

Arete

Volume 6, Issue 1

www.ioapa.org

Autumn 2001

"I believe the world needs the Olympic movement now more than ever.

Together, we must take all that is good in the Olympics and use it to heal all that is wrong with the world."

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki
ATHENS 2004 President
28 September 2001

IOAPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Laurel Brassey Iversen, President
3421 Monte Vista Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106 USA
Tel. & Fax: +505-268-6409
E-mail: iversen@ioapa.org

Carlo Farrugia, Vice President
"Scorpio," Cali Street
Mosta MST09, MALTA
Tel: +356 945 3434 (mobile)
E-mail: carlo@waldonet.net.mt

Alistair Cameron, Secretary
C/-ESP The Ice Village
200 South 540 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
E-mail: oz.nomad@bigpond.net.au

Paul Baldacchino, Treasurer
259 Mitrovich Street
Pembroke STJ-14, MALTA
Tel: +356-375127
E-mail: paulbaldacchino@yahoo.com

Youla Pipilis, IOA Liaison
14-16 Dimitros Street
175 62 P. Faliro, Athens, GREECE
E-mail: ypimza@otenet.gr

Cyrille Buolongne, Webpage
91 Rue Didot
75014 Paris, FRANCE
E-mail: cboulon@club-internet.fr

Rusty Wilson, Editor
4092 Virginia Circle East
Columbus, OH 43213-2825 USA
Tel: +614-237-4075; Fax: +614-235-7464
E-mail: ruwilson@ix.netcom.com

2001 IOAPA Conference: The Best Ever!

By Carlo Farrugia (Malta)

The IOAPA conference has come and gone in a flash. We have all gone home to dive back into the normal routine. Those wonderful moments in Olympia are again part of our past. The seventh IOAPA working session was an excellent conference with 46 participants coming from different countries. Mr. Nikos Filaretos, President of the IOA and Dr. Kostas Georgiadis, Dean of the IOA, once again were very generous and helpful in giving us the Academy once again to be able to hold our working session.

Dr Kostas Georgiadis and Ms. Laurel Brassey Iversen, President of the IOAPA, made the welcome speeches to open this year's conference. For the first time this year the IOAPA Executive Board decided to invite a guest lecturer, Dr Jim Parry. His three interactive talks were extremely interesting and made the participants think very hard on the way forward for the IOAPA and on how the IOAPA could pool its resources to be used by the family of the Olympic Movement. Many of the participants gave various interesting presentations on various subjects in connection with the work of the IOAPA in their respective countries.

Workshops on different topics namely Athens 2004, Torch Relay, Olympic Library, Internet Website, and Country Representatives were held. Many interesting suggestions were put forward by these working groups. The Dean of the IOA, Dr. Georgiadis, also made a presentation about the educational programme in view of the Athens



2004 Olympics, which was very interesting and was very well received by the participants. Different proposals were put forward and discussed by the participants for any eventual changes in the bylaws. These were approved or rejected by a simple majority vote of the participants present at the session. The new IOAPA Executive Board was elected and some members from the previous Executive Board were reconfirmed while other new faces were elected thus giving the required new blood and continuity within the IOAPA Executive Board. I would also like to thank all those members that showed their interest to form part of the Executive Board and it is healthy to note that most of the posts within the Executive Board were very closely contested. I would also like to thank the outgoing members of the Executive Board for their contribution in these two years and for making part of a good team.

The participants present at the session came out with some good ideas and each member of the Executive Board has formed his or her own sub committee which will work on several different ideas to be finalised by the next conference in 2003. A proposal

for the creating of the Van Haute Fund was also approved. This fund will be used to help those participants from third world countries that would like to participate in the IOAPA conferences. This is another big step in the right direction and shows the willingness of the IOAPA to help its members to return to Olympia for the IOAPA working sessions notwithstanding the limited resources of the IOAPA.

