welcome.

Please contact Irene Gedris at agedris@qwestinternet.net for additional information. Registration forms will be e-mailed the first week in March to Officers and members of the Board.

That's the details of the meeting schedule. **But the most important aspect of the April meeting** is what must be discussed. Yes, we will hear from each of the officers who will brief the group on what each of us has done since our August meeting; I will outline plans for the Summer 2002 Seminar in Vilnius and regional cities; and Katie Dunlap will then introduce her ideas for summer 2003. But...

A.P.P.L.E.'s future is the #1 topic for the April meeting. We need people to step forward to take over the work that needs to be done throughout the year. We need new ideas for fund-raising to meet the approximately \$50,000 annual budget required to cover the costs of running the organization and the summer program. We need a person or persons to volunteer to centralize and streamline the administration of our varied tasks (fund-raising, recruitment, publicity, communication, seminar planning and supervision).

Another alternative has emerged in recent months as our serious financial and leadership problems became evident. Perhaps A.P.P.L.E. should follow the lead of many businesses, government agencies and philanthropic organizations, and downsize. As our financial resources decline, we can adjust the scope of our mission. We could eliminate the major summer in-service seminar in 2003 and replace it with several regional seminars offered throughout Lithuania. This decentrali-



*Druskininkai 1997*

zation of our activities would continue to provide hands on courses for Lithuanian teachers with less of a financial commitment for operations and administration. We could continue to offer limited seminars until our financial situation improves.

During our August Officers' retreat we agreed that decisions must be made at the upcoming spring meeting. If you are willing and able to help in any way, please let us know as soon as possible. If we find that there is a commitment from a substantial number of people, it should be possible to find a way for A.P.P.L.E. to continue until 2003 and beyond. We're sure that the reader understands that we are talking about **substantial** commitments of time and money that are needed for us to continue the operation that has worked so well for the last twelve years.

If you can't fathom the thought of A.P.P.L.E. ending its work; if you have opinions concerning the alternatives outlined here; if you have a different view, one that we have not considered; we hope that you will attend the spring meeting and participate in the important discussions which will take place that weekend. This is not a decision that can be made by A.P.P.L.E. officers alone. It requires input from all of those who have come to love the work that A.P.P.L.E. does.

If we are to continue, we should do it well. If we can't, we should face that decision gracefully and responsibly. We hope to hear from those members for whom A.P.P.L.E. has meant a great deal and who mean so much to A.P.P.L.E.

*K. Phillip Taylor*  
*A.P.P.L.E. President*

## **AGRICULTURE STRAND 2001 - ONE OF A.P.P.L.E.'S SUCCESSES**

More than 60 curriculum administrators, and teachers of agriculture and economics from agricultural col-

leges and schools participated in two workshops conducted by Dr. O. Donald Meaders and Billye Foster at Daugai and Seduva during the last two weeks of June 2001.

The target audience of teachers and administrators was determined in consultation with officials in the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) during a week-long visit in October 2000 by Meaders and Dr. William Thuemmel. Those consultations, took place not only in the MOES, but also in the Ministry of Agriculture, the University of Agriculture (Kaunas), and the Agricultural College near Kaunas. It was possible to design the content of the workshops, as well as the targeted participants, and to assist MOES in its efforts to bring about major curriculum and program changes in both the Agricultural High Schools and Agricultural Higher Schools (Agricultural Colleges).

It was exciting to have the motivated teachers and administrators in the workshops. They exchanged information about the curricular revisions in their schools as well as participating in lectures about practices in the U.S. for curriculum planning and community involvement. They had many questions about the U. S. educational system, school programs, and, yes, even questions about taxes on personal property.

Perhaps the highlight of each of the workshops was the presentations by Ms. Laima Minciene, from the Centre of Education Constructors. Her lecture at each workshop focused on the use of student-designed projects that helped teach entrepreneurship, projects modeled on "Junior Achievement". This was followed by use of a self-analysis of aptitude for entrepreneurship, an instrument that was developed in England. At the close of her lecture and discussion, she gave the participants an opportunity to sign-up to attend a special workshop that she would conduct during the school year, focused on the Junior Achievement model. Strong interest was indicated by many of the participants.

