

# Arete

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Spring 2004

*Hope is a  
waking dream  
Aristotle*

## The Lighting Ceremony in Olympia Phillip Barker (GBR)

### IOAPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Laurel Brassey Iversen, President  
2665 Puuholo Rd.  
Koloa, Kauai, HI 96756 USA  
Email: [iversen@ioapa.org](mailto:iversen@ioapa.org)

Carlo Farrugia, Vice President  
Mosta PO Box 25  
Mosta, MALTA  
E-mail: [carlo@ioapa.org](mailto:carlo@ioapa.org)

Jeremy Cross, Secretary  
13 Chestnut Street  
Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3BE, U. KINGDOM  
E-mail: [jeremy@ioapa.org](mailto:jeremy@ioapa.org)

Paul Baldacchino, Treasurer  
259 Mitrovich Street  
Pembroke STJ-14, MALTA  
E-mail: [pablo@ioapa.org](mailto:pablo@ioapa.org)

Cesar R. Torres, Editor  
41 Union Street  
Batavia, NY 14020 USA  
E-mail: [crtorres@ioapa.org](mailto:crtorres@ioapa.org)

Héctor Argüelles, Website Officer  
Calle San Melchor 30/5 A  
Oviedo, 33009 SPAIN  
E-mail: [hector@ioapa.org](mailto:hector@ioapa.org)

Penelope Amelidou, IOA Liaison  
114 Lavriou Street  
142 35 Nea Ionia GREECE  
E-mail: [penelope@ioapa.com](mailto:penelope@ioapa.com)

Lone Jakobsen, Country Representative Officer  
Barthsgade 10, 2tv, 8200 Aarhus N, DENMARK  
E-mail: [lone@ioapa.org](mailto:lone@ioapa.org)

Igor Lanzoni, Marketing Officer  
Via Pecoraro 720, 16011 Arenzano, ITALY  
E-mail: [ilanzoni@ioapa.org](mailto:ilanzoni@ioapa.org)

Never before has the little road to the IOA been so heavily guarded. The police and army mounted an unprecedented security operation and were rewarded with a flawless ceremony as the Flame began its journey from Ancient Olympia to Athens at the end of March. Amongst the crowds, Dr. Kostas Georgiadis dean of the IOA and Dr. Igor Lanzoni, an IOAPA member, saw the first torch lit. If you are looking for omens,



shortly before, a cloud covered the sun in Ancient Olympia. At the exact moment the priestess leant towards the parabolic bowl, the cloud moved away and the sun cast its light on the scene once more.

For the first time the ceremony was accompanied by music. A specially written composition made use of the Oboe, Lyre, and Tambour. It set the mood for the dance sequence and leant the occasion an ethereal quality.

As the music came to a climax, the High Priestess appeared atop the hill above the main stadium bearing that simple bowl containing the flame, flickering in the wind. It was a moment of supreme theatre. Javelin thrower Kostas Gatsioudis stepped forward to receive blessing, an olive branch, and, of course, the flame itself. Swimmer Alex Popov, Pole Vaulter Sergei Bubka, 1500m runner Kip Keino, and hurdler Nawal El Moutawakel were amongst the noted Olympic champions to bear the torch as it toured Greece before coming to rest in the Panathanaic Stadium. In June it begins a world wide journey in Australia visiting all previous host cities and many more besides.

The simple ceremony in Olympia was over all too quickly, but carried out once more with a combination of precision and incomparable beauty.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)



Dear friends,

It seems that the last few months have been rather quiet but I assure you that many of our members have been quite busy preparing for this year's IOA sessions that are taking place already. There has been a lot of work on the web site, which includes a new chat room. The country representatives have been gather information from a questionnaire. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Session took place, and we are organizing a reunion for all past IOA participants, lecturers and staff, which will take place during the Olympic Games in Athens.

We are fortunate to be able to use the Athens Tennis Center free of charge. This will be the site of the VISA Olympian's Reunion Center and it is very close to Syntagma Square. It is a beautiful site and we hope that all of you whom are planning to be in Athens for the Games will come and see your old friends again. See the information enclosed in this edition of Arete. Please send an email to me if you plan to be in Athens and let me know how to contact you.

