

John Baltrus

From: A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [gail@appleamericanprofessionalpartnershipforlithuanianeducation.ccsend.com] on behalf of A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) [jonaspb@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 6:02 AM
To: jonaspb@comcast.net
Subject: News from A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education)

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The A.P.P.L.E. Seed

(American Professional Partnership
for
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E-Zine



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Dear John,



Karl Janowitz

Message from the President

The new school year has arrived and fall is right around the corner. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It is hard to believe that over a month has passed since A.P.P.L.E. concluded its 25th and final summer session. Furthermore it is hard to believe that A.P.P.L.E.'s incredible twenty-five year journey is coming to a close.

Our final summer Board of Directors' meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida the weekend of September 18.

Wishing you a wonderful September. I cannot thank you enough for your continued interest and support of A.P.P.L.E.

Sincerely,

Karl

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. Supporter - Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) is a non-profit professional educational society of mostly analytical chemists and those who are employed in chemistry-related fields from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. It draws its members from the western half of Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, and eastern Ohio and has been in existence since 1943, when that area was a center for major industrial research laboratories.

The SACP has been a supporter of A.P.P.L.E. for all but the first 7 of its 25 years. During that time the Society has provided grants totaling over \$34,000 to support A.P.P.L.E.'s science-related activities in Lithuania. Funding was first provided the year before John Baltrus, a current A.P.P.L.E. board member, became chairman of the SACP through a member-initiated proposal to SACP. John steered an additional grant to A.P.P.L.E. the year he was chair of the Society, and convinced the Society's 2000-2001 chairman to make the grant an annual one provided that A.P.P.L.E. had yearly programs related to science education and followed up with regular reports on its use of the funds. During the first few years of the grant, John worked with Tom Poland, who had started a program called STEM. Back then, STEM referred to "Savings through Energy Management" as opposed to its more current meaning of "Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math". After Tom, it was Dr. Monita Leavitt who took over as A.P.P.L.E.'s Science Division Chair and provided information to support the annual grant from SACP.

To follow up on the SACP's grants in 2005, John visited the Science Strand being led by Jim Brousseau and Dr. Sandy Buczynski. He brought along a couple of friends and their daughter. The session they visited was highly interactive and encouraged teachers how to promote science through simple classroom demonstrations. The young girl was invited to participate and remarked afterwards that it made learning fun and that she had never experienced anything like that in Lithuanian schools at that time. More recently, John was able to visit again and observe Dr. John Trimble, a recruit of John's, lead a science strand.

The SACP derives its funds from being a co-owner of the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy, which organizes an annual conference, "Pittcon", one of the largest chemistry conferences in the world. Excess revenue from the conference is distributed to the two Pittsburgh-based sponsoring organizations to promote science education of its members and the greater public. These educational programs include monthly seminars for its members featuring renowned scientists from across the U.S., grants to local schools and small colleges nationwide for equipment, plus scholarships for local students who major in chemistry, to name a few

of their many programs. A.P.P.L.E. has the distinction of being the only program supported by the SACP that promoted science education overseas!

As the years have gone by and industrial research has declined in the Pittsburgh area, the SACP draws a greater portion of its almost 400 members from educators at local universities and from high school science teachers that benefit from the SACP's grants, making the SACP's footprint in Lithuania an example of teachers helping teachers across the world.

Summer Program Reflection - Linda Brenneman



Linda Brenneman

Teaching this year with A.P.P.L.E. was truly a memorable experience. I was very happy to be selected to lecture once again but sad that it would be the last year of A.P.P.L.E. We were a small group this year but became bonded and cohesive in a fast manner. It seemed we all had the vision of ending the 25 years of A.P.P.L.E. in a successful way, leaving behind a legacy of professional development that has impacted the educational system of Lithuania forever. What began as a reaching out to share current educational research practices ended as a true partnership of sharing.

My class consisted of 22 assistant principals, curriculum, etc. directors in the Educational Leadership strand. I have to say that they were eager to learn, work, and share ideas in order to enhance the climate and culture of their schools. We worked each day collecting, displaying, interpreting and analyzing data in order for them to have a model for rewiring and transforming their own school culture. The objective of the class was to learn and apply a process that brings ownership to a staff for the vision and mission of a school that culminates with a collaborative school culture.