We supplemented Laima's information with a hand-out describing the entrepreneurship education materials available from the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2046 (bwhite@emkf.org).

This was Dr. Foster's first international teaching experience, but she came through with flying colors. Her first day of teaching included an opening "Test." She had carefully prepared a series of trivia questions about Lithuania. Doing that provided her with an opportunity to learn much about Lithuania. It was somewhat similar to asking teachers in Arizona, where Foster is a faculty member at the University of Arizona, many questions about their own state. She then had some prizes for the top scores. She had their attention! At the break, she put the question-and-answer cards on a table, where they were the center of interest for many of the participants.

The teams from the schools and colleges consisted of: one teacher of agriculture, one teacher of economics, and one administrator with responsibility for curricula. They were to bring some brief reports on the revised curricular areas at their schools. The following is a listing of the many curricular areas reported by the 28 participants in the Daugai workshop:

- Blacksmithing and metalworking
- Building trades
- Ag Production: Animal Breeding
- Ag Production: Business
- Ag Commerce
- Ag Mechanization
- Ag Machinery Mechanics
- Machinery Repairs
- Farming
- Cook-Barman
- Commodity Transportation
- Bookkeeping
- Home Economics
- Household Maintenance & Repair
- Food Production Technology
- Food Preparation
- Sewing
- Forestry Business
- Environmental Protection
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Trades
- Organization of Rural Trades
- Technical Maintenance/Repair of Cars
- Small Scale Business Management
- Machinery Maintenance Management
- Office Commerce

The instructional areas represented by the participants were as broad and varied as the areas of curricula. Meaders and Forster focused on how to identify and involve key people from the community, especially the businesses, industries and services related to the curricula, in the process of revising the instructional program. Identification of such community resources was one step, and another step was the attempt to get the participants to share ideas about possible courses in each of five of the nine curricular areas identified by the MOES. They were: (1) Agricultural Production Business Workers, (2) Machinery Maintenance Business Workers, (3) Agricultural Business Workers, (4) Forestry Business Workers (5) Fishery Business Workers, (6) Horse-Breeding Business Workers, (7) Rural Trades Workers, (8) Rural Tourism Workers, and (9) Land Reclamation Workers. The participants were divided into five groups, assigned a topic, and asked to prepare six job titles for the assigned topic. Dr. Foster utilized different colored stickums for each group and had someone from each group put the responses on the board. It proved to be an excellent means of getting exchange of ideas and much participation.



*Before the agriculture seminar began, briefing sessions were held at the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science. From left to right are the seminar lecturers and organizers, Dr. Donald Meaders, Dr. Leonas Milcius, Dr. Billye Foster, and Juozas Gaudiecius.*

Our own knowledge of the educational situations at the agricultural colleges and schools was expanded through the interchanges with the teachers and by the excellent interpretation and translation services of Ruta Lapyte, Lithuania Agricultural University.

In addition, excursions planned by the host schools, were quite educational. While at Daugai we had a trip to the Grotii Park, a controversial park where large statuary from around Lithuania has been assembled. There are statues of Soviet heroes, and a small building houses a large collection of photos, newspaper stories, and memorabilia regarding history from the viewpoint of the Soviets.

After concluding the visit to the park, we toured the site of an old castle along the Nemunas River, just outside Merkine, where we had a picnic supper prepared by the cooks at Daugai Agricultural School. We learned that the old town of Merkine has much history as the site of the resistance movement under the Soviets. There we observed a field of white crosses in memory of the resistance fighters and people deported to Siberia. We also were able to visit the museum with its treasure trove of items reflecting the history of the town and area. One of our workshop participants was originally from that area, and she was very helpful with explanations and in getting the director of the museum to open the door for us.

En route from Vilnius to Daugai, we stopped for a visit at Trakai Castle, had lunch in Trakai, and then visited a National Park with many farm buildings restored from around Lithuania, representing periods in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While in the Park we heard the sounds of music. We wandered to that area and witnessed a

memorial service commemorating the tragic deportation of many Lithuanian citizens by the Soviets 60 years ago (1941). According to the exhibits, some 132,000 people were deported by the Soviets at that time; 28,000 died; and 50,000 were deprived of their rights to return to Lithuania. The deportees included men, women, children, babies, youth, and the aged.