As usual the sport, dancing and social evening activities were very well organised and also very well attended. I would like to personally thank all the participants for making this year's conference such a great success, especially Ms. Elizabeth Hanley and Ms. Silvia B. Dalotto, who for the second consecutive time formed part of the organising committee. I would also like to thank all the Executive Board members, for their help in making this year's conference such an easy going working session, with everything running so smoothly and precisely. A big thank you goes to Mr. Filaretos and Dr. Georgiadis and their staffs for helping us achieve our aims.

Thank you for your contribution and let us keep working for the IOAPA and for the Olympic Movement. I hope to see all of you again in 2003 together with those that could not make it this year. A big thank you to all. Well done.

Carlo Farrugia
Vice-President/ IOAPA Session Chair

President's Message from Laurel Brassey

The 7th IOAPA Conference Session in Ancient Olympia was a great success. We continue to enjoy a cooperative relationship with the IOA in part due to the re-election of Nikos Filaretos as IOA President. Many action plans were developed to help us grow and be better organized.

We have established the Hans Van Haute scholarship fund that will help us bring IOAPA members from Africa, Asia, and South America to the 2003 session. Anyone who would like to contribute to the fund please contact me, iversen@ioapa.org, Harald Regensburger hregensburger@safemed.at, or Claude Keimbou claudio.kemo@univ-orleans.fr. Already we have over \$1000 in the fund.

We have also solidified contacts with the Athens 2004 Organizing Committee, and we are

working towards participation in the torch relay and also volunteering during the Games.

This is an exciting time for us since the Games will be in Athens and we are hoping to have many opportunities to help the IOA and the Organizing Committee in any way we might be of service. Please check the website for new information at www.ioapa.org

Sincerely,

*Laurel Brassey
Iversen*



THE NEW IOAPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Left to Right): Rusty Wilson (USA) Newsletter Editor; Paul Baldacchino (MALTA) treasurer; Alistair Cameron (AUSTRALIA) Secretary; Cyrille Boulongne (FRANCE) Website Coordinator; Carlo Farrugia (MALTA) Vice President; Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) President; and Youla Pipilis (GREECE) IOA Liaison.

Keep on moving: The 41st General Session of the IOA

by Maria Betania Bracamonte – ARGENTINA

My very first meeting with the Olympic Movement was about a year ago. As I am not a high competition athlete, I supposed that Olympics were not available for me. I enjoyed a lot the Opening and Closing ceremonies for the Summer Games, and the football matches in which the Argentinian Football team was participating, but I had no idea about what was behind this very big “show”.

Between my university classes, I use and enjoy practising fencing a lot, so since 1999 have been also working at my Local Fencing Federation. I participated in the Argentinian Olympic Academy in 2000, and then I was elected by my NOC to represent Argentina in the 41st Young Participants Session of the International Olympic Academy, last June. And the dream began...

I arrived in Greece a few months ago, and for the first time in my life I lived between people from all over the world. During 15 days, we shared our bedrooms, our food, our experiences, our lives. We were living in a kind of Olympic Paradise, discussing, learning, teaching, making new friends. I think this was the most amazing experience in my life. You feel part of the world, and an important piece of this big puzzle. A lot of ideas were born during this session. A lot of programmes, of plans for the future. We were (I think we still are) able to move the world just with our feelings, and our hands.



But I was a little afraid. I was afraid that it would be like always. At a first time as a new group, the people feel strong enough to built up a big castle by their own. I've seen this before. I've participated in some meetings, and just after them, it's easy to feel that your blood is going to jump out from your heart, and the world is small, and life is easy, and all your friends feel the same enthusiasm as you do. But after some months, this “Flame Effect” is becoming more and more quiet... We can not see the burning hearts anymore... There are less words, less actions, less plans... And the blaze is just weakening, until the fire is over.

I decided to participate in the IOAPA's Reunion this year, just to intend to keep this new flame alive in my heart, and in the other person's hearts. As a very new participant (I was a participant in the IOA also in 2001) I was expectant, I was curious, I wanted to know, to learn, to live.

