

Arete

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*Everything has its
beauty but not every-
one sees it.
Confucius*

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The 44th IOA Session for Young Participants Naghmeh Kariminezhad (IRI)



Anybody who gets the chance to experience the International Olympic Academy's Session for Young Participants will leave his heart in the IOA forever as did Baron Pierre de Coubertin. That is "the magic of the Olympic Spirit".

The 44th IOA Session for Young Participants was organized in Ancient Olympia while Greece was waiting to host the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in August followed by the Paralympic Games in September. All of Greece was involved in the Olympic preparations in order to welcome the Games back home and to be a good host for the event. It was easy to feel the different and special atmosphere!

In the Opening Ceremony, which was held at the Hill of the Pnyx, we had the pleasure of having some important officials including Mr. Costis Stephanopoulos, Esteemed President of Greece, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Honorary President of the IOC, Dr. Jacque Rogge, President of the IOC, Ms. Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, President of ATHOC, Mr. Dimitris Diathessopoulos, Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, and Dr. Nikos Filaretos, President of the International Olympic Academy.

This year I had the pleasure to serve the IOA as an English-speaking discussion group coordinator for the second time and to share my experiences in the Olympic Movement with new participants. This year the IOA hosted ten lecturers, nine guests, 22 discussion group coordinators and 143 participants representing 79 countries from all conti-

nents. The special topic of the Session was "Olympic Games: Cultural and Ethical Parameters," which was well covered by the invited lecturers and thoroughly discussed in discussion groups. The invited lecturers as well as the subject they presented were as follows: Dr. Nikos Filaretos, "Introduction to Olympism through the works of the International Olympic Academy;" Mr. Philip Craven, "The social and ethical parameters of the Paralympic Games;" Mrs. Gianna Despotopoulou, "The social and ethical parameters of the World Games of the Special Olympics;" Dr. Julio Cesar Maglione, "Olympic Games: Cultural and ethical parameters;" Prof. Jim Parry, "Olympism and its ethic: the ethical dimensions of the Olympic Movement;" Mr. Yannis Spanoudakis, "The cultural and ethical dimension of volunteerism in the Olympic Games of Athens 2004;" Ambassador Stravros Lambrinidis, "The importance of the Olympic Truce within the International Community;" Dr. Cesar Torres, "Ethics and Olympic Games;" Prof. Kostas Kartalis, "The various effects of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on the city and the organizing country". Discussion of the subjects continued in the groups and the suggestions offered by the participants were consolidated in order to be forwarded to the International Olympic Committee.

In addition to the invited lecturers, we had several interesting papers on Olympic experiences given by Mr. Filbert Bayi, Olympic silver medalist in 3.000 m. steeplechase, Moscow 1980; Ms. Stephanie Cook, Olympic gold medalist in Modern Pentathlon, Syd-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)



Many of us have just returned from Athens and the incredible experience of the Olympic Games. There were so many IOAPA members in Athens in various capacities and fortunately we did get to see each other. Seeing old friends was a great highlight of this special time since it was in Greece at the IOA where many of us met.

It was indeed wonderful to see the competitions and take part in the greatest festival of sport. For me it was especially gratifying to watch the faces of the athletes and understand their emotions; to remember the pride of representing one's self and one's country, the sacrifice and dedication to reach the highest level and the joy of competing.

This was the eighth Olympic Games I have attended as athlete, administrator or spectator. Competitor is by far my favorite role, but I like the spectator role very much as I am now way too old to run and jump. When the youth of the world gathers again in four years in Beijing, I plan to be there and I hope many of you will join me in celebrating the peace and harmony of the Olympic Games. We have a lot of work to do in the next four years and hopefully, the IOAPA can have a greater presence in Beijing 2008.

This coming year, there will be an IOAPA conference and we are awaiting word from the IOA for the dates. We will inform you as soon as we know.

Using the recent Athens 2004 Olympic Games as inspiration and motivation, I hope that we can complete our projects and develop new ones. I wish all of you success in your countries as we work to spread Olympism. I would like to end this message by saying Congratulations to Athens and to Greece and especially to all of our Greek friends who have worked so many years to see this dream become reality. It was perfect!

