

ARETE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
ACADEMY
PARTICIPANTS
ASSOCIATION



HIGHLIGHTS



‘EFHARISTO’ OLYMPIA

To paraphrase the words of Pierre de Coubertin “Olympism is not a system, but a state of mind”, then Olympia is not just a place, but a state of mind as well. In May 2018, I finally graduated with a PhD from the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport Studies... (p.5)

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A REAL-LIFE ROLE MODEL

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58TH IOA YOUNG PARTICIPANTS SESSION

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EDITORIAL

Yarden Har Lev (ISR)



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to summer edition of the Arete Newsletter!

A month ago I returned from Olympia after 12 days at the International Olympic Academy (IOA). I was particularly moved by the great honor of joining so many young participants from all over the world and was experiencing for my fourth time the different way of life offered by this unique venue. I would like to believe that in our common journey under the roof of the Olympic Movement we seek to accomplish the goals of: self knowledge, love for our fellow humans, the ambition to spread and support the fundamental values of Olympism so that they remain a beacon for those who desire to be inspired by this philosophy. I consider that we all have a huge responsibility to preserve democracy and disseminate Olympic values as well as seeking peace. The appeal of a common journey with people from different countries, cultures and customs is unique to the IOA. This is why we should keep our memories alive and in my heart of hearts I hope that the Academy forms part of these memories for all those new participants in all IOA sessions who will become important ambassadors of Olympism and its values. Therefore, I would like to encourage you all, dear IOAPA members, to take an active role in our association. Make your voice heard and let all your Olympic friend to know about your **passionate** work for the benefit of the Olympic Movement, whether it is by writing articles for the newsletter, attending IOAPA sessions or sharing Olympic knowledge with others. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

As usual, the Young Participants Session brought life to the premises of the Academy in June, and we bring you some insights and experiences from this year's session. In addition, you can read in this issue a variety of interesting articles such as: a fruitful collaboration between two IOAPA members, a personal story by an Olympic judoka who became recently a new IOAPA member, an IOAPA member's reflections on his experience during the Master's degree program as well as his interaction with the Academy. As always, in News & Opportunities, find out some Olympic-related news including upcoming sport events and stay updated with all significant academic opportunities in the field, like the invitation to the Olympism in Action Forum taking place on 5-6 October 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, alongside the 2018 Youth Olympic Games. Also at the YOG in Buenos Aires we are excited to host the next **IOAPA REUNION**, with further details published soon on our social media platforms.

Enjoy your reading, and have a great summer!

Yours in Olympism,

Yarden Har Lev, Arete Newsletter Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard Koo (CAN)



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Dear fellow IOAPA members and readers of Arete,

It has already been an extremely busy year in the world of international sport, with the Winter Olympics in Korea in February, the FIFA World Cup in Russia this past month, the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia in August and the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina in September. These events along with countless others celebrate the power of sport in bringing people together. I would encourage all who are able to participate whether as an athlete, volunteer, or spectator, to attend and experience the celebration of humanity that these events bring.

It continues to be a busy year at the IOA and for IOAPA. The regular sessions of the IOA are now in full swing, with the 14th Joint Session of Directors of NOAs & Officials of NOCs, the 58th International Session for Young Participants, the 4th International Session for Olympic Medalists or Olympians having already taken place, and with the Post-Graduate Seminar and Master's Degree Program still to come this September. To our newest members of IOAPA who have recently attended these sessions, welcome! We hope that we can support you in developing greater networks and opportunities to share the message of Olympism in your professional and daily lives.

Over the past few months, IOAPA has undertaken some new initiatives to better facilitate contact between our members. First, we launched a new Instagram account to share stories and events from around the world. You can find us on Instagram at @ioapa_official. Secondly, we have been working on a virtual gathering our new Country Coordinators to facilitate information sharing and strategies to better serve you, our members, in each of your respective countries. Finally, following on the success of the reunion in PyeongChang, we are looking to develop some more gatherings and events at multisport games around the world. As such, we are very excited to announce that there will be a reunion for our members on October 11 at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires! More information on that will follow in our monthly bulletins as well as future issues of Arete.