Again this year, many of our members will serve as Discussion Group Coordinators at the Young Participant's Session. They are: Penelope Amelidou, Laurel Brassey Iversen, Ian Brittain, Jorg Brokamp, Kishani Jayasinghe, Andri Iacovidou, Naghme Kariminezhad, Carlos Manzur, Jan Paterson, Youla Pipilis, Keith Sambo, Yogo Suzuki, Shamala Subramaniam, Panos Vassilaras, Elli Vassilaras, Eli Wolff, Claude Kemo Keimbou, Catherine Monnin, Thierry Ntwali. I believe only five of this year's group are not our members, but we will fix that!

Also, our newsletter editor, Dr. Cesar Torres, who was a coordinator for many years, has been invited to lecture as well as Dr. Jim Parry. Elizabeth Hanley has been invited as a guest. It promises to be a great session. We hope some of you will join the On-line Discussion Group. Jeremy Cross (IOAPA Sec.) and Hector Arguelles (IOAPA Website Officer) have been selected to attend the Post Graduate Seminar. Congratulations to everyone!

I hope that each of you will be able to contribute in some way this Olympic Year to the development and success of the Olympic Movement. Simply organize a group of children to watch the Olympics with you on television and explain some of the philosophy and history to them. It is a great opportunity not to be missed.

I hope to see you in Athens!

In Olympism,

*Laurel Brassey Iversen*

## Website News Héctor Argüelles (ESP)



The main news from the internet area is the recently launched IOAPA mailgroup. Please make sure that we have your updated e-mail address. Below is a list of FAQ regarding this new IOAPA service.

### How does the mailgroup work?

Every member interested in sharing information with the IOAPA family is invited to send an e-mail to [info@ioapa.org](mailto:info@ioapa.org). If the content of the e-mail is suitable, it will be forwarded to the whole mailgroup. Therefore, it is a moderated mailgroup.

### What are suitable contents?

- \* General Olympic information: Conferences, publications, events, projects, etc.
- \* Personal Olympic information: Involvement with Olympic Games, positions carried out at any related to the Olympic movement, etc.
- \* Files can be attached to the messages, but please keep them small. An upper limit of 400 Kb is recommended.

### How do I subscribe and unsubscribe?

The IOAPA mailgroup is a service that the association offers to its members. Every IOAPA member in good standing is automatically subscribed to it. If anyone decides to unsubscribe, simply send a blank message to [info@ioapa.org](mailto:info@ioapa.org) with the subject "unsubscribe". If someone has unsubscribed and wants to rejoin the mailgroup, send a blank message to [info@ioapa.org](mailto:info@ioapa.org) with the subject "subscribe".

All members are from now on encouraged to use this service and share all their Olympic news and information with all of us.

Also remember that you can visit our website at [www.ioapa.org](http://www.ioapa.org) which access directly to our section at [www.ioa-sessions.org](http://www.ioa-sessions.org)

Should you have any comments, questions, etc. please don't hesitate to contact me at the address below.

All the best,

*Héctor Argüelles* - [hector@ioapa.org](mailto:hector@ioapa.org)

# An Olympic Change

## Silvia Dalotto (ARG)

Dear friends,

I was thinking of writing a "traditional" article for *Arete* to share with you some of my latest news but I finally decided to write a letter to my Olympic friends. Around three years ago I was asked by the president of my NOC, Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, to move to Buenos Aires and start working with him at the NOC. At that moment of my life I had other plans for my future and I declined the offer. However, I kept involved with the Argentine Olympic Academy and attended its session as both coordinator and lecturer. Living 600 km from Buenos Aires it was difficult for me to participate in so many activities sponsored by the Argentine Olympic Committee but I did my best, and among other things, I organize seminars and workshops in my province.