In Olympism,

Laurel Brassey Iversen

A Note From the Editor

Cesar R. Torres (ARG)



I trust this issue of our newsletter finds you very well and waiting for the excitement of the Paralympic Games to start in few days. We know that many IOAPA members were involved in the Olympic Games in different capacities and many others will also be involved in the Paralympic Games.

Because of the many capacities in which IOAPA members contributed and lived the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we thought it would be important to devote the next issue of *Arete* (Winter 2005) to our member's involvement in Athens. Thus, we are inviting all of you to submit brief articles about your experience with either the 2004 Olympic or Paralympic Games. Submissions should be sent to the editor at crtorres@ioapa.org no later than December 20.

We believe that the Winter 2005 issue of *Arete* will be an exciting and enriching one. We will be waiting for your submissions!

Sincerely,

Cesar R. Torres

*Water falls slowly from above,
Caressing each petal and leaf it touches --*

*Water crashes to the ground from thunder-
clouds and an angry sky,
Crushing each petal and leaf it touches --*

*Water laps gently at the shore on the beach,
Nourishing each grain of sand it touches --*

*Water drips slowly from the athlete,
Moving quickly, moving always in the Greek
sun*

Betz Hanley

*This poem was written during this year's IOA Main
Session poetry and literature workshop*

“Olympism in the Classroom.” A Project Betting on Positive Change

Beatriz Hambeck (URU)

“What now?” After having taken part in an International Olympic Academy session, “What can I do to encourage and promote the Olympic ideals here in my country?” I have asked myself those questions since August 1999, when I returned from Olympia. I wanted to do something. I felt so much positive energy that I thought I could change the world.

During my childhood and throughout most of my youth I spent many hours each day practicing figure roller skating along with many other high performance athletes. But I never approached sports from the angle of one inspired



Left: Beatriz Hambeck carrying on “Olympism in the Classroom” in an Uruguayan primary school. *Right:* Uruguayan children are totally absorbed by Beatriz’s presentation.

in Coubertin’s ideals. I wasn’t only concerned with winning a medal or representing my country in international competition but until then I had ignored the concept of education through sport and how sports can transmit principles of brotherhood, tolerance, and world peace. Olympia made me get interested in this new life philosophy: Olympism. Fortunately, I was not the only person in Uruguay to be thinking along these lines.

During 2000, the Uruguayan Olympic Academy made it possible for ten former participants of the IOA to get in touch with one another. We held a few meetings in which we exchanged opinions and experiences and pondered ways to share what we had learned in Olympia. We decided to focus on the children, and the concept of “Olympism in the Classroom” was born.

The project was introduced to the National Olympic Academy members and with their help we polished it in form and content. The Academy contacted the National Authorities from public and private schools and by the end of 2003 we made pilot presentations in two schools with much success. We were greatly satisfied that our presentation had the impact we desired, as witnessed by the smiles on the children’s faces.

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Renewing an Olympic Friendship at the 12th Postgraduate Session – June 2004

Jeremy Cross (GBR) - Héctor Argüelles (ESP)



Thirty seven students and 17 professors from 30 countries and 5 continents participating in 1 month of lectures on Olympic history, sociology, management and philosophy, visits to ancient sites, and sports, cultural and social activities. But—as you all know having visited Olympia before in some capacity—the basic facts can never describe the experience of being at any IOA session. So what was our experience like this time?

From a personal point of view, the session was another opportunity to renew our friendship. We were roommates not only at the Main Session in 2002 but also at both the 1st Winter Session in Salzburg and the IOAPA Session in 2003. So, over frappés at the dining room bar, we reminisced on these great times and toasted our absent friends.