I was very happy to realize that the IOAPA can bring back people

who were in Olympia more than 10 years ago. That it doesn't matter what have they done with their lives, they were able to find some time (and some money) to come back and share with the others the same Olympic feelings. I found out that there's always a place, there is always time in your life for Olympism if you want, if you just want to.

This is the IOAPA, and the Flame is there.

I could “touch” it. It's like a big family, a group of people trying to help the others. We could laugh with the same jokes from some years ago, like the Rupendumpen. We could discuss with the same passion the problems that are around the Olympics. But the most important thing is that year after year, we can find there compromised people, who are really interested in promoting the Olympic Ideals, that are working from their simple place, making things day by day, to keep this flame burning.

I highlight the efforts that participants do to come every two years to the reunion. I highlight even more the day by day job that each one does in his/her place. I got new ideas for my country now. A very little step, one each time, one each day, is enough. Trees need time to grow up and offer shadow... I hope we will take care of our tree, we will keep our hearts burning... See you all in 2003!!!

12th IOC SESSION, MOSCOW, RUSSIA, JULY 12-17, 2001

by Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)

I had the great pleasure to be invited as a guest to the historic IOC Session in Moscow. I received the invitation just three days prior to my departure for Athens and the IOA and IOAPA sessions. Quickly I made all the arrangements to attend. Panos Vassilaras and Theodore Aggelis secured my visa from the Russian Embassy in Athens and I was on my way.

Of course, the Russians rolled out the red carpet for the IOC. Everything was first class. The meetings took place at the beautiful Mezhdunarodnaya hotel near the Moscow River. The Opening Ceremony took place at the Bolshoi Ballet and we were treated to a large portion of the ballet Giselle. Every evening there were receptions with music and delicious food. Everyday there was a cultural program for the spouses and guests of the IOC.

Most days I stayed in the hotel to observe the meetings. Those that I could not attend I could watch on television from my room. The bid presentations from the five candidate cities were fascinating. China's was exceptional. Everyone who was not an IOC member waited in an auditorium across the hall from the meeting room for the announcement. It was a supercharged atmosphere. The Chinese delegation erupted in joy and celebration. I was able to join in since my good friend, Jenny

Lang Ping (1984 Volleyball Gold Medallist) was there helping with the bid. Naturally, there was a huge party for everyone at the Chinese Embassy that evening.

A few days later the new President was elected. Again all of the non-IOC members waited in the beautiful Hall of Columns near the Kremlin. When the IOC members arrived and filed onto the stage everyone knew that the moment was close at hand. Mr. Samaranch announced the new IOC President, Mr. Jacques Rogge to the audience. This was the same place and exactly 21 years to the day after Juan Antonio Samaranch was elected. It was very nice and also quite an emotional time for the IOC staff members.

It was great to see all of the new athlete-members of the IOC and it seems that they are very active. Mr. Filaretos was talking about the IOA constantly in the meetings. I talked to many of the athlete members and also members of the Athlete's Commission. Many of them expressed their interest in the IOA. I was glad that at the least I was able to help promote the IOA and the IOAPA.

On the last day we were treated to a flight to St. Petersburg to visit the Hermitage Museum and Peterhof. It was a fantastic week, one that I will never forget.



LEFT: Laurel Brassey Iversen in the meeting hall of the Mezhdunarodnaya Hotel where the IOC Session was held

RIGHT: Mrs. and Mr. Nikos Filaretos, IOA President and IOC member in Greece, with Pal Schmidt, Olympian and IOC member in Hungary.

My experience as a volunteer at Sydney 's 2000 Olympic Games

By Dimitra Lykogianni (Greece)

It was at the end of 1998 when I made the decision to complete the volunteer's application form for Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. At the beginning I did it just like that, without believing that it could be possible that I could be part of this biggest sport event. But when some time later I received a booklet, and then more letters from SOCOG, I started to believe that the dream I didn't realize as an athlete could be possible now as a volunteer!

