

Apple

REPORT TO THE CORPS

Volume 15, Number 1

May/June 2005

THE FINAL SPRINT (OH, LORD!)

Summer seminar 2005 is fast approaching. The final sprint is just the same every year. During the last week of April, we realize that our course descriptions are due in Vilnius on May 1. Fast and furious phone calls and e-mails ring the globe; texts are written and rewritten. A.P.P.L.E. must present the Ministry of Education and Science with a seamless “curriculum guide” to our summer in-service programs, as well as a set of minibiographies of all summer lecturers, organizers and administrators traditionally called “Kas Mes Esame? (Who Are We?).” These will be translated into Lithuanian and published along with application forms in the national teachers’ newspapers by May 15.

Our traditional two week in-service seminars (“with everything”—including: plenary lectures, cultural programs, elective topics guaranteed to broaden horizons) will be held in two cities for the first time since the late 1990s (Klaipeda and Vilnius). Why? Because Klaipeda is an exciting, growing city, fun for our lecturers to learn about, and because teachers living in the west of Lithuania – near Klaipeda - have been underserved by A.P.P.L.E. for some years. Returning lecturers were intensely enthusiastic about a Klaipeda assignment!

Besides the traditional seminars, A.P.P.L.E. is tailoring three other programs to Lithuanian requests this summer. The Regionals will send American lecturers out solo, in pairs or in small teams to rural Lithuania where, we know from experience, powerful bonds of friendship and professional camaraderie will be forged. The Special Educators’ program (generally referred to as the Grigonis program in tribute to docent Algirdas Grigonis, the true moving spirit of special education in Lithuania—and honorary member of A.P.P.L.E.) will traverse the country in three-day bursts, and perhaps a thousand teachers will attend. Finally, the “Viltis (Hope)” camp for handicapped children, their parents, siblings and teachers, will be reborn this summer under A.P.P.L.E. auspices with a nearly all-Lithuanian staff,

headed by Augiene Viluniene, a Special Educator who is a recent recipient of Lithuania’s national “Teacher of the Year” award.

This year, many schools will be able to financially support their teachers’ participation in in-service activities directly, because of a fairly new education financing structure called “money follows the child,” or even more colloquially, “moksleivio krepselis” – the “pupil’s little bag (of money)”. The basic idea is that school budgets are composed of monies from two sources. Costs geared more toward specific school building requirements rather than the teaching process (such as building maintenance and support staff) are covered by municipal allocation. The krepselis is a sum assigned by the central government per student, and is meant to cover teacher salaries, teaching equipment and supplies, administration expenses and in-service expenses.

Of course, there is never enough money for education, but as the krepselis grows bigger yearly (the Parliament sets the final figure in each year’s budget), so does the amount included, and specifically intended, for teachers’ in-service. School budgets are becoming more transparent as teachers are learning to ask, “Where did the in-service allocation in the krepselis go this year?” And so we expect that with the benevolent combination of the krepselis, which will cover part of the teachers’ out-of-pocket costs, and the A.P.P.L.E. scholarships, which will also cover part, it will be possible for more teachers to attend the summer seminars in 2005 than ever before.

Thanks to all of you who have decided to fund a scholarship – and to everyone who has supported A.P.P.L.E. throughout the year. It’s going to be a wonderful, unforgettable 15th anniversary summer!

—*Vaiva Vebra*

WHAT DOES THE “VILNIUS FRAMEWORK” FRAME?

On March 17, 2005, a bevy of ministers and other high-level political officials from Europe and North America met in Vilnius at the invitation the U.N. European Economic Commission and of the Lithuanian government. In Vilnius they debated and approved a long-term strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). They also adopted the Vilnius Framework for Implementation, setting up a Steering Committee and an expert group to decide on indicators for monitoring success.

Lithuania had previously been one of the lead countries in preparing a Baltic Sea region ESD strategy (it's called Baltic 21E), so ESD wasn't entirely news in Vilnius. The specifically Lithuanian version of sustainable development makes good sense for a country with a plunging birthrate and soaring emigration rate. Besides, deeply rooted Lithuanian cultural traditions have always demanded a careful tightrope walk to balance social solidarity and individual freedoms, respect for natural resources and regard for economic growth.