Another highlight of the workshops was at Seduva, when in response to a request from the participants, the assistant principal, who was a member of the class, arranged a tour of some parts of the college. The first stop was in the economics department, where an instructor described some of their programs for teaching applied economics. Questions came fast from the group; interest was intense; and we stayed quite a while longer than anticipated at that stop. Other stops included laboratories for electronics, automotive maintenance, computers, handcrafts, and the horse-breeding program.

The Seduva Agricultural College is located on the site of a former noble's estate. An attempt has been made to keep many of the old buildings and to restore and remodel them for use in the program today. Live-stock buildings have been converted to dormitories, a cafeteria, a small store, etc. There is a small private hotel, called "By the Lake," located on the edge of campus over the site of an old water mill and dam. Dr. Foster, Ruta and I visited this quite attractive place. After a tour of the facilities, some questions revealed that the young manager was a graduate of the Daugai Agriculture School who had taken some short courses for hotel management.

This was the fifth year for A.P.P.L.E. sponsored ag workshops in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science. Previously, workshops were held in

Alanta (1996), Taurage (1997), Kaunas (Mastaiciai) and Utena (1998), Kaunas (Mastaiciai) and Rietavas (1999), and Daugai and Seduva (2001).

It appears to me that much progress and change have occurred in Lithuania during the past six years, and those changes include many revisions in the agricultural schools and colleges. A major modification occurred when the administrative responsibility for the schools was shifted from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Education and Science. This past June, while visiting in the Ministry of Agriculture, we learned about a new strategy for agricultural and rural development. In an exit debriefing in the office of the Director of Vocational Education, we were informed about the role that agricultural colleges and schools are expected to play in that new strategy.

It is critical that leaders for future ag workshops sponsored by A.P.P.L.E. continue to give support to the emerging roles for the schools and colleges in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Science. There should be involvement of the Lithuanian Chamber of Agriculture (Kaunas) and the Lithuanian Young Farmers' Circles Union (LYFCU).

There are now many teachers with experience with new programs and revised curricula who should somehow be involved in helping teach other teachers. It seems to be time for the leaders in Lithuania to place more emphasis on "home-grown" expertise and to provide additional incentives for innovation and change through native talents. However, there is still an important role for professionals from the U.S. to help.

*O. Donald Meaders*

## **THOSE RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS SHARE THEIR THANKS**

*Each year A.P.P.L.E. searches for people willing to sponsor Lithuanian teachers/participants and interpreters for the summer seminars. Year after year, as the Lithuanians express thanks to their sponsors, we are again reminded of the value of this program and would like to share a small sampling of those letters with you:*

° I would like to say a sincere thank you for the financial contribution to the A.P.P.L.E. cause. If it were not for you, the people who cared, the Lithuanian teachers and parents who have autistic children would not have such a possibility to meet and work together with the American lecturers. Many teachers from all over Lithuania came to Giruliai to share their experience, knowledge, to learn from each other and see how American specialists practically work with their children, play with them, try to teach



*During break, the participants at the Daugai Agriculture Seminar look over the trivia questions and answers that were presented during the lecture.*

new means of expression employing pictures, gestures, etc.

Three years have passed since the first seminar organized by A.P.P.L.E. in the camp in Giruliai, many improvements have been made in the treatment and teaching of autistic children and for this we thank the A.P.P.L.E. teachers and you.

*Sincerely,  
Jurate*

° Thank you very much for the financial support I received through A.P.P.L.E. this summer. I have been working with A.P.P.L.E. since 1997, first as a translator and later as an office manager in Lithuania. I am most grateful for the wonderful experience I received in the area of education, administration and cultural development. For me, A.P.P.L.E. is a symbol of knowledge, trust and opportunities, which brings two far away nations together and develops a friendship – the force to open new prospects for the future.