Academically, we were treated to a host of international professors, including our very own IOAPA member Jim Parry (GBR). An example of a particularly memorable lecture was from Prof. Marc Maes (BEL). He argued that in order to defend the Olympic Movement from the modern threats of

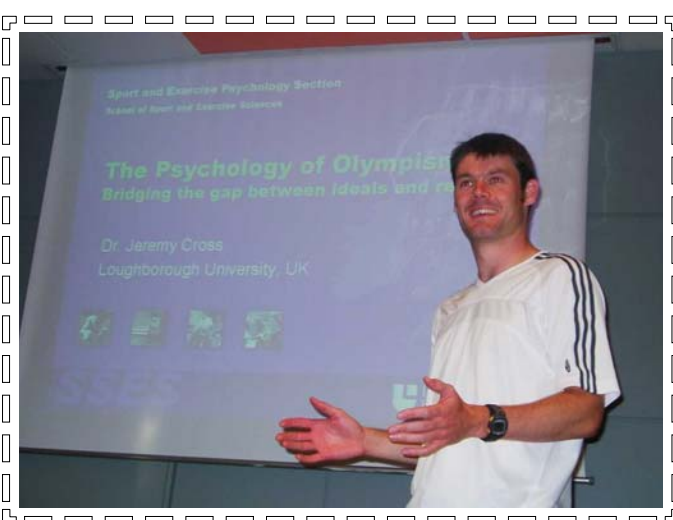
friend and former Belgium No.2 to Jacques Rogge, the Prof. Maes suggested that we currently have an IOC President who will fight for the Olympic values that we all believe in.

For both of us, the most enjoyable lecturers were those that were the most interactive. Interestingly, having further opportunities for group discussion was an important issue that arose from an evaluation session that the participants held in co-operation with the Dean. This is something that we hope can be built more into the programme in the future. After all, it is by sharing our thoughts with other students that we can all gain a higher awareness of the issues and solve the problems they present.

And what of playing sport during the session? Even though the pool, the courts and the pitches were very well used, our participation was somewhat eclipsed by our spectating of the European Football Championships (which, if you hadn't heard by now, was won by some small olive-loving country on the Mediterranean). We found that the experience of watching sport with international friends was completely different to watching in one's own country. Instead of worrying too much if your team win or lose, because everyone wins and loses at some point, you get swept up in simply admiring good and fair play. And, as it was the Greeks who were providing much of this, we had the privilege of sharing in their celebration. When the Greek team won Olympia village was full of people, cars and flags; it was like carnival in Rio and the Grand Prix in Monaco all rolled into one.

Most importantly though of course, the session was all about the people. Yet again we found that despite our surface cultural differences, when we sat down to talk on the marble steps late at night, we are all really the same. Many more close friendships (some very close!) were made and 10 out of the 37 participants were able to make plans to see each other again during the Games. Also, after our presentation on IOAPA, we were pleased that 8 participants immediately joined the association with few more intending to join in the near future.

So, after giving you a flavour of the session we can leave it to Epicurus, the Ancient Greek philosopher and citizen of Athens, to sum up our experience. He said that the three things we all need to be happy are, friendship, freedom—'*we must free ourselves from the prison of everyday affairs and politics*'—and rational thought to consider problems of the world. The session combined these three ingredients to make it, like yours I'm sure, a very happy few weeks indeed!



'media-tisation', all sports leaders should make decisions guided first by ethical considerations before considering the numbers. Therefore, all sports management courses should intermingle ethics with business. This has become a reality in Belgium where the NOC currently runs a highly rigorous and well-supported management-training programme. As a close

Athens 2004 IOA Reunion sponsored by IOAPA

On Sunday, August 22 IOAPA hosted the IOA Reunion at the Athens Tennis Club. The Reunion was attended by more than 80 former IOA participants. Those in attendance had the chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Below is a "summary" of the event in a snapshot format. Where were you?



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Vertical text on the right margin, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

What Have They Been Doing? News from IOAPA Members

In early May 2004, IOAPA member **Elizabeth Hanley** (USA) was invited by IOAPA member **Reele Remmelkoor** (EST) to teach a Greek dance workshop for the opening of the new Estonian Sports Museum in Tartu, Estonia. The Museum was conducting a conference on "The Winds of Hellas" to celebrate the return of the Olympic Games to Greece - Athens 2004. The workshop was a success, and even the president of the Estonian Olympic Committee joined in the dancing! This was a wonderful opportunity for Elizabeth to visit Reele and her two young 'men' (teenagers!) and to see their lovely country. (Reele was in Elizabeth's dance workshop in 1995 at the main session for young participants and the two have kept in touch ever since.)