The summer of 2000 I finally received the formal invitation, and a couple of months later I was travelling to Sydney. This was to be, for me, a once-in-a-life time experience working as part of a special team made up of volunteers, contractors/partners and paid staff, and it was a really worthwhile experience.

When I arrived, from the first moment at the airport, I felt the whole spirit of the Olympic Games. Volunteers were there to help me, explain everything and carry me to my hotel. The next days were full of interesting, and a lot of, work, but most of all a lot of pleasant times and unforgettable memories.

After the accreditation we took our uniforms and then it was time for our training. Our training lasted about 4-5 days and was made up of three parts: the orientation training, the venue training and the job specific training. Everything was full of a festive spirit that made the whole activities, even the tiring ones, an easy task.



The Opening Ceremony was here. The Olympic Stadium was full of people inside and out, everybody was waiting to see the torch, to feel the flame and the Olympic Spirit. The volunteers were there to help the people, to keep order and to take part in the celebration. It was like the whole world was celebrating together for the same reason. It was a moment that I will never forget.

The following days were full of emotions. My job was to be a spectator services host volunteer, so I had to be in contact with people and athletes all the time, inside and outside of the sport halls. People from different countries and cultures were there and I had to be with them to help them and participate in their delight. Most of the times I was exhausted but I never wanted to stop, this was as I said above, a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

The seventeen days passed very quickly. I made a lot of friends, I gained many experi-

ences and I had great time. I will always remember the surprise of the Australian volunteers when they heard that I had come from Greece just to be a volunteer and part of the Olympics. They congratulated me and thanked me for that. I will always remember the stress before every shift, the desire to be everything perfect. I will always remember the athletes' fights, the shouts of the crowd and their concern. I will never forget the city of Sydney and the inestimable experiences it gave me.

Then followed the Closing Ceremony and the biggest sport event was over. Another page was written in the history of the Olympic Games and I was there. During my trip back to Greece I was carrying with me so many valuable things. I had seen in practice the Olympic Movement, the Olympic Ideals, the Olympic Spirit and I had shared all these with so many different people. I felt stronger, full of experiences and ready to take part again in such a special and unique sport event.

Athens is waiting for me, it is waiting for us and it's so worthwhile to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience! I hope that I'll see you all in 2004 to share together these great and unforgettable moments that only the Olympic Games can present.

Yours in Olympism
Dimitra Lykogianni

The 2001 IOAPA Conference in Pictures

Photos by Bjarni Thormundsson, ICELAND



IOAPA News From Denmark

by Lone Jakobsen (Denmark)

The Danish Olympic Academy has donated 7.000 Danish Kroner for a meeting in October. I will try to organize this meeting for past IOA participants. The main discussion topic to will be how the Danish Olympic Academy and the IOAPA can cooperate in the future in Denmark. We want to give young people the opportunity to tell us (the DOA), their ideas and wishes. We also will discuss how and where can they contribute and use their experience from the stay in Olympia. Everyone who was asked, has responded positively, that shows that the spirit is still alive!

The Danish Olympic Academy organized a Scandinavian Olympic Academy meeting in Kopenhagen in March 2001.

The countries that participated were: Finland, Sweden, Iceland (Ingolfur Haneson from the IOAPA), Norway and Denmark (Lone Jakobsen from the IOAPA). The themes discussed were: Status from each country; the structure of the NOA's; how to run the Olympic sessions; the duration of the session; how to select participants to the IOA sessions; how to follow-up on the IOA participants; how can the academies cooperate with the IOAPA; educational programmes; the use of the websites – to mention just a few of the topics.

We also discussed if we could cooperate in some other fields. There were many ideas, but we decided to wait another year. The ideas were: a common Scandinavian session in Lillehammer or at the IOA; Norlympic Dayrun; cooperate on educational programmes; an Scandinavian NOA meeting every year or two.

Each country agreed that it is very important to share ideas and experiences and to find a way of "using" the IOAPA and past IOA participants.

We also agreed that Denmark will take the initiative to host a new meeting 2002.

