

Some twenty years ago I was a student at Vacation Studies and it has changed my life. Back then in the early nineties USSR has just collapsed, and my country, Lithuania, has just become independent. It was a time of great opportunity, but also of great uncertainty. My mother was very keen for me to go to the West, I guess partly, because she was unable to travel freely, when she was my age herself. She has written to a number of schools in England, which taught English as a foreign language, asking for a scholarship. I had the good fortune that one of the letters went to Vacation Studies. Mr Mucklejohn was intrigued. Sometimes I wonder why, maybe he was just curious what Lithuanians look like. In any case, I have become his project and that shaped my life.

I came to Vacation Studies three times with the scholarship of the Joerg Weise Association. I believe my English was at its best directly after the courses, and unfortunately it has been going downhill since then. Due to Mr Mucklejohn's efforts I was admitted to the Christ's Hospital School in Horsham, West Sussex to do my A-levels, which then led on to my studies of Mathematics at Cambridge. Thanks to Prof. Weise I was able to work during summers in Germany at Bayer AG to supplement my income.

Looking back at those twenty years, I would like to thank the people, especially Mr Mucklejohn and Prof. Weise, who invested their time, efforts and money in me.

Yours sincerely, Prof. Dr. Vytautas Paskunas