*Sincerely,  
Skirmante*

° I deeply appreciate your donation to A.P.P.L.E. It allowed me to work at this year's seminar as an interpreter. I had an opportunity not only to improve my knowledge of English, but also to listen to most professional teachers and educators from the U.S. and Canada. Not to mention the pleasure of meeting such a nice party of devoted and intelligent people. I am really happy about these two weeks. I couldn't have spent them in a more productive and interesting way.

Thank you very much once more.

*Sincerely,  
Vitalija*

## **FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> – LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

*This year on Lithuania's Independence Day, Amanda and Algirdis Muliolis were back in Lithuania teaching computer seminars. The cold weather months have often found this hardworking couple sharing their skills in Lithuania. This year's seminars were held in Skuodas and Plunge. A glimpse inside their letter answers any questions about why they do this – they obviously love it!*

Happy February 16th!!!

Here we are in Vilnius, again. This time we're here only for the weekend to enjoy the Independence Day celebrations. We traveled from Plunge by train, another new experience in Lithuania.

Everything is going very well, no problems at all. In Plunge we work more hours, but not too many, and

get enough rest. We teach one group for five hours and another for three hours in the afternoon. We have completed seminars with two groups and have one day to go with the third group. (That's because we are playing hooky this weekend—we left Thursday evening.)

Our accommodations at Plunge's Children's Home are fine. We have two rooms, as in Skuodas, separated by the nurse's work area. Our bedroom is cool, just right for sleeping, and our workroom is a warm room, were we can work without putting on two sweaters. The room across the hall from our bedroom is a chapel, so we can pray every time we pass it. There is a bathroom across the hall and between the two rooms with a bathtub in it, but it is too cold a room (the windows are not wind proof) for bathing. We have to travel a couple of long halls to get to the warm shower. Those halls are empty at 5 in the morning when we get up so I use them for my morning exercise.

The children here are really nice, some of them have grown up at the home. Most of them are not orphans, but come from homes with parents who drink or otherwise neglect them to such an extent, that they lose their rights to raise their children. The women in this home do a great job of raising them. They are very proud of the few who make it to the university and welcome them back during their holidays, although the government does not give them funds for this service.

Last week was one full of holiday spirit. Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is much like our Halloween - the kids dressed up and went from house to house asking for pancakes or other goodies. During our break they came to entertain us with songs, dancing and brought us pancakes for a snack. Of course, we gave them chocolates for their hard work. It was a lot of fun.

Ash Wednesday is another day for celebration. The children dressed up in old-fashioned clothing and brought us a sample of the traditions practiced in Lithuania on that day. They told us about the herring that is dragged around town that represents the fasting required during Lent, and they brought ashes and sprinkled our heads, saying prayers over us. One of the prayers - that we have no headaches during the year - did not hold up - I had an awful headache Friday morning. They sang a couple of songs, then gave us a treat - a herring salad placed on a pineapple ring and decorated with parsley. They made some of them without onions, so that Algirdas could try it, too. It tasted wonderful. I plan to get the recipe and make it for our next Christmas Eve dinner.

Thursday - Valentine's day!!! It has become a day to celebrate here in Lithuania too. The children again performed - this time with a piano and violin recital. Several children recited poems about the necessity of love in this world and handed out paper hearts to the teachers and us.

Our seminar participants decided that we should treat the children for their wonderful performances and entertainment during the three days, so they collected money from everyone and bought several "sakocius" (a type of horn cake) for them. The food here is good, but they do not get many treats, so they appreciated this very much.

Our train trip to Vilnius was comfortable - better than a car trip. It cost us 30 Litai each - not very expensive. During the first part of our trip there were four of us in a cabin meant for 8, but then the two young ladies got out and for the last two hours we were by ourselves. I stretched out and slept the whole time. The train stops for two minutes at each station to pick up and leave passengers and was on time at every station! Remarkable! Compare this to our trip out west a couple of years ago, when we got in four hours later than planned!

Yesterday we attended the President's celebration of Independence Day at the Opera House. We thoroughly enjoyed a classical concert, with opera singers Milkeviciute and Noreika as the featured soloists. Then we went on to the Cathedral square for an outdoor celebration aimed at the young people, put on by the mayor of Vilnius. It was fairly cold, but only my feet got cold since I did not wear boots. There was no snow on the ground and dry. Of course, most of the songs during the concert were such that you could not keep still - dancing in place was almost required.