Education for sustainable development means that children are taught how to make responsible, tough and balanced decisions that will benefit their families, their societies and their countries. Kids are taught how to weigh the pros and cons (over the long term) of hard choices (our parents' generation called this “delayed gratification!”).

There are a hundred Lithuanian folktales that all end the same way. The storyteller sighs in blissful memory: “I was there myself at the banquet; mead ran down my chin.” So: I was there myself at the ESD Conference in Vilnius. The reception (at the Presidential offices) included both folk music and jazz singing performed by children, giving us a mini-lesson in the co-existence of tradition and innovation. There was no mead served, but there was still plenty of exhilaration: just hearing the words “Vilnius Framework” fly from the lips of the education ministers of all Europe. This gave the Lithuanian delegation thrills. Just a year after joining the EU and NATO, Lithuania forged to the head of the pack in policymaking (in education, anyway!).

Where does A.P.P.L.E. fit into all this? As usual, we can find A.P.P.L.E. in the thick of things. Our 2005 summer seminars were planned a year ago to feature plenary sessions in ESD for teachers and for education strategists. We had decided on this topic well before the Vilnius Framework was conceived, just because ESD seemed a good match to the concerns of many teachers: how to educate children to be responsible citizens and conscientious entrepreneurs. We are very proud to have among our number two ESD experts: Dr. Lawrence Byrnes and doctoral student Kate Moss.

My good friend and stalwart A.P.P.L.E. educator and director Walter Serbent keeps reminding me that

A.P.P.L.E. needs to be focused on “improvement of classroom instruction,” rather than involving itself in pushing for systemic changes. Walter is absolutely right. But sometimes Lithuania makes systemic choices that we can support through classroom strategies. This is, to my mind, again one of those times when, just ahead of the policy curve, A.P.P.L.E. is going to provide teachers with a road map to make teaching more fun, and learning more powerful. Once more – in our 15th year!

Vaiva Vebra

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE ...

You still can make a difference. The officers and directors of A.P.P.L.E. are making a special plea for your support of the 2005 summer program. Because Lithuania is now a member of the European Union, the resulting exchange rate has had a serious negative impact on our programs.

The Scholarship Fund asks for \$40 for the support of one teacher during the two-week session in Vilnius. This does not cover fully the cost of room, board and supplies, but it helps. A.P.P.L.E. makes up the difference.

The Stipend Fund asks for \$200 to attract quality interpreters and Lithuanian lecturers. Both are vital to the success of A.P.P.L.E.'s goals. Lecturers have been accepted into our programs because of their particular talents. Interpreters fluent in Lithuanian and English are vital to sharing those talents successfully. Lithuanian lecturers are equally vital in our goal to “showcase” the talents of their own educators.

Donations made to either the Scholarship Fund or the Stipend Fund must be received by June 15 for the 2005 program, which begins early in July. In each case, you will receive a letter of appreciation from the recipient.

Remember! A.P.P.L.E. is made up entirely of volunteers. There are no administrative salary obligations, and that makes ours a unique organization among nonprofits.



The Spring 2005 A.P.P.L.E. Board meeting



Attendees at the Spring 2005 meeting

ONE TEACHER'S REFLECTIONS: LITHUANIA'S JOURNEY AND MINE

In the summer of 1996, I accepted an invitation to travel to Lithuania. Experiencing the country's education reform firsthand proved to be a turning point in my teaching career. During the Soviet occupation, students had been treated uniformly; now, teachers recognized the importance of developing active personalities for the country to reach its ultimate goals (Grinceviciene, 1997). That summer I discovered how many Lithuanian teachers, schooled only in the doctrine of communism, were eager to learn Western teaching methodologies.

EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA)

Over the next several years, I continued to train teachers with A.P.P.L.E. In 2002 I took a sabbatical from 16 years of teaching gifted education in Connecticut in order to pursue a Ph.D. in Gifted Education Research from Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, England. My research focused on the "Identification of Gifted Pupils and the Change in Teachers' Concepts of Giftedness in Lithuania". In addition to developing an identification model for gifted pupils, my doctoral dissertation is driven by the premise of the country's educational reform and the need to provide the quality and accessibility of education to meet the needs for all children with appropriate levels of learning.

