

# Apple

## REPORT TO THE CORPS

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### *Synergistic Success*

If you are reading this, then you are part of the twenty-five years of volunteerism that supported the Lithuanian educational system transition to a modern democratic form. A.P.P.L.E. was founded on the passion and vision of a few key individuals, namely Vaiva Vebraite and Jurate Krokys. Lithuania was poised on the brink of freedom, stepping away from the cloak of Soviet suppression, these women acted on an emotion prominent among American Lithuanians regarding this historic occurrence. They shared the desire of the diaspora to contribute to the development of a free and independent Lithuania. Partnering with the first post-Soviet Minister of Education Darius Kuolys in Lithuania, they established in the U.S., a volunteer organization

dedicated to utilizing the knowledge of volunteer American educators to conduct seminars in Lithuania. Recognizing that the educational system is at the core of local communities, schools provided an already established mechanism to promote change at the grassroots level. Effecting change in teaching philosophies altered how teachers interact with students and their understanding about how students learn, which in turn affects the attitudes of students, their families, and the school community. Under the auspices of A.P.P.L.E. over 400 volunteers traveled to Lithuania, exposing Lithuanian educators to novel educational practices, and as modeled, a new way of communicating and thinking.



Co-founder Jurate Krokys speaking about A.P.P.L.E.'s beginnings at the Lithuanian Embassy, April 2015

Photo courtesy of Ludo Segers

A.P.P.L.E. was privileged to have a corps of dedicated volunteers, but equally importantly devoted financial supporters, comprised of both large and small American Lithuanian based organizations, and individuals who consistently supported the work of the organization with membership dues and contributions.

These donations were essential to the work of the organization; they paid for materials, interpreters, and programmatic expenses. Volunteers and donors made the realization of the vision of the founders possible. The Lithuanian educational system transformed and those changes were enhanced by contact with American educators made available by A.P.P.L.E. Partnership with the Lithuanian Ministry of Education was an essential component. Recruitment of Lithuanian participants, arrangement of venues for sessions in Vilnius and other locations provided American volunteers the opportunity to interact with participants and to offer ideas that helped inspire the redesign of the educational system.

An aspect of volunteer participation in this organization that was not part of the vision of the founders was the powerful experience of being in Lithuania. The beauty of the countryside and the allure of Old Town were obvious. Despite language differences many lectures were unexpectedly moved by the warmth of the people; their hospitality, generosity and expressions of appreciation. For those of Lithuanian heritage it evoked awareness of the experiences and aspirations of family and ancestors, in a way that one recognized how those dreams contributed to who you are.

The last board meeting was September 19<sup>th</sup> in Orlando FL. The non-profit corporation of A.P.P.L.E. will be dissolved by the end of the 2015. An important decision made at the meeting is how remaining funds should be

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dispersed. After thoughtful deliberation it was decided, in the percentages indicated, that funds would be distributed to five Lithuanian organizations that reflect the mission of A.P.P.L.E. and the spirit of those who supported the organization. The recipients are: *Chemijos Olimpiados* (Chemistry Olympiad; 32%), who will send 6 high school students to compete in an international science Olympiad in Seoul Korea in December. Three of them will be identified as the A.P.P.L.E. team in recognition of this support, *Klaipėdos Prano Mašiotų Progimnazija Moykla* (Catholic School; 9%), *Library at Kaunas vaikų lopšelis-darželis Spindulelis* (Preschool; 9%), *Kaunas County Society of Special Teachers and Parents* (18%), *Uolienu ir mineralų muziejus* (*Rock and Mineral Museum* in Jonava middle school, founded with A.P.P.L.E. funds, 5%), and *Viltis*, the Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability (27%). How much organizations will receive will be determined in December, after funds have been allotted for the 2015/2016 Lithuanian Scholars Fund (Lietuvos Mokytojų Fondas; LMF). Approximately \$10,000 will be distributed.

A.P.P.L.E. closes with a well-deserved sense of accomplishment among board members, to be shared with all of the membership. On behalf of the organization I offer a last, but sincere thank-you to our volunteers and supporters, who made the vision of two American Lithuanian women a reality.

Best regards,

Anita Adomaityte Scarborough, PhD  
Secretary Treasurer



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 a work in progress. The DVD that she has prepared contains several presentations - one with all 25 years in pictures which is 90 min. long. The same pictures were placed into 5-year segments. The pictures are shown with background music. Also included is the 10-year presentation prepared by Romas Sakadolskis. A short video from the beginning of the 15-year celebration in Vilnius and a sound recording of the opening speeches in Klaipėda on our 20-year celebration by President Adamkus and Barbara Henriques as well as the A.P.P.L.E. facts file listing most of our accomplishments during the 25 years are included. The cost of the DVD is \$10.00 and can be ordered by sending that amount and your correct address to Amanda Muliolis, 1820 Dansy Dr. Euclid, OH 44117-2010.