Wherever in the world you may be reading this, may I wish you continued success and happiness in the second half of 2018.

Regards,

Richard Koo, IOAPA President

Dr. Yoav Dubinsky (USA)

To paraphrase the words of Pierre de Coubertin “Olympism is not a system, but a state of mind”, then Olympia is not just a place, but a state of mind as well. In May 2018, I finally graduated with a PhD from the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The journey to the PhD has not been easy. Some of you have known me for several years, and saw my struggles. Now that the doctorate monkey is off my back, I wanted to use this platform and take a moment to thank you all for the love and support I received since joining the IOA.

I joined the first MA Program in 2009 with a goal to somehow leverage the experience to continue to PhD studies abroad. I loved the IOA so much, that until 2013 I returned every summer as a coordinator. At the end of every session I thought it would be my last time in Olympia, but by the next spring I couldn't wait to return.

Between 2009 and 2013 I was active and took part not only as a student, but I was also a four times coordinator in the Young Participants Session. During the 2013 session, it felt right to take a break. It's been five years and counting since the last time I've been to Olympia. Although I did not attend the sessions physically, I tried every summer to chat with coordinators or Israeli participants or to log-on to an online session and ask one of my annoying questions. I never forgot you Olympia. Through the time in Olympia, I got to know hundreds of amazing people and I wanted to thank you.

The IOA staff and my Greek IOA friends always welcomed me back with open arms, making me feel that the IOA is a second home. I will always be grateful for that. No matter what challenges Greece is facing, I always think about the kind, warm, friendly-yet-loud, people. There are so many small moments I recall during sessions, meetings, sports games or cultural evenings that still make me smile.

My fellow IOAMA¹ students, you made the Master Program one of the most special experiences in my life. Your friendship helped me through the ups-and-downs of our journey, and you gave the confidence that I could be successful in any international environment.



Image 1: Yoav's first stadium visit after joining the Master's Program in 2009.



Image 2: The first IOA Master's Programme.



I feel the bond that was formed between us in Olympia, keeps following us around the world.

My fellow coordinators, it was a privilege and pleasure to organize successful sessions with you. Seeing some of you again was the main reason I kept coming back. I had the chance of meeting several of you again in Olympia, and again in London, Israel or in other countries. I consider some of you as my closest friends.

I know that thanking hundreds of participants is not very personal. With some I maintained very close relations, and with some the connection faded over the years. I wanted to thank all of you for opening my eyes and teaching me about sports in your countries. You made me a better journalist, a better researcher and a much more open and inclusive person.

To my former faculty and all the lecturers during the different sessions, you did not just teach me about the Olympic Movement, but some of you kept in touch even long after the courses ended. I am forever appreciative for the guidance in this bumpy PhD journey.

To the dear Israeli participants, Moran, Gal, Yoni, Ornit, Elad, and Naama. I cherish our time together not only in Olympia, but also whenever we meet in Israel. I got to know people, who are very dedicated and believe in the way sports connects people regardless of their backgrounds. I am also very proud of my friend Jordan and the way she carries the torch, growing Olympism in Israel, being involved with IOA sessions and making sure we all stay connected through the newsletter.

I covered the 2008, 2012, and 2016 Olympic Games from Beijing, China, and Rio de Janeiro. During the last two Olympic Games I have also presented research conducted on the Olympic Movement. I have no idea where this journey will take me next, but I do know that the doctoral degree I worked so hard on and many of these amazing experiences would not have happened without Olympia. You are all part of this journey, and I thank you dearly.



Image 1: Yoav with the IOA
Honorary Dean Prof.
Konstantinos Georgiadis.
Image 2: Last time as a
coordinator with my
discussion group in 2013.