My research is based upon the core principles of education legislation of the European Union, European Council, and UNESCO and also involves three documents that guided Lithuania's educational reform: The Law on Education (adopted 1991, a new edition prepared and drafted 2002), the General Concept of Edu-

cation (1992), and Education for All (2003). These documents promote the fundamental principles of Lithuanian education: humanism, democracy, national values and innovation.

LITHUANIA TAKES THE LEAD

By revising the Law on Education and drafting the long-term policy document "Guidelines for Education in Lithuania 2002–2012," the Ministry of Education and Science, together with the President's Office and Government, has created a strategy which reflects both past and present reforms (Education Improvement Project, 2002). The Guidelines delineate education aligned with national goals of democratization, strengthening of the market economy, and joining the EU.

With education trends and national goals in synergy, educational reform entered a new stage where the number one priority was to ensure quality and availability of education for all children (<http://www.smm.lt/en/strat.htm>) (Education Improvement Project, 2002). Meanwhile, the UNESCO Education for All (EFA) program, with very similar goals, entered its second decade worldwide in 2000. EFA was of particular importance for me because it specifically provided for all pupils, with implications for the gifted.

The first Baltic Sea EFA Conference was held in Riga, in 2002, with the formation of a working group composed of Sweden, Latvia and Lithuania. At the second Conference (on "Quality Education for All") in Vilnius in October 2003, the role of lead country was entrusted to Lithuania. Certain EFA projects were implemented, while others remain under advisement. A third Baltic Sea EFA event (a Working Group meet-

ing) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, January 2005. I was excited to be invited by organizers Anatoly Ovodenko, the Rector of St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation, and Vaiva Vebrate, the Chairperson of the UNESCO Baltic Sea EFA Coordination Group. It was important to my research to learn how Lithuania was implementing EFA. This meeting provided a forum for cooperation among the Baltic Sea countries and focused upon developing practical approaches for implementing previously proposed joint EFA projects, in addition to identifying new ones.

The Baltic Sea EFA Coordination Working Group, spearheaded by Lithuanian leadership, developed five ideas which focused on lifelong EFA:

1. An Internet Web page for sharing information and highlighting Baltic EFA action plan implementation. Moderator: V. Brazdeikis, Head of the Centre of Information Technologies of Education, Lithuania.
2. A network of rural communities sharing means of capacity building in several countries, with attention to provision of nonformal adult education. Moderator: R. Totoraitis, Head of the Division of Adult Education of the Ministry in Lithuania.
3. Creation of a model for articulation between vocational and academic modules, emphasizing key competencies. Moderator: A. Pliksnys, Head of the Ministry General Education Department, Lithuania.
4. Study visits between teacher preservice insti-

tutions (especially with regard to Education for Sustainable Development). Moderator: N. Saugeniene, Head of the Centre of Teacher Competence, Lithuania.

5. The study of how school culture is developed, sharing good practice and eventual publication of a variety of methodologies. Moderator: V. Buivydavicius, Director, Moder School Centre, Lithuania.

**“WE LEARN FOR AS LONG AS WE LIVE”
(LITHUANIAN PROVERB)**

At the conclusion of the St. Petersburg EFA Working Group meeting, a declaration was drafted to encourage the development of partnerships between the Baltic Sea countries. Such partnerships were conceptualized at levels of higher education, teacher training institutes and vocational schools. The need for appropriate partners in future planning, financing and implementation of EFA was identified. The participants aspired to develop concrete applications for the proposed project ideas, and in particular, to create a Web site to encourage effective dialogue between partners.

This Web site would serve to build awareness, promote knowledge and share concerns of the best and innovative practices to support EFA. There was agreement to pursue the involvement of other countries around the world in the future. Everyone present recognized the role of Lithuania as key to the implementation process. And so, as Lithuania continues its journey of education reform, it approaches each fork in the

A.P.P.L.E. GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDG

No matter how small, every donation is important to A.P.P.L.E. With the 2005 summer program fast approaching, the officers and Board of Directors wish to publicly acknowledge those contributors who have already been extraordinarily generous in their support of this year's endeavors.

\$100 or more -

- Alexander, M/M Wellborn – Blowing Rock, NC
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A planning session

road with thoughtful and collaborative decision-making in order to provide quality Education for All.