Elizabeth and Reele enjoy their "reunion" in Tartu, Estonia

On late July 2004 **Paul Baldacchino** (MLT) captained his bowling team to clinch the title of 2004 National Champions. This happened during the Maltese National Bowling League's last week of competition. The last time that Paul carried the national title was in 1989. Congratulations!

Our Maltese members have enjoyed lots of sporting success this year. The Maltese senior women basketball team obtained bronze in the 8th Promotion Cup for senior women held in Andorra between July 26 and August 1. The Maltese junior women basketball team also obtained bronze at the FISEC Games held in Malta between July 18-24. **Carlo Farrugia** (MLT) was a member of the coaching team in both tournaments. Congratulations!

Penelope Amelidu (GRE) will spend one year at the University of Chicago, USA pursuing a Masters degree in social sciences. Good luck in the windy city!

Eli Wolff (USA) will compete at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games' soccer tournament representing the United States. Congratulations and good luck!

Zinon Papakonstantinou (GRE) has been recently appointed Lecturer in Ancient History at Cardiff University in Scotland. His new e-mail address is: PapakonstantinouZ@Cardiff.ac.uk Congratulations!

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Rusty, surrounded by a token of his Olympic memorabilia collection, as featured in *The Ohio State University Alumni Magazine*

Arete's former editor **Rusty Wilson** (USA) has been recently the feature of an article in *The Ohio State University Alumni Magazine*. The article is about Rusty's research on all the Olympians who attended his alma mater (130 so far with 50 medalists who have earned over 80 medals, including 50 gold. Some of the Olympians from The Ohio State University are Jesse Owens, Glenn Davis, Mal Whitfield and this year's All-Around [male] gymnastics champion, Paul Hamm). Rusty is writing a book that covers the biographies of all The Ohio State University Olympians, alternates, coaches and administrators. Hopefully the 300-plus page book will be published by the 2006 Torino Winter Games. Congratulations!

Keep in touch and send us your news and updates!

IOAPA Members Followed the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay!



Penelope Amelidu (GRE) and **Cesar R. Torres** (ARG) met in Mexico City on June 15, the day that the Olympic flame arrived in that city. Penelope, who was a member of the Global Torch Relay team, traveled the world with the Olympic flame.



Philip Baker (GBR), assiduous *Arete* collaborator, sent us this picture taken by Philip himself on July 16, when the Olympic flame went through London.

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ney 2000; and some participants who had won medals at the Olympic Games.

All the working days of the session went through according to the schedule. Different workshops (dance, computer, literature and poetry), visits to the archeological sites and museums, social evenings, morning exercises and film projections were performed as successfully as in past sessions. The singing workshop was the new member of the Session’s various activities, which was very welcomed by the participants. A workshop on Olympic Education was organized by Dr. Kostas Georgiadis, Dean of the IOA.

I would like to mentioned the different individual and team sport activities that enabled participants, coordinators, lecturers to practice Fair Play, Friendship and Equality under the perfect atmosphere of Ancient Olympia irrespective of religion, race, language and culture. Another great and distinguished team event was Track and Field, which in my opinion was the best activity this year with the full involvement of participants and coordinators. The swimming gala was another sport activity that was fun and promoted group work.

The 44th IOA Session for Young Participants came to its end by the presentation of diplomas to participants followed by the addresses on behalf of the participants, discussion group coordinators and lecturers. The Session was closed officially by the address of Dr. Nikos Filaretos, who has devoted himself to the IOA for many years. The President said goodbye to everybody and even to the IOA, creating the most sorrowful moment that the IOA had ever seen. That moment that brought tears to everybody’s eyes. We all respect his full engagement in the Olympic Movement and wish him the best in his life.

The echo of the Olympic Hymn performed by the coordinators was the last part of closing ceremony:

Immortal spirit of antiquity,
Father of the true, beautiful and good,
Descend, appear, shed over us thy light
Upon this ground and under this sky
Which has first witnessed....

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“Olympism in the classroom” consists of a speech given by IOA former participants, supplemented with an audio-visual presentation, which lasts nearly 45 minutes. During that time we introduce the children to the magic world of the Ancient Olympic Games, its reestablishment and Pierre de Coubertin’s work. We also explain to them the structure and the symbols of the Olympic Movement as well as the fundamental values of the sport’s spirit and the concept of Fair Play.

