

ARETE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015 ISSUE

Re-live your dream in Olympia

IOAPA Session

9-16 August 2015



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Editorial

By: Vagelis Alexandrakis (GRE)



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Summer 2015 Issue of the Arete Newsletter!

The IOAPA Session 2015 is just around the corner (9–16 August 2015) and we look forward to welcoming many IOAPA Members in Olympia! Please, note that registrations are still accepted for the session and more information on how to apply can be found in the next pages.

On the occasion of the session and the upcoming elections, the former IOAPA President, Héctor Arguelles, reflects over the years he spent as the IOAPA President and Executive Committee Member.

Having recently celebrated the Olympic Day, this issue includes an article on the activities Lithuania organised on this occasion. Business continues as usual in the IOA and the main IOA session, the Young Participants' session, was held this year on May 23–June 6 in Olympia. Read the experience of the New Zealander participant in the session.

The reason why the Young Participants' session was held earlier this year was that the IOA was proudly involved in the cultural activities of the 1st European Games organized in Baku, Azerbaijan. This edition of Arete provides you with some further information on the IOA involvement.

Lastly, as this is the last edition of this term, I would like to write my words of farewell to all readers of the IOAPA Arete NewsLetter. Many of you whom I've met face-to-face or virtually, I would like to thank all of you for your readership and support over the last 4 years!

Thank you!

Enjoy your reading!

Vagelis

Arete Newsletter Editor

Re-live your dream in Olympia!!!!!!

IOAPA Session 2015: 9-16 August 2015

As was communicated in the last edition of the IOAPA Arete NewsLetter, the IOAPA Session 2015 is to be held in Olympia on **9-16 August 2015**.

Already more than 30 participants from all over the world have registered and will have the chance to re-live the unique experience of spending some time in the very special place of Olympia.

Registrations are still open, so if you are interested, you can send an email to Vagelis Alexandrakis at vagelis@ioapa.org and indicate your interest. The registration form can be also found [here](#)

Participants will have the chance to exchange ideas views and thoughts, play sports, visit the local beach etc. and also present their work, share their Olympic and sport experiences and receive feedback from international experts from all over the globe.

Although registrations are still accepted, **rooms at Attalos hotel in Athens can be no longer guaranteed**. New Participants need to contact the hotel themselves and request a room, still profiting from the IOAPA special rates or look for other accommodation possibilities.

The IOAPA has been facing some problems with the ioapa.org emails and it is possible that your registration has not been received. In case you have sent your registration, but you have not heard back from us, please send it again as soon as possible to the following email: vagelis@ioapa.org

IOAPA General Assembly and Elections

Participants in the session will also have the chance to participate in the IOAPA General Assembly and contribute to the discussions related to the state of play and future of the IOAPA strategy.

The accounts of the IOAPA, the Country Coordinators' network, the marketing strategy, internal and external communications will be discussed by all IOAPA Members participating in the session.

Elections

As usual, a new Executive Committee is elected. Positions are open to all IOAPA Members. Therefore Members that would be interested in running for a position and see value in contributing to keeping the network of past IOA participants alive, are free to contact IOAPA Vice-President, Vagelis Alexandrakis, at vagelis@ioapa.org Members need to include their full name, the position they would like to run for and a short motivation note (up to 5-6 lines). Even Members that will not be present in the session are entitled to run for a position.

Please, note that the IOAPA Conference is open for registration to IOAPA Members only.
If you are not yet an IOAPA Member but you are willing to participate, please visit our website to register as an IOAPA Member: <http://www.ioapa.org/index.php/organization/membership>

For more information, do not hesitate to contact

- Daniele Nati, IOAPA Treasurer at daniele@ioapa.org
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Join us NOW!!!!!!



[Watch a video about IOAPA here](#)

Register now as an IOAPA Member and join the network of more than 1,000 past IOA participants!!

Become an IOAPA member and be part of all IOAPA activities and projects:

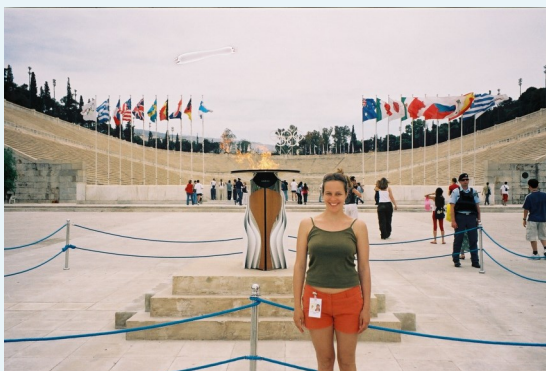
- Several editions of Arete Newsletter per year.
- The IOAPA Mailgroup, an e-mail group, that connects all our members and distributes academic information and opportunities for our affiliates in different areas of the Olympic Movement.
- IOAPA Sessions at the IOA in Olympia every two years.
- IOAPA Winter Sessions and Regional Sessions.
- Access to the members only area of the website.
- Contact with the IOAPA networks in your country.
- Volunteering possibilities at the Olympic Games.