On November 13, 2003 I was invited to the opening ceremony of the Argentine Olympic Museum. Right after the ceremony Mr. Rodriguez told me he wanted to have an appointment with me. Life, and the president of my NOC, gave me a second chance. He proposed me to join the NOC and in ten minutes I not only accepted it but also arranged every detail! I went back to my native Parana and finalized the academic year. As many of you know, I am a mathematics teacher. A few weeks later, on December 4, the day of my birthday, I took part of the NOC annual social gala. By that time more people from the NOC knew that I was not "just" invited but "especiallly" invited since I would join the NOC in matter of days. My last meeting with Mr. Rodriguez was on December 17 when we agreed the date I would start working. Suddenly, I realized that my dream to work for my NOC has became true. Once in Parana I only had few days left to arrange everything and prepare myself for a big change in my life. From living with my parents to move alone, from a town of 250.000 people to a city of 5 millions, from teaching mathematics to the Argentine Olympic Committee. The end of 2003 was very hectic but the new year started and with it came . . . a new life!

On January 5 I went to Buenos Aires and rented a flat two days after. Finally, on January 19 I walked through the doors of the NOC as an employee for the first time. Since then so many good things have happened to me. I am plenty of work to do but I love it! I am in charge of the library. Educational and sport institutions come to visit the Museum every Wednesday and the rest of the days are open to the general public. We have published a pamphlet in English and Spanish for all those who visit us. I am also the secretary of the Art and Culture Commission. In that capacity I send sculptures and paintings at every international contest being held and organize events at the national level. Since I became the National Director of Seminars, I am currently organizing four seminars in sport administration in four Argentine provinces that has never received NOC's services: Jujuy (May), Formosa (July), Misiones (September) and Neuquen (November). I will also lecture in some of them. This year I will also organize four Olympic Solidarity technical seminars. The seminars will be on: boxing, equestrian, triathlon, and table tennis. Finally, I am also the administrative secretary of the Argentine Olympic Academy. What I like the most are the seminars and courses sponsored by Olympic Solidarity and the Pan-American Sport Organization. Argentina will organize three this year:

- The Second Pan-American Olympic Academies Seminar

(Continued on page 8)

# Danish National Olympic Session

## Kell Larsen (DEN)



Once upon a time . . . this is the beginning of every fairytale written by the Danish writer H.C. Andersen. However, in the tale that I am about to tell you “once upon a time” was actually in late November 2003.

One weekend in the end of November, the Danish NOA held its annual session. The international elements at this year’s session were professor Jim Parry from Leeds in England as well as a Swedish participant from the 2003 IOA youth session.

The Danish participants were Olympic athletes (both from the Special Olympics, the Paralympics, the Olympic Games and the Youth Games 2003 in Paris), the Danish honorary member of the IOC Niels Holst-Sørensen, former participants at the previous IOA sessions (both youth, postgraduate and the IOAPA), teachers, students, academy-members and others interested in olympism.

The theme of this year was “The Olympic Diversity”. With this theme, we wanted to show many different approaches to the Olympic theme. Each sharing their own unique and beautiful stories, the many speakers gave an amazing contribution to the Olympic mosaic, which the session exposed in all its beauty. It was a very successful session that will be followed by sessions held at various sports schools in Denmark over the next four years.



### Denmark will have her own branch of the IOAPA

Together with the Danish NOA session, a group of former Danish participants at the IOA got together. As a result of this meeting, it has been decided to create a Danish branch of the IOAPA.

Anyone who has ever met a Dane while visiting the facilities of IOA in Olympia, will probably agree that

these are full of ideas, visions and goals and since the activities of the Danish NOA consist merely of the holding of the annual session and of sending Danes to the IOA sessions, a Danish IOAPA offering many more projects and initiatives is being prepared. For the benefit of all, the former Danish IOA participants will now have their

own forum where ideas involving the Olympic issues can be born, tested and spread.

And thus, this tale has had a very happy ending! A successful Danish session about the diversity of the Olympic movement as well as a Danish branch of the IOAPA where many good ideas can be born and grow.

