



# KEILA RELATIONS



# LITHUANIAN CHRISTIAN FUND COLLEGE

**The Estonian town Keila and its schools have been very active in finding possibilities to communicate with the students in the Baltic Sea region. The beginning of the relationship dates at 1980 when the possibilities to look around the world arose.**

The students have had projects of cooperation with schools in Linnanpello, Sundsvall, Morgangava, Nacka and Barsbuttel. They have also had relationships with the students in Denmark and the Netherlands. The projects concern different fields. One of these fields was culture where art exhibition, exchange of the dance group and festivals were arranged. Those projects of collaboration between schools merged also into personal contacts between people.

The education projects are very important as they are also connected with learning of foreign languages. In Keila, the students who learn German have possibility to practise their language skills in Barsbuttel, in Germany, living in German families. Regarding English speaking students they have close cooperation with students in the Netherlands. The benefit of this exchange is mutual, as both students have to use foreign language.

These exchanges between schools turned out to be very popular among students. One of the principles of the exchange is to get to know the history of the town and the country. Special excursions and sport events are organised as a part of the cooperation programme. The relations of Keila schools with the schools in different countries around the Baltic Sea region deserve each to be a separate story.

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**Lithuanian Christian Fund College (LCC) is a unique educational enterprise - the only Christian liberal arts college in the Baltic Sea region providing university-level academic programs.**

In addition, LCC is teaching English in hospitals, business, schools, offices, and Navy academy. Each year about 1000 persons enrol in some LCC program - about 375 in full-time liberal arts studies. The seven-year old college offers a highly popular major in business administration, English major, and an experimental program in Christian studies. Those who need to improve their English fluency before entering take one year course to practice speaking, listening, writing, note taking, and other academic skills.

In May 1998, during commencement ceremony, Dr. Leonidas Donskis, Professor of Philosophy at Klaipėda University said that LCC has become the place where liberal education, classical scholarship, intellectual freedom, moral commitment, and democratic experience intertwine. "You should be proud," he told the class of 1998, "of graduating from this college, the island of Western academic norms and intellectual values in Klaipėda and Lithuania." Over

seventy graduates have found excellent jobs in well-know companies and institutions. Several LCC alumni graduate American schools like Princeton, Regent College, Providence Seminary, and Eastern College.

This year the Klaipėda City Council wanted to upgrade its members' English skills, so it turned to Lithuania Christian Fund College (LCC). At the same time, Audra Skukauskaitė, came home, after earning her masters in literature at Fresno Pacific University. At Fresno, Audra had won the prestigious Dean's Award for academic excellence. She wrote about the Baltic's "silent roar," calling her home to "white dunes ... and pines on the hill," and "the rumbling, creaking, crawling" of Klaipėda's busy cranes. Her yearning was answered; in August she became the first graduate to join the LCC faculty.

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*"The rumbling cranes of Klaipėda"*