My dear IOA family, it is very easy to become cynical in the world we live in. If you know me, I constantly challenge the philosophy of Olympism, with some of the reality in Israel and our complex history in the Olympic Movement. You have all helped me to see beyond that. To see, and more important to feel the bond between people that sports can create. I don't know when or how or even if I will return to Olympia, but like I wrote in the opening paragraph: Olympia is not just a place but a state of mind as well. You all taught me that lesson.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES



Invitation to the Olympism in Action Forum

A new initiative launched by the International Olympic Committee, taking place on 5 and 6 October 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, alongside the 2018 Youth Olympic Games. The Forum will tackle the most important topics related to sport and society through a constructive dialogue with a diverse group of guests, including private and public sector leaders, media and athletes.

For anyone interested in applying for accreditation, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Towards an integrated model for the development of women's sports (Self-funded PhD)

The PhD aims to investigate the key success factors for the development of women's sports and the links between them so as to build an integrated model to be used by sports organizations. Several sports will be compared to ensure that the model works for different disciplines. **DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2018**

For more details, please [CLICK HERE](#)

A REAL-LIFE ROLE MODEL

My way to the 2012 Summer Olympics

Hussein Hafeez (EGY)

My story starts when I began practicing judo when I was a five-years-old child, following my father's steps. Not only me, but everyone in my family also followed my father's judo career. Therefore, I belong to a family that gathers judo as its deep way of life.

At the beginning I was doing judo for fun, so I attended many competitions in which I could lose in the first round, with no intention to win. Later on, I started to watch the Olympic Games. Seeing the tears of the winners and how proud their families were made me realize that I wanted to be part of this.

But that dream was very far. I wasn't performing well in judo, I thought I didn't have any talent, strength or fitness for it. I had only one thing, the will. I decided to train every day, so I woke up early to run, then I would go to the gym and, mostly, I attended every single judo training in my club.

My father has always been my role model and he has supported me in every step I took. He was always by my side. He attended every competition that I competed in and he always gave me his feedback, which became the best motivation I could get. As much as I wanted to be an Olympian, I wished I could make him proud of me.

At one point, I was training all the time, even during my exams. One day, my father approached me and told me "I know how much you want this but there is time for everything and now it is time to study. So no judo until you finish your exams". He was really serious about that. But I couldn't study every day because I would lose most of my new acquired judo skills. I decided to use this trick: to take my books and tell him that I was going to study with friends. Instead of it, I got dressed up with my judo-gi, hidden in my garden, and went straight to the club.

Anyway, I hadn't won yet any competition. Even though I was training very hard, I couldn't still reach a higher level. However, things changed: the main youth national team qualifying competition was taking place, although I was the last one on the list expected to qualify. My first match happened to be with the best player in my



Image 1: Hussein on the podium after winning the gold medal in the 2012 African Championship.

Image 2: Hussein during his 2nd match at London Olympic Games 2012.



category at the time.

My father was there, and I really didn't aim to disappoint him. The match started and in the first minute I won! That was a surprise to everyone! Not just that, I came first in the qualification ranking and I joined the national youth team for the first time. And from there my journey had started.

Since then, my skills were improved. In doing so, I started the journey to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. But it wasn't an easy way at all. To make you see the full picture, only two judokas from my club had ever qualified to the Olympics. I didn't care because I was doing well. Eventually, I just needed to reach the African final match to be qualified for the 2008 Games and to reach my dream. My draw was good. I even had already defeated all my competitors in previous competitions. I was confident and felt that I was almost qualified to the Olympics. Big mistake!

The African Games started and I lost in the first round, I couldn't believe it. I was looking at the judge and I wanted to tell him to give me one more chance. I went home very disappointed. And I couldn't imagine that I would have to wait four more years...

My father picked me up at the airport. He didn't talk to me about the competition, he just told me, "you didn't lose your dream, you're still young: if you really want to qualify for the Olympics, you have to train for London 2012, starting today". That's what he taught me. Whenever I fall down I have to get up and fight for my dream. I went home, I put down my bags and I went straight to the next judo training.

Four years later, I was optimistic because I had quite a good qualification ranking. I had to compete at the African Games again. The draw was very hard as I had to compete against many tough opponents in order to reach the final. It was a tough way, but I won the gold medal. In the final match, when the judge announced that I was the winner, tears came running down my face. Not because of this competition, but because I saw how hard I had worked for that moment. After all those years, I had finally reached



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Image 1:
Hussein with
his own Judo
Academy in
Egypt.