*Kell Larsen*

Translation: Line Roeber-Christiansen

# The II Winter Session Axel Bammer (AUT)

**Axel Bammer** outstandingly organized the II Winter Session in his native Austria. The event was held from January 4-11, 2004 in **Niederöblarn, Region of Styria**. Most of the activities were held at the **Niederöblarn hotel and sportsclub** run by "Sportunion", one of the three austrian sports federations. The session was attended by 20 participants from 10 different countries. Below is a "summary" of the event in a snapshot format. **Congratulations Alex, keep up the excellent work!**



# Athens 2004 IOA Reunion sponsored by IOAPA

IOAPA is very pleased to announced that the IOA Reunion sponsored by IOAPA will be hosted on Sunday, August 22, 2004 at the Athens Tennis Club, which will house the VISA Olympians Reunion Center. The reception will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Athens Tennis Club is located in downtown Athens in a historical area close to the National Gardens. If you are planning to attend the 2004 Olympic Games do not miss this chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Everyone is invited! Again:

What?	<b>IOA Reunion sponsored by IOAPA</b>
When?	<b>Sunday, August 22, 2004 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.</b>
Where?	<b>Athens Tennis Club Vasilisis Olgas 2, Athens</b>



## How can I get to the Athens Tennis Club (ATC)?

The ATC venue is easily accessible by public transport and taxi. Public buses stop very close to the ATC on a regular basis, and the new tram system will be ready for the Olympic Games, making a stop right outside the ATC. The "Syntagma" metro station is also within walking distance. The ATC venue is easily accessible by public transport and taxi. Public buses stop very close to the ATC on a regular basis, and the new tram system will be ready for the Olympic Games, making a stop right outside the ATC. The "Syntagma" metro station is also within walking distance.

## The Athens Tennis Club. A Storied Olympic Tradition

The Athens Tennis Club was established in 1895 and continues to function today promoting sport. The ATC has affirmed its place in Olympic history, for it was affiliated with the Olympic Games on two previous occasions

- At the inaugural Olympic Games in 1896, as the host to the semi- finals and finals of the tennis competition
- In 1906, during the interim Olympic Summer Games (these Games are not officially recognized by the IOC, but are still part of Olympic history) the ATC hosted the entire tennis competition.

## What Have They Been Doing? News from IOAPA Members

**Alastair Cameron** (AUS) has recently joined the widely acclaimed Cirque du Soleil. He is involved with its show "Saltimbanco". Alastair will be on tour in Italy (Milan - May/June), Spain (Gijon - June/July), Germany (Frankfurt - August/September), Italy (Rome - Oct/Nov) and France (Lille - Nov/Dec) for the remainder of the year. If you are around and want to contact Alastair send him an e-mail to [Alastair@globalnomad.com.au](mailto:Alastair@globalnomad.com.au)

**Holger Preuss** (GER), Professor of Sport Economics and Sport Management, Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz, Germany and member of the Research Team Olympia is about to publish a book "The Economics of Staging the Olympics. A Comparison of the Games 1972–2008."

Academics and researchers of sports economics, international economics, international business and competition will all find this fascinating book of great value. The rigorous and authoritative analysis ensures valuable information will be available for future bid cities, and in a wider context, any city planning to bid for a major sporting event. It will also appeal to those interested in the broader context of the Olympic Games and concerned by their commercialization and gigantism. Orders can be placed at Marston Book Services Limited, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX 14 4YN, UK. Tel: + 44 1235 465500 Fax: + 44 1235 465555. Email: [direct.order@marston.co.uk](mailto:direct.order@marston.co.uk) Web: [www.marston.co.uk](http://www.marston.co.uk)

**Norbert Müller** (GER), Professor of Sport Sociology, Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz, Germany and member of the Research Team Olympia has informed us that all IOA lectures given at the International Session For Young Participants are available in the webpage of his university. The period covered is 1961-2003. The material can be accessed at [www.sport.uni-mainz.de/Olympia](http://www.sport.uni-mainz.de/Olympia) Norbert also informed us that he started this project in 1973 when he was writing his PhD dissertation. Since then he has completed an update of the database every four years. In some cases he was assisted by German IOA participants and during the last six years **Julia Gerling** (2003 IOA postgraduate) collaborated with him. Anyone doing Olympic related research can greatly benefit from this site, which contains an index of lecturers and key words.