## A.P.P.L.E. memories

### Contents

- PowerPoint presentations (pps) – created with PP 2003
  - full 25 years of pictures
  - same pictures in 5 presentations of 5 years each.
  - presentation created by Romas Sakadolskis for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniv.
- Collection of almost all Reports to the Corp
- Collection of all e-Zines
- Short video of the start of 15 year celebration
- Sound recording of the 2010 opening ceremonies in Klaipėda including speeches by President Adamkus and Barbara Henriques
- A.P.P.L.E. fact sheet (.pdf version)
- PowerPoint Viewer – if you do not have Microsoft PowerPoint. Install, then view presentations.



## A.P.P.L.E. memories

Collected by Amanda Muliolis

Cost of DVD - \$10.00

Additional DVD's can be ordered from Amanda at:  
atnuliolis@gmail.com

October, 2015

# *Many thanks to the 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 Dr. 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 young daughter. The session they visited was highly interactive and encouraged teachers on 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.



Printed A.P.P.L.E. archives will be maintained at  
Amerikos lietuvių kultūros archyvas (AKLA)  
37 Mary Crest Dr, Putnam, CT 06260

If you have A.P.P.L.E. documents or photos that should be included in the archive send them to  
Giedre Stankunas, 329 Cognewaugh Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807  
She is the A.P.P.L.E. archivist and will organize them and include them in the AKLA repository.

## Lietuvos mokytojų fondas

### Lietuvos Mokytojų Fondas: Supporting Lithuanian Educational Innovation

For many years A.P.P.L.E. encouraged teacher participation in the summer sessions by providing scholarships that covered the cost of attendance. Overtime, as the summer program evolved from one two-week session, to two one-week sessions, rather than funding teachers to attend, A.P.P.L.E. implemented *Lietuvos mokytojų fondas* (LMF), a small grant program designed to support teachers who attend A.P.P.L.E. sessions in implementing new ideas to enhance teaching and learning in their schools and classrooms. LMF was initiated in 2006. During the summer session the goal of the program and the application process was explained to participating teachers. In the first year A.P.P.L.E. received seventy-two applications, which were evaluated and ranked by three independent reviewers. With awards ranging from 200 to 1000 Lt. A.P.P.L.E. funded the top 29 ranked projects. It was apparent that many teachers were intrigued by the opportunity to have their ideas recognized and endorsed. Writing a proposal requires describing in definable terms what you want to accomplish and exactly how you intend to do that. Operationalizing ideas has the added value of helping teachers refine their thinking about the purpose of their project.



Many areas of learning experiences are represented in the proposals, but themes involving the community, the environment and nature, the arts, and supporting special populations are popular categories. The listing of all projects is available at [www.applequest.org](http://www.applequest.org). On the website awardees are listed according to year of award, school name, region, and the project title in Lithuanian and English. Each proposal includes photographs showing the implementation of the project.

Some of the winners of the previous year's seminars present their projects to program participants as an example of what can be done with a small grant. A.P.P.L.E. was asked by UPC Director Giedrius Vaidelis to present at the second *Exhibition SCHOOL*, a national

conference held in Vilnius November 2012. A.P.P.L.E.'s administrator in Lithuania, Ramutė Žemonienė presented an overview of LMF and introduced several winners who presented their projects. This exhibition is the event of the year when the entire Lithuanian educational community meets. It was an important opportunity to recognize the aims, objectives and accomplishments of LMF. Ms. Žemonienė emphasized A.P.P.L.E.'s objective in implementing the LMF– to encourage creativity, innovations, new teaching methods and strategies. Because projects are not linked to daily duties in the classroom, it fosters the implementation of activities that allows teachers to use different approaches leading to creativity and innovative ideas that stimulate learning for all students. Ms. Žemonienė is working with UPC to include some winners of the 2015 LMF awards as presenters at the 2016 exhibition.

UPC Senior Specialist Roma Sausaitienė said, "Lithuanian teachers are sincerely thankful to sponsors of the A.P.P.L.E. organization for the annual financial support. Projects stimulate teachers for further and creative changes in the schools of Lithuania. While implementing the projects, teachers have a possibility to involve not only students, teachers and parents, but the entire school community". Teacher Liuba Vaigauskienė from Raseiniai Kalno Catholic High School expressed, "This financial support is very significant for us, a small school. It is given in a very acceptable and easy way – a simple application form. The most important thing is that it is based on trust between A.P.P.L.E. and the teachers of Lithuania".