Image 2:
Hussein with
his 6 months
son, Hassan.



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my childhood's dream: I was qualified for the Olympics! I kept training hard, with my father always backing me.

The day arrived, I travelled to London. I was in very good shape and physical condition and I was confident and ready to compete in the 73 kg category. The 2012 Games started and I won the opening match in the first round. In the round of 16, a French judoka, who later won the bronze medal, was waiting for me. I was winning, leading the match until the last seconds. At some point, the judge gave me a penalty for not attacking, so time penalties equalized the score. The match went to a draw, then to a golden score and I took another penalty: I lost and was eliminated at the Olympics. After my loss I felt that it was so close and I could have won because I did my best. To be an Olympian made me feel as if I didn't waste any single second of my life. It was worth any sacrifice, the Olympics are a once-in-the-lifetime achievement.

Seven months later my mother woke me up to tell me my father wasn't feeling well. We took him to the nearest hospital, and just as we reached the emergency room he passed away. That was the most shocking moment I have ever faced. I felt like that was the end of the world. Suddenly, my role model was gone.

Two years later, I was blessed with my first child Hassan. At that unique moment, I realized that this is the cycle of life and now it was my turn to be a role model for my son. Today, I run my own judo's academy in Egypt. My main goal is to give back what I have learnt from such a great sport and mainly to my two sons. Therefore, I hope I can be a role model for them just as my father was always for me: nowadays, I have Olympians to prepare.



58TH IOA YOUNG PARTICIPANTS SESSION

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Address by the Participants

It is fair to conclude that the Young Participation Session of 2018 was a great success! We have all contributed in so many ways which has resulted in a successful session. This session included many interesting lectures and presentations while creating a great atmosphere for discussions and networking.

In particular, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the delegation, organizers, the facility staff, lecturers, translators and coordinators for sharing their expertise with us. We owe much gratitude to the International Olympic Academy for the venue and to the committee and lecturers for giving structure to the program and for organizing this great session.

The aims of this session were high, as we examined many challenges on the topic of - the athlete as a role model. We discussed not only strategies on how to develop positive role models in our society, but more importantly how we can implement the values of Olympism in our everyday lives.

We can all agree that this session has been both inspiring and challenging. This session has brought multiple participants, from different countries across the world together, to educate and celebrate the values of Olympism. We have shared and learned from each other, removing any prejudices, lending our hands to build collective and strong strategies, to unify those that believe that sport can help change the world. We believe that this can create a better outcome for humanity in today's society.

The past, present and future participants have the responsibility to work together to uphold and pass on the values of Olympism. We are able to share the values of Olympism with others because we have experienced it here. In order to achieve this, it is important that we as young participants need to find the balance of the ideals of Olympism and the reality to become critical thinkers as change agents in our society for the 100%.

We all have a part to play, that is why we are concluding with the thoughts and





Voices of all the participants such as: I have learnt from this session that “sport is a weapon for peace”; I have found the “multi-cultural people and world” inspiring; I have learnt that “knowledge is meant to be shared with others”; this session has “expanded my horizons”; this session has “motivated me to become a change agent”; I have found the “true meaning of Olympism, and it starts me.”

If two people from different parts of the world can relate and come together this shows that there is nothing we cannot achieve when we are together. So we leave this with you, are you prepared for this responsibility?



Photos Credit: Yarden Har Lev

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

Elizabeth A. Hanley (USA)

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From left to right: Elizabeth (Betz) Hanley,
an IOAPA founding member, with
Professor Hugh Dugan.

On Wednesday, 24 April 2018, I was fortunate to have IOAPA member Hugh Dugan as keynote speaker at our Penn State University Women's Club Annual Spring Luncheon! Hugh arrived from Princeton, NJ, the day prior to the luncheon, and Patrick and I took the opportunity to show him around the Penn State campus, visit the Arboretum, and treat him to our famous Creamery ice cream. That evening our University Women's Club hosted a reception for Hugh where those in attendance could chat with him informally to learn about the Truce Foundation, his time in PyeongChang at the Olympic Winter Games, and his Truce Foundation goals for the future.

