

# Apple

## REPORT TO THE CORPS

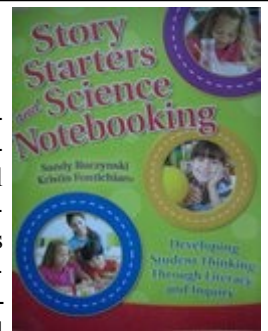
Volume 19, Number 2

October 2009

### A Meeting of the Minds Leads to Publication

Dr. Sandy Buczynski

Once upon a time there were two educators who lived on opposite sides of the United States: Sandy Buczynski, a science education professor from San Diego, CA and Kristin Fontichiaro, a school librarian from Birmingham, MI. In a city by the sea (Klaipeda, 2005), in a faraway country (Lithuania), we met as professional development lecturers for A.P.P.L.E. We facilitated workshops for Lithuanian teachers that focused on constructivist teaching and active student learning. Over shared meals, we talked and exchanged ideas, but it was not until we reunited at A.P.P.L.E. (Vilnius, 2007) that the idea for a book about the power of story and inquiry to promote student thinking in science among students in grades 3–6 was born. Late nights at the Pedagogu Profesines Raidos Centras' Vesbutis (P.P.R.C. hotel) generated a few clever stories that were guaranteed to draw learners into a science problem.



We knew that we were on to something when we discussed the idea with fellow A.P.P.L.E. lecturer and past president of the American Association of School Librarians, Blanche Woolls. Blanche brought our vision to the attention of Teacher Ideas Press editor Sharon Coatney, who gave the project a green light. The book continued to evolve and develop throughout the school year as we skyped, emailed, and met face-to-face for weeklong writing retreats throughout 2008. *Story Starters and Science Notebooking: Developing Student Thinking Through Literacy and Inquiry* was published in May of 2009.



Vilnius class collecting data

The fruits of this labor came full circle this summer (2009) as Sandy and Jim Brousseau used the book as the basis for their elementary science seminars taught in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Kedainiai. Birute Druckute (interpreter extraordinaire) translated various stories from the book into Lithuanian so that A.P.P.L.E. participants could read the stories, tap into their prior knowledge, design and implement investigations, share results through several genres of writing, and reflect on their learning.



2009 Elementary Science Strand members  
Birute, Sandy, Anna and Jim

Through investigations conducted by the Lithuanian teachers, we learned what conditions will ripen bananas faster, why Papa Bear's porridge bowl was the hottest in Goldilocks' story, and the pros and cons of various alternative energy strategies. Teachers at the Vilnius workshop designed and executed a taste test survey to measure participants' reactions to a range of foods: homemade versus store-bought vodka, for example, or preferences for hard or chocolate candy. These surveys were powerful tools to measure the likes and dislikes of our participant population and ultimately provided valuable consumer input for future shopping decisions. Teachers left the workshops with a repertoire of science strategies, stories, and activities to create strong, authentic, inquiry-based classrooms with the potential to integrate science content with writing projects. As our participant teachers implement inquiry-based learning with the development of scientific knowledge, hopefully they will help students consider science as way of thinking more than as a body of knowledge.

# Graduation Time!

By Ed Topar



This Millennium Year Summer for Lithuania provided many of us with a flurry of celebratory activities. They ranged from a parade of over ten thousand participants, to Daina (the Songfest), to high Mass, to the Dance Festival and, finally, to the televised speeches of a number of dignitaries from a variety of European nations. It was a great start for our 19<sup>th</sup>. A.P.P.L.E. Vasara in Lithuania.

The highlight for me this year was the opportunity to participate in the secondary school graduation ceremonies held at a school district in Klaipeda and the family-oriented celebrations that followed. This was the second time I had been invited to attend a graduation at this school. What made this occasion so special was that the graduating seniors, all twenty-five of them, and the Director of the school all wore caps and gowns for the first time ever. Secondary school graduates in Lithuania do not normally wear them nor do most college and university graduating classes.

However, thanks to the generosity of Dennis Mamchur, a former teammate of mine at Montclair State University and Regional Sales Manager for Jostens, Inc., the leading provider of school recognition support products, I was able to deliver twenty-five sets of caps and gowns for those twenty-five graduating seniors and their school Director in the name of A.P.P.L.E.

To see the expressions on the faces of those seniors and feel their excitement as they marched out to the school courtyard, led by their equally proud Director and receive such a rousing ovation from their relatives and friends will stay with me forever.