This presentation is designed for children between the ages of 10 and 12. They came to us eager to hear about the history of sports, the Olympic Games and their champions. We discuss those items, but our goal is that the children return to their homes having absorbed the message we care about most: Sewing the seeds of athletics early in life can reap untold rewards for a young person, and supplement harmoniously their intellectual and academic pursuits.

This year we shared our project with nearly two thousand children, taking advantage of the unique opportunity the Athens Games afforded us.

With our presentation we don’t expect to be able to change the world overnight, or even make a marked difference here in our home country. However, we will be satisfied if we get to inspire one child, who as a result of our efforts can get “Faster, Higher, Stronger.” We seek to instill in children respect for rivals upon victory, and the grace to congratulate their opponents should they suffer defeat. Hopefully, they will come away from their time with us with a new sense of the positive impact sports can have on their lives and the joy it can bring them.

News About the III IOAPA Winter Session for Young participants Axel Bammer (AUT)

The organizers of the III IOAPA Winter Session for Young Participants have been working diligently to successfully organize next year's event. Below is information about the activity.

Location: Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria

Dates: 15 - 22 January 2005

Accommodation: Youth Hostel (You can visit the accommodations at:
www.junghotels.at/innsbruck)

If you want to attend the III IOAPA Winter Session you have to fill out an application form and send it to **Axel Bammer** via e-mail by 25 September. Applications forms can be obtained by contacting Alex at his e-mail address:
axel.bammer@icehockey2005.com

As there is a limited number of places available to take part in the III IOAPA Winter Session the acceptance process follows a "first come, first serve" method. So, if you are interested hurry up!

The III IOAPA Winter Session will take place at the same time and place than the Winter Universiade 2005. Thus, this is a terrific opportunity not only to practice winter sports and meet old friends but also to watch amazing student-athletes from all over the world.

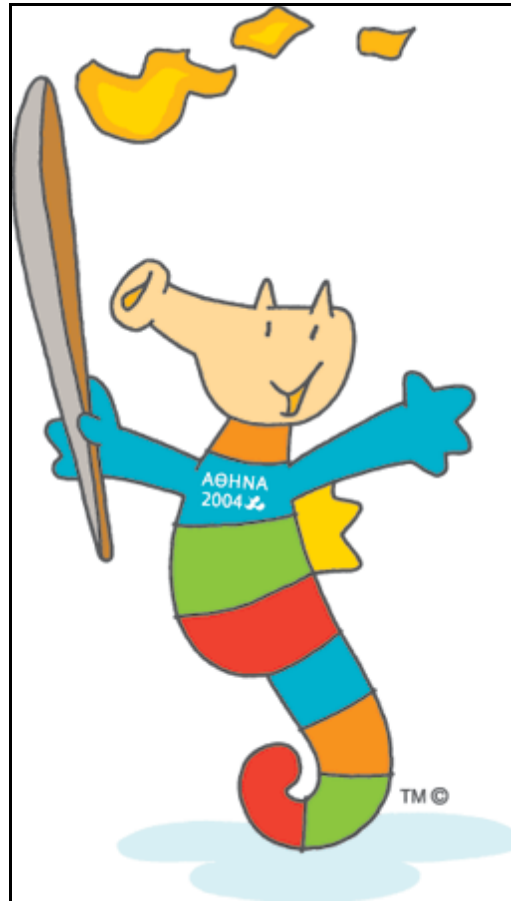
Remember that to participate in the III IOAPA Winter Session you have to be an IOAPA member in good standing.

In addition to Alex, the organizing team of the III IOAPA Winter Session include **Martin Domes, Lukas Kuester** and **Konrad Pamer**, all IOAPA members from Austria.

We have no doubt that the III IOAPA Winter Session will be a great success as the previous editions. Good luck!

Did you know?

That on September 9, the Paralympic Torch lit for the ninth time in history—and this time, it was in Athens.



It is the first time women will compete in Judo in the Paralympic Games.

That the 2004 Athens Olympic Games hosted 11,099 athletes, the largest number ever and also the most women athletes ever.

That representatives of 202 countries took part in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, more than any other sport event.

That four billion viewers all over the world watched these Games.