And many others!

Find the registration form [here](#)

Hans Van Haute Fund: Martina Tomsic received the Fund!

The Hans van Haute Scholarship Committee, after reviewing the applications received, decided to support **Ms Martina Tomsic** from Slovenia.



Martina is a PhD Student from Slovenia, whose life is closely linked with sports. Once finished her career as an athlete, she started working in sports as a referee/judge, coach and General Secretary. She is currently actively involved with the Slovenian Association for the Philosophy of Sport and a member of the Commission for Women in Sport at the National Olympic Committee of Slovenia.

We had the chance to discuss with her about her views and expectations

–What does Olympia mean for you?

Olympia for me means all that is good in sport and should be kept in mind at all times. Representing core Olympic values it is a point of reference within the ever changing world (of sports). On a personal level it is a synonym of exchanging sports knowledge and experiences and making long lasting friendships on a way.

–What's the importance of the IOAPA session in your opinion and why would you recommend to IOAPA past participants to attend the IOAPA session?

To be honest this is kind of difficult question to answer in advance. Couple of friends from my 2004 Young Participants Session have come back to Olympia, be it as Young Participants, as IOAPA or as lecturers. And for all of them it has been one more time a meaningful experience. This, in my opinion, is a sign of the programmes quality and excellence. I think that the IOAPA session is important especially for those who are still working or are involved in sport as it provides an opportunity to exchange and compare experiences, practices etc. in sport (from different standing points, contexts etc.).

–What are your expectations from the IOAPA 2015 session?

If I relate to my previous answers, I expect from IOAPA foremost exchange of information (not necessarily on a formal level), recollecting or seeing in a new light themes that I am already familiar with and making new friends.

The IOAPA after the Millennium—Reflections by the former IOAPA President by Héctor Arguelles (Spain)



IOAPA is a very unique organization. It is purposed based, inspired on the Olympic ideals. It's also a link for all of us, IOAPA members, to something as dear as the IOA and the Olympic Movement at large. That means a very solid foundation from the principles standpoint. However, from a practical point of view the association has to balance a combination of opportunities and challenges. The idealistic base provides the association with an Executive Committee (EC) comprised fully of volunteers. The geographic dispersion of the EC members and their busy schedules are significant hurdles for the continuous advancement of the organization.

I have spent 12 years in the EC of the IOAPA (6 of them as President). I do not think challenging the status quo of the above described structure was something that we could realistically accomplished. Neither will we be able to change it in the short or medium term.

With that in mind, I thought it was very important to maintain the organization altruistic approach, to the point that IOAPA is one of the very few organizations where EC members still pay their own trips. A change there would alter the motivations of some EC candidates. And EC members are the key for the association to fulfill its mission of serving its members.

Additionally, from an operational perspective the association had two main areas to work on when I joined the EC: maximize the opportunity that internet presented for a global organization like this one and minimize the time EC members had to spend dealing with irrelevant tasks in terms of servicing the members, so they could spend their limited time in relevant items.

During the last few years the EC established Mailgroup, Facebook and LinkedIn groups and a new website with an internal database with all members. Those are all now open channels of communication with all of you.

The legal seat and statutes of the Association were registered in Greece. Bank account also placed in Greece. Processes involving registration of new members, EC online meetings, organizing gatherings at the Olympics were either created or streamlined for efficiency.

All those accomplishments above made possible that the association can operate at very low cost and offer some continuous services to the association keeping the efforts of the EC members to a manageable amount.

Still with all those initiatives, the organization relies very heavily on the dedication and capability of the EC members elected every two years at the IOAPA session in Olympia. Many of us have put time and effort and hopefully have contributed for the good of the association since its foundation more than 25 years ago. It is a great learning, rewarding experience and for a good cause. I hope that many of you will volunteer for a position in the upcoming IOAPA session.

IOA Young Participants Session 2015, My Experience

by Margaret Timms (New Zealand)

It was amazing to represent New Zealand at the 55th International Olympic Academy's Session for Young Participants in Ancient Olympia, Greece. Some people find the long haul travel from New Zealand tedious, but I was so excited by the opportunity which lay ahead that I enjoyed every moment of the journey. It was also nice to escape the New Zealand winter for a taste of the hot Greek summer and enjoy a bit of the country, cuisine and culture.