—Monita Leavitt

ALKA – AMERIKOS LIETUVIU KULTUROS ARCHYVAS

AMERICAN LITHUANIAN CULTURAL ARCHIVES

The first time I visited the Lithuanian Archives in Putnam, Connecticut, I was on a mission to find and

identify books that were printed during the press ban in Lithuania in the latter part of the 19th century. Upon entering the building I discovered that it was filled not only with books and records, but that it also housed long out-of-print publications, letters, photographs, folk art, amber objects and farming implements – all of which have been collected there since 1922.

Two students from Lithuania were cataloging the collection and creating a database. I was told that volunteers living in the area spend several evenings each week helping to enter the material into the database. Since everything previously had been cataloged on library cards, the creation of an updated system was long overdue. A scholarly gentleman, a professor, oversaw the incoming material and aided in sorting it. The atmosphere was pleasant and professional.

Last year (2004) Lithuania celebrated 100 years since Czarist Russia lifted the ban on Lithuanian publications (1864-1904). The ban prohibited the printing or import of books and periodicals printed in the Latin alphabet, including all writings in Lithuanian.

Book carriers (“knygnesiai”) smuggled Lithuanian language books into Lithuania from Prussia and Konigsberg in spite of the threat of imprisonment or deportation. Many books were printed in the U.S. and shipped to Prussia. Mothers taught their children to read and write in Lithuanian in the secrecy of their homes. Many book carriers were caught and imprisoned dur-

ACKNOWLEDGES ITS CONTRIBUTORS IN 2004 AND 2005

Wokovich, Adam – Marlborough, MA
Wolkovich, Rev. William – Marlborough, MA

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Bitenas, M/M Rimantas – Bronxville, NY
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Sealey, Raphael – Berkeley, CA
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Vydunas Youth Fund – Lemont, IL
Woolls, Blanche – San Jose, CA

\$500 or more –

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Dunlap, Katherine K. – Hartsville, SC
Muliolis, M/M Algirdas – Euclid, OH
Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church – Blowing Rock, NC

\$1,000 or more –

Society of Analytical Chemists – Pittsburgh, PA
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\$10,000 or more –

Lietuviu Fondas (Lithuanian Foundation) – Lemont, IL

Again, we appreciate everyone’s support. Your contributions help make our work in Lithuania a reality.

ing the 40-year ban.

For our commemorative centennial gatherings here in the U.S., we wanted to find examples of these books, printed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. When I called the archives, Mr. Juozas Rygelis, who oversees the vast archival collection housed next to the Immaculate Conception Convent in Putnam, Connecticut, was extremely helpful. He immediately volunteered to create an inventory of the material owned by the archive and published within that time period.

When I returned a month later, not only did he hand me a list, but he had also set aside duplicate copies of some very old books that I could take with me to display in various centennial exhibits. Two boxes were quickly filled with these precious publications of very brittle and yellowed paper.

This archival collection had its beginnings in Boston when Rev. Pranciskus Mykolas Juras was assigned to a parish in 1922, shortly after his ordination. He began collecting Lithuanian Catholic books, magazines, and newspapers that were published in America. A few years later, he expanded his collection by including lay publications published in Lithuanian. Often he was asked to show his collection in displays and exhibits.

He found that he could increase public interest by including items of folk art. This led him to expand his collection to weavings and knitting, national folk costumes, dolls in national folk costumes, jewelry and decorations, wood carvings and various kitchen, home and farm implements and utensils. His collection attracted

the growing attention of Americans and provoked nostalgic memories for those born in Lithuania.

As his collection grew, Rev. Juras required more spacious quarters. In 1935 he moved the collection to the offices of the newspaper "Darbininkas," then located in Boston. In 1951 the Franciscan fathers, who published "Darbininkas," moved the editorial staff and the printing of "Darbininkas" to Brooklyn, New York, and Rev. Juras had to find another repository for his vast collection. It was then that the collection moved to Putnam, Connecticut.

Rev. Juras purchased a small parcel of land from the Immaculate Conception Convent, and in 1962-63 built a modest structure adjacent to the convent that would accommodate the collection. This new permanent display space enabled Monsignor Juras to significantly enlarge his collection. Particularly noteworthy additions were many items that had been on display in the Lithuanian pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. These objects were procured by the then independent government of Lithuania and through the efforts of many Lithuanians who lived in America.

Rev. Juras named his collection the American Lithuanian Catholic Archives. Later on the name was changed to the American Lithuanian Cultural Archives and, based on its Lithuanian name, uses the acronym ALKA.

