A.p.p.l.e.

REPORT TO THE CORPS

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Amanda Gelažytė Muliolienė: Lithuanian-American Educator

In the field of education, recognition of the need for techniques to maximize the learning of bilingual bicultural students is relatively recent. The major waves of Lithuanian immigration to the US occurred long before such educational programs were implemented. However, the Lithuanian American community has long dealt with the related educational challenge of devising effective means to expand the Lithuanian language skills of school-age children and to promote cultural identity. Lithuanian-born Amanda Muliolis of Cleveland OH has long recognized these needs from a professional and personal perspective. For more than 40 years she excelled as a classroom teacher, while developing materials and curriculums to promote learning of the Lithuanian language in school-age American children. If that wasn't enough, utilizing her computer expertise and her bilingual and bicultural knowledge, Amanda created materials and curriculums in Lithuanian that she used to conduct instructional seminars sponsored by the American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) in Lithuania, to advance teachers' knowledge of the uses for computers in the school and classroom setting.

Amanda came with her family to the U.S. as displaced persons, after the Second World War, eventually settling in Cleveland. She entered school with limited English language skills, but utilizing her inherent intelligence coupled with an aptitude for math and science and the support of her family she was a successful student. She attended Holy Name High School and obtained her educational training in chemistry and mathematics at Ursuline College and Cleveland State University. Amanda is married to Algirdas Muliolis and is mother to Elena Greene, Jonas, Saulius, Linas, and grandmother to Antanina and Gailė Greene, Andrew and Sophia Muliolis, and Anika Muliolis. For 20 years she was a teacher at St. Augustine Academy where she taught mathematics, physics, chemistry, and computer science. Her accomplishments as a highly skilled classroom teacher were recognized. In 1991 she received an Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. In 1997 she was recognized as the Computer Science Teacher of the Year in Ohio, an award presented by the Microsoft Corporation and Technology and Learning Magazine.

Always supportive of family activities and specifically those that endorse Lithuanian cultural identity, Amanda is committed to Lithuanian scouting. She was the Cleveland Neringa Council leader and the Ąžuolas/Gintaras Leadership Camp leader in San Bernadino CA in 1989. She earned the Tėvynės dukros, Lelijos and Už Nuopelnus medals.

Amanda, San Bernardion Mountains, CA (1989). Four scouting leaders, from the just revived scouting movement in Lithuania, visited the leadership camp and presented a huge loaf of rye bread.

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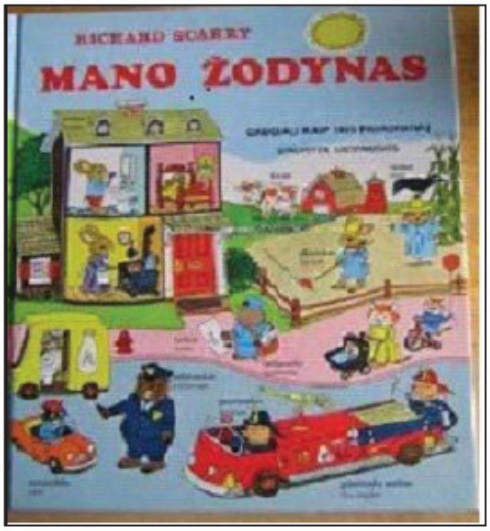
(continued)

As a Saturday school teacher at Šv. Kazimiero Lituanistinė Mokykla in Cleveland, Amanda perceived a serious need for materials to help young children acquire language skills. Graced with abundant talent and energy she made significant contributions to the development of materials to promote the learning of the Lithuanian language. In the late 1960's she began by developing reading materials for young children by inserting Lithuanian text into easily accessible children's storybooks written in English. Twenty stories were translated. Mothers of the children had access to the translations, so they could create their own copy of the book using the same terms and phrases to practice reading the stories at home with their children. Amanda also created 15 different coloring workbooks for children. Each page consisted of a picture and a sentence describing the picture that was used for reading lessons with first graders. In 1972 Amanda collaborated with Aldona Kiršteiniene, a teacher from the Lithuanian school in Rochester NY, and artist Egle Mulioliene in the publication of the Lithuanian Language Workbook for first graders.



Amanda went on to coordinate the translation of a Richard Scarry classic, *My Best Word Book Ever* into Lithuanian; *Mano Žodynas*. The first printing was ordered by the Bendruomenė Education Council in 1974, and it has been reprinted several times. This picture dictionary is written in both Lithuanian and English, making it appropriate for young children learning either language. The vocabulary of many young children in the US learning Lithuanian was expanded with little effort due to familiarity with the words and pictures. Because of the utility of the dual languages, A.P.P.L.E. donated 156 copies to Teacher Centers and schools in Lithuania for use in teaching English to young Lithuanians.