Professor Hugh Dugan's topic for our luncheon the following day was The Olympics and Sport Diplomacy. An informative Poster Session on South Korea was presented prior to the luncheon by a South Korean Penn State student, and a South Korean woman, wearing traditional Korean dress, sang the unofficial anthem of South Korea, "Arirang", to add to the ambience of the day.

Professor Dugan was introduced by the UWC Program Vice President, who noted Hugh's many years of diplomatic and international affairs service with the State Department and the United Nations. These years paved the way for his present position of Sharkey Distinguished Visiting Scholar, School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. He was also founder of the Truce Foundation USA. Hugh's talk enlightened the audience regarding the ancient Olympic truce in Olympia, Greece and its present-day existence. He noted that the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang (PyeongChang translates as "peace and prosperity") provided the impetus for the North and South Korean leaders to schedule an upcoming meeting. Both North and South Korean athletes marched in together, and the women's ice hockey team was combined of both North and South athletes for the first time. Hugh's presentation was noted as one of the best in recent years at our UWC Annual Luncheon!

Hugh founded the Olympic Truce Foundation USA as a private, non-profit organization to promote and honor, through sporting events, the spirit of the ancient Olympic Truce on a national level, infusing the hearts and minds of America's citizens as well as those throughout the world. He has been honored several times by the IOC for his contributions to the Olympic Movement. Hugh has plans to attend IOAPA in 2019! I'll be there, too.

KEEP THE SACRED OLYMPIC FLAME BURNING ETERNALLY

Konstantinos Antonopoulos (GRE)

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In the Sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia, along with the other gods and heroes, the goddess Hestia was worshipped in antiquity. Hestia, who was the patroness of every house and city, was worshipped in one of the chambers of the Prytaneion of the Eleans, where a perpetual fire was tended day and night on the sacred hearth. The ashes produced by this eternal fire were transported to the altar of Zeus where the big sacrifice was held during the Olympic Games .

Following a silence of many centuries, humankind once again enjoys the Olympic Games, now throughout the world the greatest of all shared celebrations. Since the 11th Olympiad in 1936, the archaeological site of Olympia has hosted the Ceremony of the Lighting of the Olympic Flame, the most powerful of the symbols of the Olympic Movement, which apart from its other symbolisms, creates and holds the link with antiquity.

When focusing on the two customs, namely the Lighting of the Olympic Flame and the extinguishing of it at the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games, we realize that they constitute a distortion and misrepresentation of the tradition and rituals related to the sacred eternal flame of antiquity. To put it simply, these customs were not practiced in Olympia, as many people nowadays believe.

Following upon the tremendous global impact and success during the past decades of the Olympic Flame as a symbol, there are now many flames being lit for different sporting events under the auspices of the official Olympic Movement, each copying directly or indirectly — and in most instances unsuccessfully — the Olympic ceremonials and customs related to the flame. In short, a veritable wildfire of flames has been spawned within or closely related to the Olympic Movement: the Panathenaic Flame (Youth Olympic Flame), the Flame of Rome (The Flame of Peace), the Asian Games Flame, the Pan-American Games Flame, etc. But undoubtedly, the most provocative flame of all, is the so-called "Olympic Fire" which burns in a marble cauldron outside



Image 1: Ceremony of the Lighting of the Olympic Flame.

Image 2: The Prytaneum of the Eleans, where the sacred flame on the common hearth of Hestia of all the Greeks was eternally burning.

North and western corner of the Sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia. 6-5th cent, BCE.



The Olympic Museum in Lausanne. Surrounded by the other official symbols, this fire was lit by laser at Lausanne Federal Polytechnic on June 23, 1993 and was carried to the Olympic Museum in a relay. Apart from these flames, there are others contributing further to the confusion of the sport fans and friends of Olympism around the world: the Marathon Flame, the Paralympic Flame, the Special Olympics' Flame, the Universiade Flame and others.

