

2024 ANNUAL LCAS MEMBER MEETING

The 2024 annual Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences (LCAS) member meeting took place on Saturday, September 14. The meeting was virtual, using ZOOM.

The meeting was attended by 25 people from various states of the U.S.A. and from Lithuania. The annual LCAS meeting is an opportunity to hear Lithuanian academicians, researchers and writers speak about their work without leaving the house.

This year guest speakers represented a variety of fields: biology, literature and philosophy.

The first lecturer was Dr. Adelė Bubnys. This is her third year speaking at the annual LCAS meeting. Attendees have commented that her talks are insightful, interesting and understandable. No wonder she we invited again for a third appearance.



Dr. Adelė Bubnys.

Dr. Bubnys received her doctorate at Rockefeller University in 2019. That same year she joined the Tsai laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a postdoctoral associate. Upon completion of her postdoc research, she joined Arbor Biotechnologies in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Arbor Biotech enables curative outcomes for patients with genetic diseases.

Dr. Bubnys described the challenges faced by her team in developing genetic medicines using programmable DNA editors. Dr. Bubnys is a member of LCAS.

The second lecturer was Birtuė Šlėžas. She briefly introduced the audience to Artificial Intelligence and the most popular AI translation programs, evaluating them in terms of their capability to translate literary texts. She gave several examples of how the various AI programs translated selected excerpts from Marius Katiliškis' and Algirdas Landsbergis' writings. The results in some cases were not bad, but not inspiring. Literary texts, at least for the foreseeable future, will need professional human translators in order to express not just the literal meaning of the text, but also the literary nuances and cultural context.



Birutė Šležas.

The third lecturer was Dr. Andrius Valevičius. He is a member of the Philosophy Department at Sherbrouke University in Canada. Prof. Valevičius spoke about the philosophical legacy of Lev Karsavin. Karsavin taught at Vytautas Magnus University and University of Vilnius. He

published works in several languages, including Lithuanian. During the Soviet occupation he was exiled to Siberia, where he died.



Prof. Andrius Valevičius.

Dr. Valevičius explicated Karsavin's idea that history is an organic process and described his attempts to create a Christian worldview which integrated issues of personhood, God, knowledge, ethics and history.

LCAS organizes member meetings annually, inviting Lithuanian scientists to present their ideas and their work. That is a way of giving them a forum in which they can feel a part of a community which appreciates and values their work.

LCAS is also responsible for ALKA, which is the second largest Lithuanian archive outside of Lithuania. Please visit the LCAS website at www.lkma.org to learn more about its mission and its work.



ALKA.

Mirga Girniuvienė, LCAS President