For years Amanda utilized her technical knowledge to create innovative presentations of language and song to familiarize children with spoken Lithuanian. In 1977 she created Abėcėlė vaizduose ir garsuose, a slide presentation of the Lithuanian alphabet with taped sound. She created a set of four DVD's that include children's songs, stories and language lessons. The DVD's were sent to all the Lithuanian Saturday schools, and were sold at scout fairs in Cleveland and Chicago and in Lithuania during the A.P.P.L.E. seminars. Other DVD's followed such as Mažiesiems (2006), Prašom, Prašom Paklausyti (2007; Please, Please Listen), "Eglė, Žalčių Karalienė"ir kitos pasakos (2008) the classic Lithuanian fairy tale and other stories; and Anykščių šilelis (2010; Anykščiai grove) an epic poem used in literature classes. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Šv. Kazimiero Lituanistinė mokykla in 2008, Amanda created a three DVD set with pictures from all the years of its existence.

Since 1993 Amanda, and her husband Algirdas, have been involved in providing educational support to Lithuanian teachers via the A.P.P.L.E. organization. In 1997 she established the A.P.P.L.E. website at www.applequest.org and is the webmaster. She conducted A.P.P.L.E. summer seminars in Lithuania on science, mathematics, and computer literacy for 19 summers. In addition, for 11 years she traveled to Lithuania with her husband Algridas in the winter to spend a minimum of 8 weeks during the school year to provide instruction to teachers and other school personnel in various computer programs, such as *EXCEL, MIMOSA,* and programming languages needed to establish websites. As schools were moving from the traditional inflexible system of student class assignment to individualized scheduling it was essential that school personnel have access to a computer program to accomplish this task. Amanda was responsible for bringing the scheduling program *MIMOSA* to schools in Lithuania. During the summer A.P.P.L.E. sessions she trained 10 consultants so that they could oversee the implementation of *MIMOSA* throughout Lithuania. Amanda introduced the concept of distance learning in summer seminars, and used the technique to help teachers learn how to create such lessons.

Amanda with students working on computer literacy .

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She created distance learning lessons for *MIMOSA*, as well as a manual to assure that this program was efficiently implemented. She and Algirdas donated a lifetime *MIMOSA* license for use in all of the schools in Lithuania. She has been a member of the A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors since 2002.

Awardee Amanda Mulioliene (center) with Sigita Simkuviene-Rosen (left), U.S. Lithuanian community Executive Committee President and Leipa Boberiene (right), Vice-President for Youth Affairs.

As part of her extensive contribution to the continuing education of Lithuanian teachers Amanda has written or translated into Lithuanian, manuals primarily for use in computer technology, but in other disciplines also: *Kooperatyvinės užduotys matematikos klasėse* (with Aldona Miškinis) - Cooperative Learning Problems for Math Classes; *Kompiuterinio raštingumo pradžiamokslis* - Computer Literacy for Beginners; *Interneto pradžiamokslis* - The Internet for beginners; *Tinklapių kūrimo programos* - Creating Webpages using FrontPage, HTML, Javascript; *Microsoft Office Pamokų ciklas* (1996) updated and reprinted 10 times. Since 1998, 200 to 300 books were printed every year; *ClarisWorks* for Macintosh computers; *Mimosa Instructions, the* latest update is available on the A.P.P.L.E. website; *Nuotolinio mokymo vadovėlis* - How to Prepare Lessons for Distance learning; *Google Apps* - How to Use Them with Students; and *C++ programing language* – which includes 50 example programs is also available at www.applequest.org

In Cleveland on April 20th 2013 Amanda was the recipient of the 2012 Award from the U.S. Lithuanian Community (*JAV Lietuvių Bendruomenė)* recognizing her contribution to Lithuanian Schools in the U.S. The award is given annually by the Educational Affairs Council to an educator who has demonstrated significant commitment to Lithuanian schools in the U.S. Though the award is not based on her work in Lithuania, her outstanding contribution to Lithuanian educational programs, via her work with A.P.P.L.E. was acknowledged. At the banquet Amanda was presented the award by Lithuanian Community President Sigita Simkuvienė-Rosen. Also representing the Lithuanian Community was Liepa Boberienė, daughter of the late Vaiva Vebraitė, who over 23 years ago founded A.P.P.L.E.

At left, Amanda with President Valdus Adamkus in Vilnius, receiving Grand Duke Gediminas 1st Degree Medal in recognition of her contribution to Lithuanian Education (2001). Right, Algirdas Muliolis, Alma Adamkiene, Amanda Mulioliene, & Valdas Adamjus in Klaipeda (2010).