My trip to Olympia hit a bit of speedbump in early May as my family were shocked with the unexpected death of my brother. However I was determined that I would continue with my plans to travel to Greece because I didn't want to have any regrets, so I jumped on that plane and made it to the starting line for this incredible experience. It's during difficult times like this that you re-evaluate and appreciate what is truly important in life. The trip to Olympia gave me a much-needed break from the challenge of losing my sibling and gave me the boost I needed physically, mentally and emotionally. During the two week period with the IOA I was truly inspired and once I returned to New Zealand I felt re-invigorated in my work and I feel like I have a new spring in my step. The young participants were the best people to surround myself with as they were radiators. They had that special glow of happiness and the ability to bring out the positive things in life. As a group we were all able to and will continue to pick each other up in times of need, we can encourage and support each other towards reaching our individual goals as well as push the ultimate aim of spreading the message of Olympism.



I was lucky to attend the session with former under-23 rower and current New Zealand Olympic Committee employee Finian Scott. For 12 days we lived in the spirit of Olympism among hundreds of other young participants from around the globe. It was a busy schedule – we visited ancient archaeological sites, learnt all about Olympism and the Olympic movement and of course played plenty of sport.



I absolutely loved the morning sport sessions and in true kiwi style we kicked off proceedings by putting our names down first for the cultural evening and also the sports session to showcase the “haka” and our nation’s love of rugby. I really enjoyed trying taekwondo and rekindling my love of tennis with fellow participants. It was also great to get the chance to test my public speaking skills by being given the opportunity to not only present on behalf of our discussion group but also on behalf of all the participants at the closing ceremony. I completely embraced the opportunity to take part in everything and connect with likeminded young people who were equally as passionate about the Olympic movement as I was. I was truly living Olympism.

There was so much value to be gained from the lectures but also from the strong international networks that were formed along with the open and honest discussions we had with fellow participants around issues relevant to all of our countries, young people, and the global Olympic landscape. We challenged each other’s thinking and understanding of the Olympic movement and I can confidently say I have gained friends for life. We can look forward to catching up again soon, whether it is on Skype, Facebook, on holiday, at an Olympic Games or another major sporting event.

The diversity amongst the participants was exceptional and inspiring to be a part of. Our interactions over the course of the session always displayed a powerful image of what is actually at the heart of the Olympic Movement – excellence, respect and friendship. There was something truly incredible and special about being able to experience the International Olympic Academy and live and breathe the Olympic values over this two week period. It also reminded me what a privilege it is to live in a country such as New Zealand where we have peace and great international relations. New Zealand as a nation is constantly boxing above its weight in all aspects from sport, politics and economics.

As I look to the future with a new and different perspective I can only be positive. There is so much to be happy about in my personal life and also in my work. As I write this article there are just over 400 days to go until the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, it’s a very exciting time to be involved in sport, not only in my role at Rowing New Zealand but also as a kiwi sports fan. Our rowing athletes are focused on podium finishes and qualifying the boats for the Olympic Games but they are also Olympic ambassadors and role models and they can provide so much inspiration for New Zealanders. It is important that they live the Olympic values so they can share those ideals with our proud sports fans

and it is crucial that I help lead this process in my homeland alongside previous International Olympic Academy Young Participants who have also been inspired by their time in Ancient Olympia over the years.



Celebrating the Olympic Day in Lithuania!

By: Vita Balsyte



Lithuania for the 26th time celebrated Olympic Day. In 2015 Olympic Day took a new course as the National Olympic Committee of Lithuania decided that Olympic Day from now on will travel around the country and every year will be organized in a different Lithuanian city. On June 7th Olympic Day arrived to Kaunas, the second largest city in the country.

The beginning of the Olympic Day started with the Olympic torch relay. Olympians and Para-

lympians carried the torch and children and youth who were nominated by their schools carried the Olympic flag around the scenic route visiting the most important places in Kaunas inviting local inhabitants and visitors of the city to join the Olympic Day. The torch was lit at a historic place in Kaunas called "Azuolynas", where the heart of Lithuanian sport lays, and informed the city of the beginning of the Olympic Day.



Olympic Day attracted around 10000 participants and spectators from all around Lithuania. Olympic Day in Kaunas was divided into several activities: summer sport federations were invited to organize their sport clinics, tournaments and meetings with Olympians. More than 25 sports were presented, Olympic sports such as basketball, rowing, cycling, track & field, equestrian and more were accompanied by non - Olympic sports: cross fit, yo-

ga, rock climbing, street dancing, Paralympic sports were presented to a great extent. Every participant could try out new sports and choose from a lot of different activities. Olympic Education project called „Olympic generation“, which is curated by the NOC of Lithuania, offered various games and activities for children and youth, where sport and art met: temporary sport tattoos, painting on silk, Olympic wreath making and other forms of art were organized. What is more, Olympic Day participants had a chance to meet Olympians, who spent all day long at the festivities, tried out sports, and shared their experience.

