

John Baltrus

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Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:00 AM
To: jonaspb@verizon.net
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(American Professional Partnership
for
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E-Zine

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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

The days are getting longer - a sure sign that the end of winter is approaching! I am preparing for my spring trip to Lithuania at the end of March, where I will be meeting with the organizers of our seminars and putting details in place for the A.P.P.L.E. 2012 summer programs. Our Spring A.P.P.L.E. general meeting will be held in mid-April in New Jersey. At that time, I will be able to report about our final plans. Stay tuned to this e-zine for more information!

Your continued support is key to our efforts.

Dr. Karl P. Janowitz
President

Mission Statement:

"The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is a volunteer international non-profit educational organization. With the support of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, A.P.P.L.E. partners with Lithuanian educators to foster the implementation of innovative educational approaches that contribute to the development of a democratic society."

A.P.P.L.E. Member Profile - John Trimble



John Trimble, PhD

"Laba diena. Kaip sakasi? Neblogas." It is apparent that I will never be a fluent speaker of the Lithuanian language. I gave one of my teacher fits, during my semester-long Lithuanian language class. I told her I was a poor language student at 19, so my fifty-something brain had to work overtime just to try and keep up. I was by far the weakest in the class. Language skill (sic) notwithstanding, I am committed to education in Lithuania. After serving as an A.P.P.L.E. instructor of the Secondary Science- Biology strand in 2009 and 2010, I returned as a Fulbright Scholar at Vilnius Pedagogical University (VPU), now renamed the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, from January to July 2011. The Fulbright program is the flagship academic

exchange program of the U.S. State Department and I became only the second Fulbright scholar from my home institution, St. Francis University in Loretto PA. I taught Microbiology and Evolution using lectures and recitation sections at VPU, a major teacher training institution in Lithuania. Most of my energy went into helping to develop a new molecular biology lab. The students were very appreciative of the chance to learn by doing. They especially liked my 'Kitchen Science' method of DNA isolation that may be applicable to a classroom without any lab equipment.

My initial association with A.P.P.L.E. was the result of an email from John Baltrus, a co-alumnus of Saint Francis University, where I have been teaching for 18 years. As a Professor of Biology, I teach Microbiology, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Intro Biology courses. I credit faculty development and the university's General Education programs for opportunities to develop and experiment with the teaching techniques that I shared with my strand. In addition, I recognize Ed Topar as an inspiration to return to work in Lithuania. The indomitable hopefulness and optimism of Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Americans, even during the economic downturn, is contagious. I wonder what Irish-Americans were doing in the first 20 years after Ireland's independence as a fledgling country. As an Irish-American, I find many parallels between the two countries: a love of song and drink, close personal friendships, a preponderance of potatoes in the diet (cepelinai), a complex political history and the unique cultural identity of language. I now celebrate both St. Casimir (Kaziuko muge on March 4th) and St. Patrick (March 17th) feast days.

Living for six months in Lithuania as a Fulbright scholar was transformative for my family. I owe a debt of gratitude to A.P.P.L.E. and especially past presidents Vida Gavin and Barbara Henriques for their support in my application. I was accompanied by my spouse, Jamie Fabian, and sons Emerson (17) and Eliot (13). They, too, are now enamored with Lithuania and all things Lithuanian. They check the weather online to see just how cold the recent deep freeze was in Vilnius (-28C!) and know who is playing at the Siemens arena in Vilnius (UB40!). I continue a research collaboration with a colleague from VPU and will be returning this summer to check on progress in the molecular biology lab course. I will also return to conduct a Secondary Science-Biology A.P.P.L.E. strand in 2012 as well, and I assure you, a classroom translator is still very necessary. "As nesuprantu Lietuviskai."

"Movie Night" - Lithuanian Scholars' Fund Grant Winner

This month we are featuring another recent A.P.P.L.E. Lithuanian Scholars' Fund grant proposal winner. The proposal submitted by Ambrozina Burbiene, titled "Movie Night", was rated second best proposal during the recent grant competition. Ms. Burbiene is the head of the library at the Darbenu Gimnazija, which is located in the Kretinga Region.

While "Movie Night" is a generic title that could be interpreted in a number of ways, the proposal goes on to describe that the movies will incorporate ethnographic methods and materials to describe unique heritage aspects of the Darbenu District. What is unique about the project is that the movies will not be "off-the-shelf", but instead will be filmed and edited by students from the school. This may seem like an ambitious undertaking, but a quick visit to the [school's website](#) will quickly show you that the school is already well versed in working with information technology tools and modern visual media. That knowledge will be communicated to the students who will then use it to explore the cultural history of their region.

The project has several objectives, including: promotion of national awareness and the fostering of ethnic cultural heritage; integration of ethnic culture into the educational process; collection and classification of the district's ethnographic material; improving information technology skills by incorporating them in the educational process; and

dissemination of best practices in the organization and delivery of collected materials. As part of the project, students hope to prepare a map of district attractions, introduce district artisans and their work, and collect stories and myths, including tales about objects from their area.

It is hoped that the project will bring together students, teachers, and the community as a team. Each class (spanning 4 grades) will prepare a 0-15 minute documentary to include the work of local artisans, attractions, places and mythological subjects. After showing the documentaries on "Movie Night", the films will be archived along with other relevant material in the school's library so they can be used as teaching aids in future years.

This unique combination of historical and ethnographic research with the learning of film-making techniques and information technology will be supported with a 1,000 LTL (approx. \$390) grant from A.P.P.L.E.'s Lithuanian Scholars' Fund. The project began in January and will last for the remainder of the school year. When completed, we hope to share some of the films with you either through a link to the school's website or perhaps on YouTube.

A.P.P.L.E. Board Spring Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing officers which will be held the weekend of April 14-15 in Howell, New Jersey. You may obtain additional details by contacting [Vida Anton](#).

Fundraising Corner

Don't forget that you can help earn money for A.P.P.L.E. simply by shopping online. Every time you shop on the Internet at one of the over 800 stores participating in the IGive program, a percentage of your spending will be donated to A.P.P.L.E. by the participating store.

To learn more, [click here](#). A.P.P.L.E. will earn \$5 if you just sign up and an additional \$5 with your first purchase. To date, A.P.P.L.E. has received \$860 through people's purchases using the IGive program.

Find out more about donating to A.P.P.L.E. on the [A.P.P.L.E. Website](#).

This electronic newsletter is designed for quick delivery of A.P.P.L.E.-related news to an audience that includes current A.P.P.L.E. members, friends of A.P.P.L.E. and interested potential members both within the United States and Lithuania.

Increasing communication and the exchange of ideas among our members increases the strength of our organization and our ability to be relevant to our Lithuanian constituents. Exciting and pertinent events occur all year round, and we want to keep all of you abreast of what is happening, when it's happening.

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