

## LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science (LCAS) meeting took place on September 14 in Putnam, CT, on the beautiful grounds of the Immaculate Conception Convent.

Since its inception in 1922, LCAS has fostered the idea of a community of academicians connected by ties of nationality and religion. At the annual LCAS meeting members are invited to present their work in current areas of academic interest.

While past meetings have included talks on Mathematics, Biology, Marketing, Art History, etc., this year's program focused entirely on History and Political Science.

A husband and wife team from Georgia kicked off the academic program.



**Dr. Dovilė Budrytė** (photo by Dr. N. Girmiūtė).

Dr. Dovilė Budrytė spoke about partisan warfare and memory wars, especially the involvement of women in war as well as their work in shaping the nation's memory.

This was a very timely talk, as emotions are heating up in Vilnius over the memory of Gen. Jonas Noreika (Vėtra), who was both a heroic partisan and a Nazi

collaborator. Prof. Budrytė's lecture helped elucidate the origins of this memory war in Lithuania.

She earned her Ph.D. at Old Dominion University in 2000 and currently teaches Political Science at Georgia Gwinnett College.

Dr. Charles Perrin related the life of Jonas Šliūpas, an intellectual and political activist dedicated to two ideals – patriotism and socialism. Although a socialist, he rejected internationalism. He founded and edited several newspapers aimed at awakening Lithuanian self-identity in the United States. He helped found several Lithuanian organizations with the goal of uniting Lithuanians in the United States. However, his heated and divisive style served rather to fan the flames of political and ideological dissension. Nevertheless, he is considered to be one of the key figures in the Lithuanian national revival in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



**Dr. Charles Perrin**  
(photo by Dr. N. Girmiūtė).

Dr. Perrin earned his Ph.D. in History from Georgia State University in 2013 and lectures at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. For the 2017-2018 academic year he was a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas.



**Valdas Buožys** (photo by Dr. N. Girmiūtė).

Valdas Buožys focused on disagreements to be found in the telling of Lithuanian history during the time of Mindaugas. For example, historians disagree about the role of Mindaugas and Treniota in the Battle of Durbė. Some historians claim that the Samogitians single-handedly, led by a Samogitian lord, defeated the joint forces of the Teutonic Knights from Prussia and

Livonian Order from Livonia. Others argue that the Samogitian victory was made possible only by the support of King Mindaugas.

Some historians claim that Mindaugas was the only King of Lithuania – later rulers were mere Grand Dukes of Lithuania, as, being pagan, they never received a crown from the Pope. Others point out that, once a kingdom was recognized as such by the Pope, it remained a kingdom, and its rulers were kings, unless the Pope explicitly removed this designation, as happened in the case of Poland.

Buožys earned his Master's degree in History from Vilnius University in 1991 and currently serves as the vice-president in charge of archives on the Lithuanian-American Community Board.



**Onutė Traitor** (photo by Dr. N. Girmiūtė).

This summer Onutė Traitor interviewed various museum curators in Lithuania regarding the gifts they have received from the American Lithuanian Cultural Archive (ALKA). On the whole, the

curators reported that these gifts are seen as enriching the lives of Lithuanians living in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian National Museum received the 1939 World's Fair Lithuanian exhibit, including several statues, hope chests, posters, and wooden displays depicting economic statistics of independent Lithuania. These have been refurbished and put on permanent display.

The Lithuanian Institute of Literature and Folklore received the contents of Jonas Balys' workroom, including books, furniture, cassettes, notes, a typewriter, decorations, etc. This gift has enabled the Institute to expand its curriculum to include the songs and texts gathered by Jonas Balys in the United States.

The House of the Signatories Museum in Vilnius received a gold-colored quill pen given to President Antanas Smetona by his friends in Ukmergė. The pen is on permanent display together with a copy of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence of 1918 signed by, among others, Antanas Smetona.

The Historical Presidential Palace in Kaunas received the unique gold coin created for President Smetona on the occasion of his name day during the twentieth year of Lithuanian independence. This gift is also on permanent display for all Lithuanians to view.

Onutė Traitor serves as Secretary on the LCAS Board. She lectures on History at State University of New York, Oneonta, and is working on her Ph.D. in History at SUNY, Albany.

Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė, President of LCAS, asked the audience to applaud four new members of LCAS: Dr. Ramūnas Kondratas, curator of Vilnius University museums, Dr. Jonas Knašas, who earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from U. of Toronto in 1975, Dr. Dalia Juknelienė, who earned her DDM from Boston U. Goldman School of Dental Medicine in 2010, and Dr. Dainius Juknelis, who earned his MD at Kaunas Medical University in 1998 and an MS in Computer Science from Loyola U. in 2003.

After the academic program, guests toured the American Lithuanian Cultural Archive (ALKA), which is owned and managed by LCAS. ALKA comprises a museum, a library and an archive.



**Entrance to ALKA.**



**A tiny portion of the ALKA archives.**

The archive is invaluable to researchers, who visit ALKA to access first-hand information about historical people and events.

The museum is interesting to visitors who do not know about Lithuania. They get a deep-dive into Lithuanian history and culture and leave with a better understanding of this nation of 3 million people.



**Guests at the ALKA museum.**

The library is not a lending library, but more of an archive – it conserves books as a record of American Lithuanian culture. The collection of books printed during the early XX century is especially interesting, as it reflects the culture of Lithuanians in the U.S. during that period.



**Mirga Girniuvienė and volunteer Jack McGowan cataloging books in the ALKA library.**

Any Lithuanian with a Master's or Ph.D. can be a member of LCAS. If you are interested, please contact Onutė Traitor. Her e-mail address is [ann.traitor@oneonta.edu](mailto:ann.traitor@oneonta.edu). If you are interested in volunteering at the library, please contact Mirga Girniuvienė at [mgirius@hotmail.com](mailto:mgirius@hotmail.com). Please visit us at [www.lkma.org](http://www.lkma.org)

*Dr. Mirga Girniuvienė  
LCAS President*

**Photo Gallery of 2019 LCAS Meeting:**