I am sure that it is not the last time that we will have this kind of meeting. My hope is, that we can meet with the young people in a year or two.



Project: "Danish Seniors to Greece".

From the 3rd – 29th of September I will go to Greece to research a project, called: "Danish Seniors to Greece".

I have been working with seniors and sports for some years, and got the idea last year to try to organize a trip for Danish seniors (+ 55), who are interested in sports in Denmark. The group will be about 30 seniors and the organizing group of 4 people.

I received a grant from the Danish Institute in Athens for a one month stay, including room and board.

The purpose of this visit is to lay the groundwork for a trip by Danish seniors next year to Greece. The Seniors will learn about Greek culture, politics, way of living, activities, senior-sports etc. There will be a sightseeing to historical sights and hopefully a visit to the IOA. I will try to establish contacts in Athens. The IOA and IOAPA people have already offered her their help!!! A return visit of Greek seniors to Denmark will occur in 2003 – and hopefully some Danish seniors will have the opportunity to visit Athens and the Olympic Games in

2004!

If you are interested in hearing more about this project – or others – please don't hesitate to contact Lone ludo@post4.tele.dk

Ernst Almhoffer & Austria wins first World Championship in Fist-Ball

AKITA, JAPAN - IOAPA member from Austria, and our resident "Fist-ball" expert, Earnst Almhoffer helped lead Austria to it's first world championship in the sport.

The competition was held at the Sixth World Games in Akita, Japan.

The World Games are a "mini Olympic Games" comprised of non-Olympic sports. Some of the events contested are bodybuilding, dance sport, karate, bowling, roller skating, water skiing, power lifting, orienteering, sports acrobatics and, of course, fistball.

In the past Austria took the silver and bronze medal, but never won a world championship in the sport.

During the preliminary round Austria defeated perennial power Germany 2-1 for the first time in 17-years. After a 0-2 loss to Brazil in the second round Austria went on to victories over Japan (2-0) and Switzerland (2-0), setting up a re-match with the Brazilians in the championship game. In a close battle Austria emerged victorious 3-2.



Austria celebrates after defeating Brazil for the championship. Ernst Almhoffer is second from right, second row.

Arete

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS' ASSOCIATION

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
20 December 2001

Send all submissions, comments and or
address changes to:

Rusty Wilson, Editor
4092 Virginia Circle East
Columbus, OH 43213-2825
USA
Tel: +614-237-4075
Fax: +614-235-7464
E-mail: ruwilson@ix.netcom.com

IOAPA APPLICATION FORM: For a two year membership
please send the following information, along with a check for \$30.00 (US), or the
equivalent in your currency, made out to the **IOAPA** to:

Paul Baldacchino, IOAPA Treasurer
259 Mitrovich Street
Pembroke STJ-14, MALTA
E-mail: pauldacchino@yahoo.com
(please print or type all information clearly)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

IOA SESSION(S) ATTENDED: _____

**(you MUST have attended an IOA Session to join the IOAPA and
this information MUST be supplied!!!!)**

IOAPA Conferences Attended: _____

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!!!!!!!!!!!

On the mailing address label is a number after your name. This number is the year your IOAPA membership expires. If you do not renew by the end of that year you will be dropped from the IOAPA membership roster and will not receive the newsletter or be allowed to attend the IOAPA Conference. Those with "life memberships" will have (L) after their names and do not have to renew their memberships. For example, *if your number is (01) your membership ends on December 31, 2001*— if you do not renew your membership this will be your last issue of *Arete* and you will not be eligible for future IOAPA conferences and activities. In order to renew, immediately send a check or money order, made out to the **IOAPA**, for \$30 (US), or the equivalent in your currency, for a two year membership to:

Paul Baldacchino, IOAPA Treasurer
259 Mitrovich Street
Pembroke STJ-14, MALTA
Tel: +356-248411; E-mail: pauldacchino@yahoo.com

We hope you choose to remain a member of the IOAPA and renew your membership!