As they prepared to have their class picture taken, each one took great pride in repositioning the tassel on their cap and even more when they all, simultaneously, tossed those caps high in the air after the official class photos were taken.

All in all, a very special event for the school staff, the graduates and their families and a very memorable moment in time for A.P.P.L.E. and myself.

# A

## Newbie's Experience

By Gail Cassidy

My trip to Lithuania began at 2:30 Friday afternoon and ended at about 8:00 p.m. the following day

when Ed Topar and I arrived at the hotel in Vilnius. Tired and groggy, I climbed the steep front steps, wearily dragging my suitcase behind. Greeting us with great warmth and infectious enthusiasm in the lobby was none other than the president of A.P.P.L.E., Barbara Henriques. I truly felt honored. She told me my room number, gave me the key, and added that there was a party going on, and "it's in your room." That was the beginning of the most exciting, memorable two-week adventure in my life.

The first aspect of the experience that most impressed and intrigued me was the immediate camaraderie established among the instructors. Within days I felt as if I had known these wonderful people for a lifetime. I was energized by their energy. The obvious hard work, dedication, devotion, and preparation of the volunteer instructors impressed me tremendously. These selfless professionals worked tirelessly to fulfill the mission of the organization. I was in awe. The second aspect of this priceless experience relates to the participants, people from a different culture, speaking a different language--devoted and dedicated professionals-- who were

there to learn and better themselves in their own positions with the intent of maximizing the learning potential of the Lithuanian children in their schools. What a delight it was for me to meet and get to know these wonderful administrative professionals! Watching them change from formal, proper students to fun, competitive, hungry-for-knowledge individuals

made me realize just how much we are all alike, no matter what the country or state in which we were born.



Gail Cassidy

## Message from the Past-President



### BARBARA HENRIQUES

Over the last two years I have experienced the joy and challenges that go hand in hand with the position of President. In this time I have been able to work to ensure that A.P.P.L.E. will continue to meet it's original mission to work in partnership with

our Lithuanian partners to enhance learning opportunities for all children.

While we have continued to offer in-service training for teachers and administrators at the PPRC, we have expanded our work at the Kaunas Program in Special Education, strengthened the Camp Viltis Program and have also engaged in links to universities throughout Lithuania. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with people who are ready to contribute their time, energy and personal funds, to make our work a success.

I am delighted that over the last three years, we have continued our efforts to expand the Lithuanian Scholars Program to all participants in our Summer Programs. I am very proud of this accomplishment and would like to thank Amanda Muliolis and Ramute Žemionienei for their extensive work in making LSF such a success. Without these people, the support of our readers in

Lithuania, and the support from contributors to this program, it would not be possible. This year we saw another group of innovative and creative projects designed by teachers to enhance learning in their classrooms, schools and communities. The Lithuanian Scholars Fund allows Lithuanian teachers to bring their ideas into being in diverse educational settings.

While we have had a difficult economy to contend with and shifting priorities, we have continued to receive contributions and small grants to continue our mission. To those who have continued to support us, I want to personally thank each and every one of you. You make what we do possible.

On August 15th of this year, my term as President ended and I became the Immediate-Past President. I know that I passed the Presidency on to a person who will continue to support the mission of our organization and will bring her own expertise as an educator and administrator to the post. Dr. Vida Gavin and I had the opportunity to work together in Lithuania this summer. Vida served as the Program Director for the Vilnius Seminars. I have offered her my continued support as she moves into her new position and I'm sure that you will join me in this support. As we begin to plan for our 20th year of service, I know that A.P.P.L.E. is in good hands and that those who have supported us through their contributions, service and/or ideas will continue to make our work a continued success.

## *Barbara*



### Raise funds for A.P.P.L.E

While you are searching the net  
or shopping online—Effortlessly!

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.



*Camp Viltis program participants and Director Vitas Underys*

I am excited and honored to be taking the reins of this organization and serve as the president as we begin the celebration of A.P.P.L.E.'s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is due to the dedication of many talented, creative, and hardworking volunteers that A.P.P.L.E. has been able to exist as a vibrant organization this many years. Kudos to all of you who have worked so diligently to make A.P.P.L.E. what it is today, and you should be proud of all your accomplishments.