An addition to the original building, supervised by Dr. A. Matukas, was completed in 1981 and increased the storage area more than two and one-half times its former size. The sorting and shelving was supervised

WHAT CAN YOU BUY FOR \$40 IN 2005?

YOU CAN CHANGE THE LIFE OF A LITHUANIAN TEACHER!

A \$40 scholarship helps defray the cost of board and room for Lithuanian participants. The cost to underwrite an interpreter is \$200. Those who receive scholarships or an interpreter's stipend will write personal letters to their sponsors, providing a firsthand account of the influence that the Seminar experience has on their lives and professional development.

If you sponsored a teacher or an interpreter 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! *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.

Reminder: A.P.P.L.E. regular membership remains a bargain at \$25 per year, because all this work is still handled by volunteers. If you haven't sent in your renewal, please include it with your scholarship donation.

for many years by Dr. J. Kriau_i_nas, who just recently retired to Lithuania.

The ALKA building has an area of 8,000 square feet, which probably makes it the largest Lithuanian museum archives in the United States. It consists of more than 40,000 books, of which 80% are written in the Lithuanian language, 10% are written in English, and the remainder in other languages.

Today the ALKA Archives have a close relationship with the Martyno Mazvydo National Library in Vilnius and the Maironis Lithuanian Literary Museum in Kaunas. If more than three copies of a publication are obtained, ALKA will disperse them to other libraries, museums, and schools.

When I called Mr. Rygelis with a request to house all our A.P.P.L.E. archives with their collection, he immediately inquired whether we wanted a separate section for our material. How many shelves would we need? I explained to him that we would be grateful if they could just give us a corner and store our boxed items as they arrive. Of course, the answer was positive, and now we have a place where we can send our archival materials and ensure their safety.

If you have any A.P.P.L.E. archives or related materials from our various lectures and workshops that were presented in Lithuania during our seminars that you feel would be of benefit in the future, please send them to this address :

ALKA
37 Mary Crest Drive
Putnam, CT 06260
Tel.: (860) 928-5197

Please mark them "A.P.P.L.E." with the corresponding dates so that they can be stored appropriately.

—*Giedre Stankunas*

REPORT FROM THE SHORE

The spring meeting for the A.P.P.L.E. officers and Board of Directors was held on April 9 and 10 near the New Jersey shore. The event was hosted by Vida Anton and Peter Cheney. All attendees enjoyed Vida's hospitality and Peter's school facilities. The sessions were led by A.P.P.L.E. President Vaiva Vebra and President-



A moment of reflection

Elect Karl Janowitz. Plans for the summer seminars in Vilnius and Klaipeda were discussed. The President announced a conference scheduled for July 9 to be hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education to recognize A.P.P.L.E.'s 15 years of service to Lithuania. Dr. Emilija Sakadolskis will coordinate planning for this important meeting of education professionals from Lithuania and the U.S. The Board of Directors elected four members to the Board. The Class of 2008 was filled by Nancy Hanssen, Gita Kupcinkas and Irena Ross. A vacancy on the Board in the Class of 2007 was filled by Walter Serbent. President Vebra accepted with regret the resignations of Walt Serbent as Vice President for Public Relations and Jane Serbent as Treasurer. After an extensive discussion of the need to have the A.P.P.L.E. president serve for two years, a committee was formed consisting of Dr. B. Henriques, chairman, with K. Hoyle and P. Taylor as members. The committee will draft changes to the organization bylaws to permit two-year terms of office for the President. Until the bylaws are amended, Karl Janowitz was chosen as President-Elect in addition to his upcoming duties as A.P.P.L.E. President. This will give him two years as organization president.

Correspondence, scholarships and other donations should be sent to:

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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. (\$40 supports one teacher. You will receive a personal letter from the teacher who receives your donation.)

The Stipend Fund. (\$200 supports an interpreter or Lithuanian lecturer.)

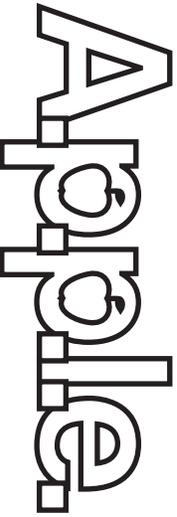
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