Olympic Day Run gathered a bunch sport enthusiasts of different age groups. Every person could choose a suitable distance for himself and his friends. The main idea was to run together, enjoy sports and have fun.



Furthermore, more than 1000 school children arrived to Kaunas from all around Lithuania for Lithuanian School Games finals in 8 sports. All day athletes participated in the competitions and the award ceremony took place on the main Olympic Day stage. Famous athletes, Olympians, politicians gave the awards to the laureates.

The National Television dedicated its TV program for the Olympic Day and broadcasted the Olympic Day live to the whole country. Olympic Day 2015 was a great success and at the end of the day President of the National Olympic Committee of Lithuania Daina Gudzinėvičiūtė informed everyone that the main Olympic event of the year in 2016 will be organized in Šiauliai city, therefore Olympic spirit will continuously spread around Lithuania.



News from the IOA:

The IOA in the 1st European Games in Baku

The European Games in Baku were the inaugural edition of the European Games, an international multi-sport event for athletes representing the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Europe. It took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 12 to 28 June 2015, and featured almost 6,000 athletes from 50 countries competing in 20 sports.

Having a long experience in the dissemination of Olympic values in the Youth Olympic Games, the International Olympic Academy couldn't be absent from such a significant event. The IOA took part in the cultural activities of the European Games, joining this newly established institution. In a booth located in the wonderful Athletes' Village, the athletes and sports officials had the opportunity to check out the IOA Interactive Educational Program "Discovering the Olympic Movement and its Values."



The IOA team with Greek Minister of Sports, Stavros Kontonis

The IOA booth enabled athletes participating in the 1st European Games to learn through interactive activities about the history of the Olympic Games from Antiquity till the modern era. Knowledge games and rich informative material in the form of videos regarding the modern Olympic Movement and Olympism as a philosophy of life –and all these on touch screens– formed part of the activities that visitors experienced at the booth.



A lot of distinguished personalities of the international Olympic family visited the booth, including IOC Members Anita DeFrantz, Bernard Rajzman and Claudia Bokel.

Although there wasn't an official IOA reunion organized during the Games, the IOA staff who were working in the booth had the pleasure to meet numerous past IOA participants who flocked to Baku either as spectators, volunteers or even as members of the staff of the Baku 2015 Organising Committee.

Indeed, there were quite a few past IOA participants who had the unique opportunity to work for the Games and their contribution was very much appreciated by the Organising Committee. They were of course very happy to pass by the IOA booth and meet again the small and efficient IOA team.



The IOA staff with some athletes of the Greek team

Also, during the Games, the President of the IOA, Isidoros Kouvelos had the chance to meet with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady and Chair of the "Baku 2015" Organising Committee Mehriban Aliyeva and after congratulating them on the success of the Games so far, they discussed issues around the International Olympic Academy.



More information can be found in the press releases published in the website of the IOA last June and can be retrieved [here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

2016 EDITION OF THE OLYMPIC GRANT PROGRAMME FOR PHD STUDENTS

The rules and the application form for the 2016 edition of the IOC OSC PhD Students Research Grant programme have been posted on the IOC website. As for the previous edition, the grants will be allocated to candidates whose applications are submitted under two categories with different objectives:

Category A: Open Subject

Objective: Encourage PhD students to undertake doctoral research with a humanities or social sciences perspective on any aspect of the Olympic phenomena. All projects dealing with the Olympic Movement and/or the Olympic Games will be considered.

Category B: National Olympic Committees' Policy Priority (organised in collaboration with Olympic Solidarity)

Objective: Encourage PhD students to undertake doctoral research with a humanities or social sciences perspective on topics of interest to the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of their country.

The eligibility criteria, application procedures and deadline (**25 September 2015**) remain the same for both categories, but for applications in the NOCs' Policy Priority category, the OSC should also receive a letter of support written and signed by the NOC President or Secretary General explaining the significance of the proposed research for the NOC's activities and projects.

Further info for the 2016 edition of the Grant programme can be found [here](#)

Olympic education initiative: 'The Olympic Games and the Media' online course

This course offered by the Autonomous University of Barcelona analyses the intersection between the Olympic Games and the media and how television and other media contribute to fund, shape and disseminate the major sporting spectacle in the world: the Olympic Games.

Start date: 23.11.2015. Five week course of 1–3 hours study time per week.

More information can be found [here](#)

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ARETE NEWSLETTER

You are welcome to submit contributions for the IOAPA NewsLetter. You can feel free to contact Vagelis, the Arete NewsLetter Editor, at vagelis@ioapa.org, to propose and discuss your articles.