Oral History Project

A Multinational Collaboration between

Prienu Ziburio Gimnazija of Lithuania,

The University of San Diego U.S.A,

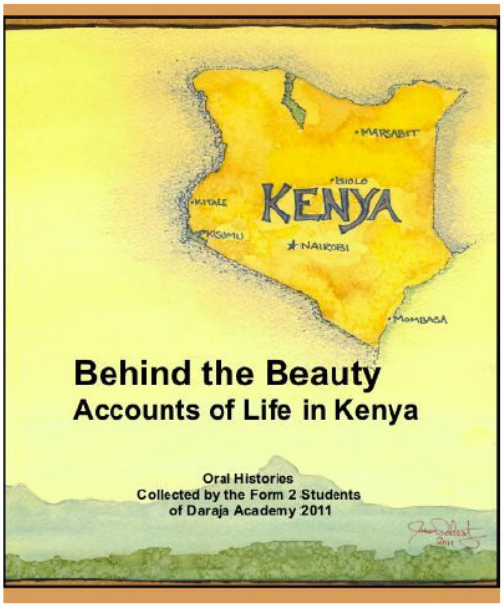
The Daraja Academy of Kenya, and

A.P.P.L.E.

Nancy Hanssen
Director of Undergraduate Credential Program
University of San Diego

The summer regional program, in the lovely resort town of Prienai, looked a bit different this year. Students, still in school, were busy with final tests, end of the year activities and participating, along with their teachers, in project-based learning as part of the A.P.P.L.E. program. The idea is to shift professional development into the classroom during the 2013-2014 school year for greater impact on learning and to provide a more sustained and collaborative model of professional development. Students and teachers participating in the Oral History Project will follow a time-line that concludes with a published book of their stories to be distributed in spring 2014.

The project began with selected students and support teachers participating in an interactive workshop on interviewing skills, note taking using technology, the writing process, peer collaboration and synthesizing notes into a narrative. All of these skills will be used by the students during the various phases of the project. The students were asked to select one family and/or community member, that they could interview over the summer representing each of the three designated time periods: 1939-1945, 1945-1990 and 1990 to the present. These particular time periods were chosen by the collaborating teachers as pivotal to Lithuania's history. This is an example of an innovative manner in which to help students learn about their history.



This publication was created by the students in Kenya. Our Lithuanian students skyped with them to learn how they can create a similar book about their own country.

One of the highlights of the summer workshop was when our Lithuanian students Skyped with students from the Daraja Academy (www.daraja-academy.org), the first free secondary school for girls in Kenya, where I co-launched the project last year. The students from Kenya shared their challenges and successes so far as they have worked on the project. During this session, all students had an opportunity to practice speaking in English, which they do very well. The Kenyan students were thrilled to see copies of their book being read and used by the Lithuanian teachers and students as a model for the final publication. The companion book from the students at Prienu Ziburio Gimnazija will be in both Lithuanian and English and will include photos and artwork.

There will be Skype sessions between students and teachers from Kenya and Lithuania during the school year regarding the writing process, from notes to narrative. I will also Skype once a month to support the progress of the project. The oral history narratives are due January 15th and then the editing and book lay-out process will begin. In the spring, I will travel to Lithuania to distribute books to all who participated in the project.

Oral History Project (continued)

This is a unique project in the history of A.P.P.L.E. The collaboration between three countries is made possible by the willingness of our Lithuanian colleagues to explore innovative ways of learning and teaching, and to step beyond the classroom to make connections. The Oral History project allows students to explore history through the power of personal stories – stories that bring us together.

Cooperating teachers who are providing support to our Lithuanian students in the areas of English and History.

Raise funds for A.P.P.L.E While you are searching the net or shopping online—Effortlessly!

When registering, please select ***American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education***

- With iSearchiGive built into your web browser, you can search and raise money any time, from any site
- If you shop, you can raise even more! Your free iGive.com membership combined with the Toolbar's optional Donation Tracking means automatic donations of up to 26% when you shop at over 700 stores in the iGive network.
- See the total funds raised for your cause, with handy reports just one click away.
- * It's spyware-free and takes just seconds to install.
- Go to Igive.com for full details— Thank you!

Call for Proposals— Summer Program 2014

"Real World Applications of What We Teach"

A.P.P.L.E., in partnership with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, is planning the 24th summer of in-service programs for Lithuanian educators, school social workers, administrators and other school personnel. This summer's program will be centered in Kaunas in June and July. We invite you to consider joining us in this challenging and rewarding endeavor, in sharing educational ideas with our Lithuanian colleagues.

The Mission Statement of our organization states: The American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.) is a volunteer 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.

Interested individuals can find more information about A.P.P.L.E. and its programs at www.applequest.org or by contacting Karl Janowitz, President, at 215-627-1693 or by emailing karl.janowitz@temple.edu Applications for participating in the A.P.P.L.E. 2014 Summer Program must be submitted by January 15, 2014.

American Professional Partnership
for Lithuanian Education
105 Sturbridge Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

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

I would like to make a contribution to:

The Lithuanian Scholars Fund ($50) _____

The Interpreters Fund ($200) _____

You will receive a letter of thanks from those that benefit.

I am enclosing the following amount for annual membership:

Regular Membership ($25) _____

Family Membership (no duplicate mailings) ($40) _____

Charter Membership ($100) _____

Leadership Group ($250) _____

Patron ($500) _____

I would like to add the following amount to help pay for

A.P.P.L.E. programs: _____

TOTAL _____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Email address _____

Apple