And the fireworks! I have seen nothing like them anywhere else. The fireworks were done twice, once during the middle of the concert and once at the end. The first set came from the castle hill, the second from the roof of the cathedral! At the end of the concert, President Adamkus visited the stage and extended his congratulations and good wishes for a productive year.

Today we head back to Plunge for another two weeks with the teachers of the region.

*Sincerely,  
Amanda and Algirdas*

## **A.P.P.L.E. DISTINCTIONS**

*The purpose of this column is to showcase the creative output of our lecturers. If you would like to be included in this column for a publication or milestone in your profession, please sent the information to Katie Hoyle, 1264 Locust Creek Road, Sylva, NC 28779, or e-mail to pasaka@aol.com.*

**Carol Sperry.** In November, Carol received her doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In 1991, Carol's experiences with A.P.P.L.E. and in Lithuania in general left quite an impression on her. (Perhaps you'll remember her newsletter account of visiting with Bloody Sunday victims.) She fell in love with the Lithuanians and found the Lithuanian teachers

a more dramatic example of the dissertation topic she had thought of pursuing with American teachers. Titled "Lithuania's Women Teachers' Perception of Socialization and Cultural Place: Does it Affect Practice?", her thesis is a descriptive narrative that gives the teachers a voice.

After 14 long interviews, 300 questionnaires, and interviews with Lithuanian Ministers of Education and others from the Ministry, Carol's work reflects the words of the Lithuanian teachers and those interested in educational reform in Lithuania.

Our congratulations go out to Carol who seems pleased to have received her bound dissertation after a wait of four months!

**Anita Scarborough.** Dr. Anita Scarborough, at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina, is an Investigator working on the National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study (NEILS). NEILS is a study conducted by SRI International, in Menlo Park, CA for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

Though the U.S. Congress mandated early intervention services for young children and their families in 1986, NEILS is the first national study looking at who are the children and families receiving services and what outcomes do participating children and families experience, among other study questions.

NEILS is currently in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the study. Participants were enrolled in 1997 and 1998, between the ages of birth and three years. The oldest of these children are now in kindergarten. As part of the longitudinal study kindergarten teachers are providing information describing the children as they enter school. The findings of the study are of interest to varied research and educational groups and are included in the Annual Report to Congress. As part of a research team Anita has participated in study presentations and symposia.

Recent presentations include the Society for Research in Child Development, Minneapolis, April 2001; American Public Health Association, Atlanta, November 2001; International Division for Early Childhood Conference, Boston, December 2001; Conference on Research Innovation in Early Intervention, San Diego, February 2002; and the Gatlinberg Conference on Research & Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, San Diego, March 2002.

NEILS is regarded as an important opportunity to provide local and national policy-makers and parents with basic information about early intervention services in the US. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.sri.com/neils/>.

**Jackie Allen.** Dr. Jackie M. Allen, Education Programs Consultant with the California State Department of Education, has had several chapters on counseling published in 2001.

In *Assessment: Issues and Challenges for the Millennium* she wrote a chapter on “Addressing Fragmentation: Building Integrated Services for Student Support” in which she discusses the paradigm of integrated service delivery, barriers to implementation, potential solutions to those barriers, and introduces a process whereby a school or district can move toward this delivery model. Her chapter on “Counseling The Special Needs Student” appeared in *Elementary School Counseling In The New Millennium*. Jackie also wrote a chapter on “Counseling In Community” for a third book entitled *2018 AD: Student Support Programs of The Future*.

Jackie is the editor of a book entitled *School Counseling: New Perspectives and Practices*. This book is a compilation of chapters written by school counselors and counselor educators providing succinct summaries on their areas of expertise.

Jackie reports that it was a dream of hers to author a book. In putting together this book she provided an opportunity for many school counselors to write about what they knew best, that without encouragement and help in writing down their thoughts, they would never have put in print.

Jackie is currently working on articles on bullying, critical incidents for school counselors, career development for special needs students, and starting a new book on school counseling. She is editor of *The California School Counselor*, the newsletter of the California Association of School Counselors, and a member of the California Association For Counseling and Development Journal editorial board.