My involvement with A.P.P.L.E. has not been as extensive as many others in the organization. Joe

Kalla originally called me in the early 1990's asking me to come to Lithuania as an A.P.P.L.E. volunteer and participate in the Administration Strand. A.P.P.L.E. was looking for volunteers that were actively working as administrators. Since I was a newly appointed Superintendent of Schools in the Chatham Public Schools (1991), it was difficult for me to get away. Chatham was embarking in major renovation and building projects for their schools, all of which required my vigilance and attention during the summer months. Joe did not give up. He called me each year, until finally in 1997, I made my first trip to Lithuania as an A.P.P.L.E. volunteer. This was A.P.P.L.E.'s seventh summer institute, and it was held in Alanta at a Soviet-era Vocational School. Gloria Ruttman worked with me the first week, and then the second week; we were joined by Don Jenroy from Saudi Arabia.

This was by far one of my most rewarding experiences as an educator. I then vowed to become more involved and to return as an A.P.P.L.E. volunteer as often as possible. Job commitments made it more difficult to take off for two or three weeks in the summer, but I was able to return in 2005 (for the 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute in Vilnius), and then again this summer as assistant to Barbara Henriques, our president, as program director for the Vilnius Program.

I have been honored to serve on the A.P.P.L.E. Board of Directors, to have served as president elect, and now to begin my term as president of this organization for the next two years.

I am a native born Lithuanian (Birstonas), who immigrated to the US after WWII. My father was an educator, director and inspector in Lithuania. As he was listed to be deported to Siberia, my family fled Lithuania in 1944, and relocated in Austria and Germany prior to coming to the US in 1948. Continuing my father's tradition as an

educator and administrator, I became an English teacher, Reading Specialist, Special Education Director, and Superintendent of Schools during an educational career spanning 35 years. I am recently retired, but continue to consult, teach periodically at the college level, and assume interim administrative positions here on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

At this juncture of my life, I have the time and energy to be more actively involved in the A.P.P.L.E. organization. I look forward to working with the members of the Board of Directors and all the other wonderful volunteers who continue to give their time and energy, as well as financial support, to this most worthy cause.

I feel that I am following in my father's footsteps. He cared so much for the education and welfare of children and strived to increase the educational opportunities for all Lithuania's children. I feel honored to do my small part with A.P.P.L.E. as we continue our mission, and collaborate with our Lithuanian teachers, administrators, and institutions of higher learning to bring about the implementation of innovative educational approaches for the betterment of all of Lithuania's children.

*Vida Strazdaite Gavin*

**A.P.P.L.E. President 2009-2011**

### Editor's Note:

In our last issue, we printed pictures of Vaiva Vebrate that were later found to be the private property of an individual. At the time this was not known to us and we regret the incident. It was not our intention to violate anyone's rights and we will strive to be more aware of these types of concerns in the future.

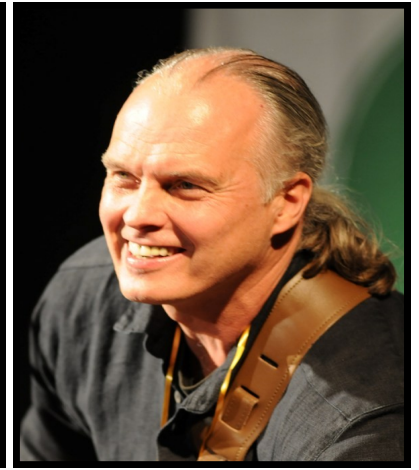
Jim Brousseau

P.S. Feel free to contact us with any comments regarding this newsletter, positive or negative, at [brousseauj@milanareaschools.org](mailto:brousseauj@milanareaschools.org)

Your input would be appreciated!



**Our Newest  
Board  
Member:  
Vitas  
Underys**



**Visit to Vaiva's Gravesite**

*by Vida Gavin*

On July 25, a group of about twenty-five visited Vaiva Vebraite's gravesite at the Antakalnis Cemetary. We were joined by representatives from the Ministry, the PPRC, as well as a number of A.P.P.L.E. lecturers, interpreters and participants from the second summer session.

Ramute Zemioniene, our Vilnius office manager, had her sister design a beautiful flower arrangement, which was left at her gravesite from all of A.P.P.L.E.. Other flower displays and lit candles were also placed on her grave.

A moving ceremony followed. Dr. Barbara Henriques, our A.P.P.L.E. president, spoke eloquently, reminding us of all the contributions that Vaiva has made to A.P.P.L.E. and to Lithuania. Elina Rodevic, a violinist, played a piece by J. S. Bach, "Allemanda." Elina is the daughter of Irina Rodevic, one of the participants in the Administration strand. Irina and Elina performed in our first week's Closing ceremonies and the second week's Opening ceremonies. They volunteered to drive up from Salcininkai to participate in the memorial to Vaiva. Her playing brought tears to many eyes. Another participant, Loreta Kaltauskiene, created a moving poetic tribute to Vaiva, and now there was not a dry eye in sight! We ended the tribute by reciting Our Lord's Prayer and singing "Lietuva Tevyne Musu." May she rest in peace.