These educational professionals came from all across Lithuania. They displayed a thirst for knowledge and understanding which was very inspiring to me. They worked individually, in pairs, and in groups in order to share their vast knowledge from the far reaches of Lithuania. What a great venue for them to be able to work together, discuss issues and challenges that they all face, and share experiences and successes to various challenges in their schools. As they worked together they realized that they

want their own staffs to be able to work together as they were, and to feel ownership for the vision and mission of their schools.

On the last day of class, those who wanted to share about successes in their schools could present their websites and answer questions. This was the most amazing moment of the entire week. Many shared about their schools' successes with regard to teamwork, data analysis, technology integration, parent and community relations. In other words, they taught each other and came away very proud of what their schools have already accomplished in the areas most in need of attention according to current research: collaboration, student achievement, shared values, decision making, risk taking, trust, parent relations, communication and leadership.

When the week was over I felt we had accomplished more than I ever expected. We were all in a place where our vision for school improvement centered around collaboration which can only be obtained through commitment and persistence to that vision. I had shared a model and process to that end and they had shared where they already were on that journey.

I hope to remain in contact with many of them. I want to know how they proceed with their own staffs and what inroads they make in creating a school culture that is truly collaborative. I also hope that even though A.P.P.L.E. will cease to exist as an organization, the sharing and partnership that has been created with so many educators in Lithuania will continue albeit in a different manner. My personal hope is to return to Lithuania in the future to continue to provide and share currently researched professional development and to engage in shared discussion about the progress of the Lithuanian educational system.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped build the legacy that A.P.P.L.E. leaves behind both in Lithuania and the United States. This endeavor spanned over 25 years and affected more than 30,000 Lithuanian educators and hundreds of American volunteers. None of this would have been accomplished without the idea coming to fruition with the help of donations from numerous Americans, American Lithuanians as well as Lithuanians who wanted to help this truly heroic effort. I am proud to have been a part of the A.P.P.L.E. legacy as an American Lithuanian educator who has shared her time and knowledge on behalf of this truly amazing partnership.

Lithuanian School Year Begins



Delfi.lt (photo by T. Vinicko)

The Lithuanian school year began on September 1st with 330 thousand students (13 thousand fewer students than last year).

There was also a three thousand decline in students of higher education; currently numbering about 135 thousand. The number of beginning students was a thousand less than last year, decreasing from 27 thousand to 26 thousand. They will study at 24 colleges and 23 universities.

The number of schools and the number of teachers remains similar to last year: about 33 thousand teachers and about 1,200 schools.

When comparing graduates with last year, the number will fall more than 3 thousand from 30.5 thousand down to 27 thousand. There is cause for rejoicing that this year will be a thousand more first-time students than last year - over 29 thousand. Also, first graders will outnumber those expected to graduate.

From www.Delfi.lt

A.P.P.L.E. Video

At the reception for A.P.P.L.E. held at the Lithuanian Embassy, a short video with a collection of photos and media clips was shown by Amanda Muliolis. At that point it was, and still is, a work in progress. The DVD that she is preparing will contain several presentations - one will be all 25 years in pictures. Then she divided it up into 6 parts - five 5-year segments, and the sixth - closing year - embassy reception, last seminar and closing in Lithuania. She will also include a 10-year presentation prepared by Romas Sakadolskis. She is not sure yet what else she will include, since she has a lot more information, like president Adamkus' speech during A.P.P.L.E.'s 15-th year celebration and some videos.

Amanda will be offering copies of the DVD to anyone who would like to purchase a copy. The cost is \$10.00, and the DVD will be ready this fall, (September or October). She will send it to all who order by end of September. They can order it from her by sending their address and \$10.00 to her at: 1820 Dansy Dr. Euclid, OH 44117-2010.

Questions may be directed to Amanda at atmuliolis@gmail.com

Fundraising Corner

Thank you for your support of A.P.P.L.E. over the last 25 years. We are no longer soliciting donations. Feel free to support one of the many organizations supporting Lithuania.

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. Note that because of compositional software constraints, we are not able to include proper Lithuanian characters in words and names.

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.

Consider passing this email along to a friend who you think might be interested in hearing about us.

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A.P.P.L.E. (American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education) | 105 Sturbridge LN | Chapel Hill | NC | 27516