**Sister Jeanette Lucinio.** Sister Jeanette’s class at Catholic Theological Union, Holistic Parish Education, wrote prayers and collected others in a little book called *Prayers for Catechists*. These prayers and reflections focus on the vocation of teaching: the call, preparation, self searching and feeding the teacher’s spirit. These prayers express the needs and insights in many different times and situations when a teacher will need the refreshment of prayer.

It’s just a little but very beautiful book published by Liturgy Training Publication, Chicago. Single copies are \$4. “Needless to say I am very proud of my students in this graduate class and the beautiful contributions they made to this publication,” Sister Jeanette commented on the accomplishment.

**Jack Richman.** Jack Richman, who has been with A.P.P.L.E. since 1996, was appointed Interim Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill. Although very busy with his new responsibilities, Jack plans to return to Lithuania this summer. He will be conducting a follow-up session on the School Success Profile in Kleipada and he will teach co-teach a course on family dynamics in Vilnius.

**Anthony Stellaccio.** Anthony is currently a resident artist at the Vilnius Academy of Art. He is working towards a solo exhibition of ceramics and drawings at the Applied Arts gallery in Vilnius. Ever eager to explore new possibilities, Anthony has recently also been granted residencies at the international ceramics studio in Kecskemet, Hungary and at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park in Shigaraki, Japan.

Working with A.P.P.L.E., Anthony was the arts and crafts instructor at the Giruliai Special Needs Camp in 1999.

**Sister Loretta Hoag.** Sister Loretta recently exhibited her sculptures at Visions Gallery, in Albany, NY. Sponsored by the Albany Diocese, Visions highlights liturgical art. Space for this purpose is located in the Pastoral Center in the heart of Albany.

The membership promotes exhibitions of both local and national artisans, lectures and classes. September 7 - October 26, Visions hosted Dan Paulos and Sr. Jean Dorsey, Paper Cuttings; Christine Simoneau Hales, Icons; and Bronze castings by Sr. Loretta Hoag. The selection of sculpture was attitudes of scripture, a harmony of abstract rhythms with realism.

## PUBLICIZING A.P.P.L.E. IN PUTNAM, CT



*Jane Serbent is show here at the Lithuanian picnic in Putnam, CT, July 22, 2001. Jane and Walter's work helped spread the good word about A.P.P.L.E. as they sold memberships, distributed brochures, and sparked interest for new members to become involved in the summer seminars. Thanks for all you do!*

The event was scheduled at this time to give emphasis to the breadth of service that Sister Loretta offers through artistic expression, as an art educator using art to involve adults with chronic mental health issues and one who could share the A.P.P.L.E. Summer '01, Lithuanian experience.

**Katie Hoyle.** Katie has been serving for the past year as the Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Mountain Consortium Self Determination Project serving the 13 western counties of North Carolina. Self Determination is a relatively new international civil rights movement for people with disabilities to be able to pursue life with all the same rights as other individuals. The self-determination movement was founded on four basic principles: freedom, authority, support, and responsibility.

In July 2000, Katie attended the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Self Determination held in Seattle, WA as a representative of the Mountain Consortium Project. The Project is one of four grant-funded projects in North

Carolina. Obviously in need of more volunteer work, she also works on the quarterly newsletter for the Project.

Growing up with a sister with a developmental disability, Katie has been a life-long advocate for those with disabilities. She is looking forward to working next summer with A.P.P.L.E. at the camp for children with special needs at Giruliai with the children, their families and their teachers.

In the fall of 2001, Katie returned to teaching at Blue Ridge School in Cashiers, North Carolina. The music and drama position there is for the entire school, which includes Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. One of her first projects was helping the fourth grade students with a unit on Lithuania. As part of their studies, the students wrote to Lithuanian pen pals (A.P.P.L.E. contacts played a major role in making this possible), learned a Lithuanian folkdance, wrote and illustrated their own script for the Lithuanian folktale of Jurate and Kastytis, and made a miniature Hill of Crosses.

## WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$30 IN 2002?

### YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF A LITHUANIAN TEACHER!

Our object with the A.P.P.L.E. Teacher Seminars has been to assist in the reformation of Lithuania's educational infrastructure, as she rejoins the community of nations and is reborn in democracy and freedom. The unfortunate reality is that the cost of transportation and lodging for the Seminar is a real—but unnecessary—obstacle to participation. In the past we have asked our members to sponsor Lithuanian teachers. In return, those who received scholarships wrote personal letters to their sponsors, providing a firsthand account of the influence that the Seminar experience had on their lives and professional development.

These letters confirmed our hopes—and the promise of our headline.

We hope to continue to provide scholarships to participants this year, and we believe that we can cover a good deal of their costs for \$30 each. If you sponsored a teacher last year, you know the value that was received. If you didn't, this is your chance to find out. Consider honoring a friend with this special gift, giving a scholarship in his or her name. You will be making a difference! For \$150.00 you could provide a stipend for a Lithuanian translator or lecturer who works in partnership with colleagues from the United States. *Please send scholarship and stipend donations to: A.P.P.L.E., Box 617, Durham, CT 06422. We can reach so many more people with your help.*

PS. We would like to remind you that because of strict Internal Revenue Service regulations, we cannot accept scholarships intended for specific persons. If you would like to support your relatives or friends, please do so directly. This scholarship fund is for those Lithuanian teachers who have no such friends in the United States. If, however, you would like your scholarship to go to a particular region or town in Lithuania, we will do our best to accommodate your request, if a teacher from the area that you specify registers for a seminar.

**Reminder:** A.P.P.L.E. membership is still \$25 per year. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please include it with your scholarship donation.

# WHO'S IN CHARGE?

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*Immediate Past President:* Gita Kupcinskas

*Vice President for Public Relations:* Walter Serbent

*Vice President for Personnel and Recruiting:* Shirley Sabo

*Treasurer:* Jane Serbent

*Corresponding Secretary:* Julius Veblaitis

*Registrar, Data Manager and Webmaster:* Amanda Muliolis

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1. *Elementary:* Carol Smiglin. Alvyra Galkiene
2. *Special Education:* Myra Goodwin. [focus group chair vacant]
3. *Art:* Sr. Loretta Hoag, D.C. Dalia Siaulytiene
4. *Math:* Bee Taylor. Vilija Tarnaviciute
5. *Catholic Schools and Ethics:* Sr. Dr. Jeanette Lucinio and Aldona Zailskas. Edita Sedaraviciute
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14. *Social Studies:* Virginia Bergen. Irena Zaleskiene
15. *Science:* Dr. Barbara Henriques. Laima Dainutiene
16. *Psychology:* Dr. Anita Scarborough. Dr. Antanas Valantinas

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*Send correspondence concerning A.P.P.L.E. to:*

American Professional Partnership for  
Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.)  
1114 Golfside Dr.  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
Voice: (407) 671-0189, FAX (407) 823-6360  
email: kphiltaylor@hotmail.com

*Money for scholarships and memberships should go to:*

A.P.P.L.E.  
P.O. Box 617  
Durham, CT 06422

## OTHER POSITIONS

*Newsletter Editor:* Katie Hoyle

*Proofreader:* Peter J. O'Connell

*Office Manager in Lithuania:* Ramute Zemioniene

*Administrator in Lithuania:* Juozas Karmuza

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**YES! I would like to join in your efforts toward educational reform in Lithuania.**

I would like to make a contribution to:

**The Scholarship Fund.** (\$30 supports one teacher. You will receive a personal letter from the teacher who receives your donation.) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Stipend Fund.** (\$150 supports an interpreter or Lithuanian lecturer.) \_\_\_\_\_

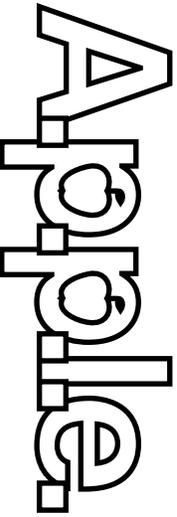
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I would like to add the following amount to help pay for A.P.P.L.E. programs: \_\_\_\_\_

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