Letter to A.P.P.L.E. Board and membership:

Thank you to the A.P.P.L.E. board for nominating me and approving my nomination as a new member of the A.P.P.L.E. board. It is truly an honor. I have been working with A.P.P.L.E. since July of 2000 and the work in Lithuania has been a very important part of my life. During these nine years, my interest in working in Lithuania and with Lithuanian teachers has grown every year. I promise to bring the same energy and enthusiasm to my work with the A.P.P.L.E. board.

My work in Lithuania has always been in the field of Special Education with a focus on creating inclusive communities where everyone can belong. I have a Bachelors degree from Loyola University in psychology and a Masters degree in Special Education from the University of Illinois. For the last 30 years I have been working in the United States with students with severe and multiple disabilities. The experiences I have had have provided me with a variety of opportunities, and challenges. I have worked in institutions, segregated settings and the last 18 years in an inclusive setting. I have been blessed to work with great students, families and teachers. In the past ten years I have had the honor to accept the awards listed below in recognition of my work by various "communities" composed of teachers, students and their families.



- 1999 Kellogg foundation, Galileo Leadership Academy
- 2000 "Teacher of the Year" Farmington Public Schools and "Elementary Teacher of the Year" - Oakland County
- 2002 Oakland county ARC Inclusion Leadership Award
- 2007 Honorary member "Viltis" (Lithuanian parent organization for people with disabilities)
- 2008 Awarded Farmington Public School's "Teaching with Heart and Soul" Award
- 2009 A.P.P.L.E. Board Member

I am honored to add A.P.P.L.E. Board member to this list. Thank you for your invitation and I am looking forward to an exciting year working with the A.P.P.L.E. board.

*Vitas Underys*

# JOIN US in CELEBRATING!!



## 20 Years Conference-at-Sea

August 23–28, 2010

### Sail on Carnival Cruise Lines *Inspiration*

The cruise will depart from Tampa, Florida on the evening of August 23



- Meet old friends from the U.S. and Lithuania
- Make new friends among the friends of A.P.P.L.E.
- Catch up on A.P.P.L.E.'s accomplishments
- Reminisce about shared A.P.P.L.E. adventures
- Have input into A.P.P.L.E.'s future
- & JUST HAVE FUN

A limited number of staterooms have been reserved at the following *special* rates per person:  
additional person ( 3 and 4)

Inside Stateroom	\$265.00	\$60.00
Outside Stateroom	\$315.00	\$80.00
Balcony Suite	\$805.00	\$170.00

Above rates are for double occupancy, though some staterooms accommodate up to 4 individuals. Additional tax and fees of \$164.00 per person are added to all above rates.

The above rates include:

- Accommodations of your choice
- ALL meals (there is almost continuous food service)
- Daily activities
- Nightly entertainment
- Casino
- A.P.P.L.E Board meeting & additional activities
- Special programs for children starting at the age of 2

A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 will secure your cabin and reservation at the above rates. Checks should be made out to: *Executive Travel* and mailed to: Vida Anton, 184 Ampere Ave., Oakhurst NJ 07755.  
NOTE: On your deposit check indicate your cabin choice and traveling companions name/s

**More information needed? Email us at [applecelebration20@gmail.com](mailto:applecelebration20@gmail.com)**

# Thank you for your support of A.P.P.L.E.!!

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Tautos Fondas

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Ms. Audrone Messick

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Lithuanian American Community—San Diego Chapter

Lithuanian American Community—Eastern CT Chapter

Lithuanian American Community of Hartford

American Lithuanian Club of Whiting



*Note: The listed donations were received by A.P.P.L.E. during the year ending June 20, 2009. More recent donations will be acknowledged in future newsletters. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. A.P.P.L.E. is a 501C3 organization and donors are provided a written receipt.*

**American Professional Partnership**

**for Lithuanian Education**

Post Office Box 179017

San Diego, CA 92177

**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

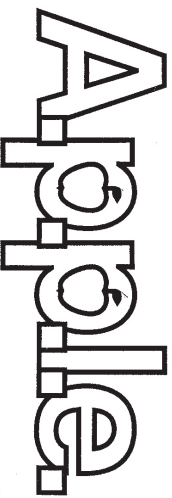
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