Summer 2015 was LMF's ninth and final year. Since its inception the program has funded 185 projects. Because this year's summer program was only one week and is the final year of LMF, seminar participants from the last 5 years were eligible to participate in the award process. Proposals were received by the end of October, and will be evaluated by three experienced readers. The recipients of the grants will be publicized by the end of this year. Winners will be required to submit an interim report with pictures around April-May, and this information will be placed on A.P.P.L.E.'s webpage



(www.applequest.org). Select projects will be presented at the national educational meeting at the end of 2016 in Vilnius. Given A.P.P.L.E.'s twenty-five year history, it is hard to find a Lithuanian teacher that isn't aware of A.P.P.L.E. and its generous support of Lithuania's teachers.

Amanda Muliolienė, Cleveland, Ohio and  
Ramutė Žemionienė, Vilnius, Lithuania

### Locations of LMF Winners



## 2015 A.P.P.L.E. Program

During the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> A.P.P.L.E.'s final program was held at the Karolina Hotel in Vilnius. There were three strands: Educational Leadership led by Linda Brenneman of Acworth, NH; Developing Writing Skills in the Elementary Grades conducted by Laurie Hendrickson, Chicago IL; and Middle School Language Arts with Linda Spoleti, Lombard IL and Juli Roberts, Columbus OH. Teachers who live outside the city of Vilnius, particularly from rural regions of Lithuania were targeted for participation by the Ugdymo Plėtotės Centras (UPC). Teachers in attendance had all fees paid, which included room and board at the Karolina and an additional nearby hotel. Seventy-nine Lithuanian teachers and administrators participated. A.P.P.L.E. staff was accommodated at the Šarūnas Hotel.

Vilnius, June 29, 2015. L to R; Linda Spoleti, Juli Roberts, Laurie Hendrickson, Dr. Karl Janowitz, Dr. Anita Scarborough, Gedrius Vaidelis (UPC), Dr. Svetlana Kauzonienė (Deputy Minister of Education & Science), Vida Anton, Dr. Loreta Statauskienė (UPC), Linda Brenneman.



The Educational Leadership group consisted of 22 assistant principals and curriculum directors from school systems across Lithuania. Each day the group worked on methods for collecting, displaying, interpreting and analyzing school performance data in order for them to develop a model for rewiring and transforming their school culture. The objective was for school administrators to learn how to apply a process that brings ownership to all school personnel for the development of a common educational mission.

### Educational Leadership

Interpreter Aldona Vosyliūtė with lecturer  
Linda Brenneman, Acworth NH



## Developing Writing Skills in the Elementary Grades

Elementary teachers working on writing projects



Learning to write well requires knowing what students know and care about. Writer's workshop is a writing technique that builds fluency in writing through continuous, repeated exposure to writing. During the week teachers were part of a writer's workshop that exposed them to various techniques that generate story ideas. Teachers not only wrote their own stories but read them aloud, created books, presented skits, and shared teaching ideas with others in the group.



## Middle School Language Arts

Lecturers Juli Roberts, Columbus OH and  
Linda Spoleti, Lombard IL

The language arts group was comprised of teachers with experience ranging from 2 years to 30, from all school levels. The session was conducted exclusively in English, because what the group had in common was that they taught English. The session began by listing the teachers' concerns about teaching English. These concerns were followed up using teaching models that incorporated role-playing and experiential learning using poetry and vocabulary lessons. A wealth of online resources was provided. How to form personal relationships with students was demonstrated through the use of personal letters, lifelines, coat of arms, and the use of basketball coach John Wooden's "Pyramid of Success" to talk about personal strengths and weaknesses. When this technique was demonstrated it may have been responsible for creating a bond of sisterhood among the teachers and lecturers. What was shared was that though we may be geographically distant, we all want the same things for our students: education that is meaningful, relevant, and even fun. The lecturers left Vilnius looking at education through new eyes, those of our sister teachers' eyes, and saw a new school year filled with renewed passion, hope, and determination to improve student success.

**Final  
Edition**

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

105 Sturbridge Lane

**A.P.P.L.E.**

*American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education*

**“We learned that there are no wrong answers or opinions. Every informed decision can lead to positive change..... it was important for us to observe free people.”**

**Egle Keturakiene, Lithuanian Administrator**

**Commenting on A.P.P.L.E.’s mission**