Altogether, such developments greatly threaten to degenerate the originally intended meaning and significance associated with the Olympic Flame.

Ever since the 1936 Berlin Games, officials, journalists and authors have used the term "sacred" to describe the Olympic Flame which is being kindled in Olympia. Yet no one thus far has raised an argument against the deliberate extinguishing of such a flame at the Closing Ceremony of each Olympiad. It constitutes a huge conceptual and moral controversy that the universal, spiritual, and uniting flame kindled in Olympia to have a life of only a couple of months. Extinguishing the Olympic Flame condemns humanity to spiritual darkness until the next Olympiad.

In an effort to help stop any insensitive devaluations to the original notion of the Olympic Flame, there is a need for certain major reforms to modern Games' flame practices. Suggested are rectifications to restore the line of historical validity, which was recently summarized into the so-called "**Resolution of Pescara for the Olympic Flame**", attached to this short paper, adopted in 2017 by the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce and the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Cities.

The decision makers of the Olympic Movement should acknowledge the seriousness of the problem and start making changes that will help the Olympic Movement continue along a brilliant path as we course on through the 21st century.



NOTES: The Olympic Flame issue has been extensively analyzed and presented at my dissertation the Master's Degree Program on Olympic Studies of the University of Peloponnese.



*"And you, athletes,
remember the sun-
kindled Fire which
has come to you
from Olympia to
light and warm our
lifetime. Keep the
sacred flame alive"*
-Pierre de
Coubertin.



Also, it was presented in a short paper at the Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of the European Committee for Sports History (CESH) Edessa/Greece 16-18 October 2014.

Pausanias Description of Greece 5.15.9 : "In the Prytaneion itself, on the right as you enter the room where they have the hearth, is an altar of Pan. This hearth too is made of ashes, and on it, the fire burns every day and likewise every night. The ashes from this hearth, according to the account I have already given, are brought to the altar of Olympian Zeus, and what is brought from the hearth contributes a great deal to the size of the altar." English Translation by W.H.S. Jones, Litt.D., and H.A. Ormerod, M.A., in 4 Volumes. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd. 1918.

"The Flame is one of the most distinguished and essential symbols of Olympism. It is an integral part of the Olympic heritage, which links the Games of Antiquity, with the modern ones. It plays the part of a timeless bridge that connects the past with the present and the next day of humanity. The Olympic Flame is also the sacred symbol of friendship, peace and harmonious coexistence of peoples, noble competition and fair play. When passed in the hands of people of all ages, of both sexes, of different cultures, education and origin, it actually underlines all these elements that unite humanity rather than divide it." HOC President Mr Spyros I. Capralos, May 10th 2012 source: <http://www.hoc.gr/> - (retrieved on 29.08.2014).



>> **Contact Konstantinos Antonopoulos:** k_antonopoulos@hotmail.com



Lead IOAPA in your country!

An active network of IOAPA members depends on the work and motivation of Country Coordinators. Coordinators are required to organize events, seminars, workshops related to Olympic Education, cooperate with National Olympic Academies and National Olympic Committees, and in general maintain an active network of past IOA participants in their countries. With the motivation, ambition and valuable experience of your fellow IOAPA members, you can take big steps forward in your country.

Did you sign up yet? Be engaged!

CONTACT US:
alberto@ioapa.org



THE LINK – MEXICO 1968 AND OLYMPIA MEMORIES

Muharam Mchume (TAN)

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It was John Stephen Akhwari – the Legend who inspired me into the Olympics and the Olympic Movement as a whole. I personally believe that there is a strong link between him and my historical visit to International Olympic Academy – Olympia in July 1984.

John Stephen Akhwari is currently considered the Father of the Olympic Spirit who never gives up, believer in fair play and a person who embodies the values of the Olympic Games. Except few of us but many did not regard him as a hero at that time after the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games.