**Keep in touch and send us your news and updates!**

## IOAPA Members Get Ready For Athens 2004

**Eli A. Wolff** (USA) has been recently selected to the United States Paralympic Soccer Team that will compete in the 2004 Athens Games. Congratulations and good luck!

**Ingolfur Hannesson** (ISL) will work as venue liaison for the European Broadcasting Union during the upcoming Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Those who wish to contact Ingolfur might do so at +41 79 64 707 38 or at [hannesson@eurovision.net](mailto:hannesson@eurovision.net)

**Stephane Delisle** (CAN) will be in Athens as a member of the Canadian Mission Staff. He can be reached at [stephane\\_delisle@shaw.ca](mailto:stephane_delisle@shaw.ca)

If you are working as a volunteer during the games please contact **Laurel Brassey-Iversen** (USA) at [iversen@ioapa.org](mailto:iversen@ioapa.org)

We know that many IOAPA members will be in Athens working in different capacities or simply enjoying what will be a great celebration. Remember that you have the chance to meet old friends and make new ones during the Athens 2004 IOA Reunion sponsored by IOAPA

*(Continued from page 3)*

- The Continental Tennis Seminar
- The Continental Swimming Seminar

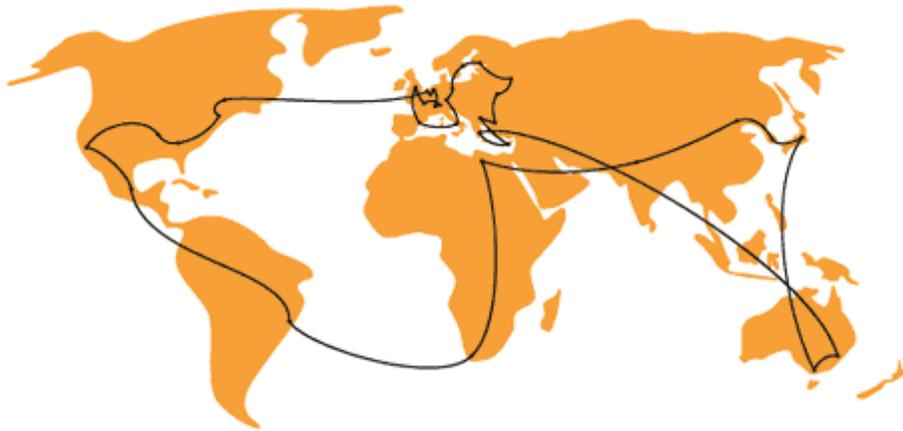
The Second Pan-American Olympic Academies Seminar was held April 12-16 in Buenos Aires. Thirty four of the 42 PASO's NOCs were represented. The main lecturer was Dr. Conrado Durantez (Spain). Nine other Argentine lecturers, including myself, were also part of the program. Organizing, coordinating, and lecturing was very stressing! But I enjoyed it very much. We combined the conferences with group discussions and social events. People left Buenos Aires between April the 16- 17. But I do not have time to rest or stop. From May 2-11 the Continental Tennis Seminar will be held in Buenos Aires and I am working hard for that next challenge.

I just wanted to let you know about my new job. If there is anything in which I can help you, please let me know and I will try the best I can. By the way, I have sent our handbook to the representative of Barbados, who attended the Second Pan-American Olympic Academies Seminar and is trying to create a NOA in her country. I hope Olympism will give us the chance to meet again in Olympia or somewhere else around the globe.

In friendship,

**Silvia Dalotto**

# Did you know?



That the Olympic flame began its journey from Olympia on March 25 and, having traveled across the globe, will return to the Athens Olympic Stadium on August 13, where it will signal the beginning of the great celebration of the 2004 Olympic Games.



That at the Olympic Games in Athens 2004 there will be seven events in men's freestyle wrestling. For the first time ever, women will participate in four freestyle wrestling events. There will be a maximum of 344 athletes participating in the sport.