The legend John Stephen Akhwari is currently famous in the Olympic Movement for his quote, “My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race, they sent me to finish the race.” These remarks were made by him after entering into the almost empty stadium, signifying the end of the marathon race of 1968 Mexico Olympic Games. Truly no one regarded him as a hero. This may be because he did not win the much needed medal.

To me John Stephen Akhwari was my Role model. Our schools were very close making us compete frequently. Off the field he made us know more on the Olympics and the Olympic Movement. On knowing more on the Olympic history I finally found myself in Olympia in July 1984. Frankly, Olympia the epicenter of the Olympics and Olympism was my eye opener. My memories still linger on the warm welcoming speeches of Professor Nissiositics and Dr. Otto Zysmeck. As a person with passion in Olympic history, Olympia gave me all I needed.

Although my country participated for the first time in the 1964 Tokyo Games, my involvement with the Olympics came after the 1968 Mexico Games. This was because of John Stephen Akhwari the legend. As a son of a peasant from a small fishing village in Kilwa, or Quiloa as Portugese used to call it in the late 1500’s during their discovery era, made me disbelieve that I was now in Europe on my first day in Olympia. I was more shocked to see participants from all walks of life different in color and culture,



Image 1: John Stephen Akhwari, the greatest last place finish ever, at 1968 Olympics.
Photo Credit: IOC.

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Image 2: John Steven Akhwari holds the Olympics torch during its relay in Dar es Salaam ahead of the Beijing event in 2008.

Photo Credit: afp



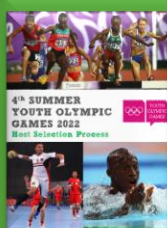
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discussing on a common agenda on Olympic values. The activities I remember most include the laying of wreath at the Pierre de Coubertin Stele, a visit to the ancient stadium and the discussion groups held in small huts around the playing grounds. As a multicultural interdisciplinary center, the IOA aims at promoting Olympism which was my theme. From the Olympic spirit I saw thirty three years ago in Olympia, it makes me believe that there is a big possibility through sports the world will be a peaceful and better place to live in.

The IOC has shown this just recently during the last Winter Games, as the Koreans stood united. This makes us believe in the Greek word of “Kalolagathia”, the model and moderator for the personal development of sports people taking into consideration the Culture, Art and Olympism.

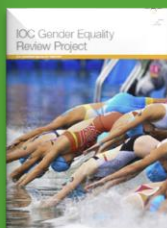
This September, Mexico City will host a mega event celebrating the fiftieth years anniversary of the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games. No one knows if John Stephen Akwari may be one of the athletes in the lane or in the roll of honor.

NEW “ON THE SHELF”



4th Summer Youth Olympic Games 2022: Host Selection Process

In accordance with the strategic directives set by the 129th IOC Session in 2016, the organizational concept of the Youth Olympic Games has been revised in order to make the next editions more accessible for both the organizers and the Olympic stakeholders. The new process is more streamlined, cost-effective and shorter, with a view to identifying the best host partner to collaborate with the IOC for the fourth edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games 2022. [READ IT HERE](#)



IOC Gender Equality Review Project

The IOC gender equality review project is a joint initiative of the IOC Women in Sport and Athletes' Commissions, which was endorsed by the IOC Executive Board in February 2018. This report encompasses the findings of the working group with consultation from the IOC administration. It details 25 recommendations which aim at inciting actors of the Olympic movement to take concrete steps and to enact effective change towards better gender equality in 5 specific domains. [READ IT HERE](#)

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Caroline Bujold (CAN)
IOAPA Internet Coordinator

IOAPA NOW ON INSTAGRAM

There are many ways members can stay connected after taking part in a session or a reunion.

Find us on now on [Instagram](#) at [@ioapa_official](#).

Tag us with your pictures for a chance to be featured or send us your IOAPA meet-up photos via email at info@ioapa.org (with some details) and we will gladly share with the community.

Find us also on [Facebook](#) ([@IOAPA.org](#)) and [Twitter](#) ([@IOAPA_Official](#)).



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IOAPA Alumni association for past participants of the International Olympic Academy (Olympia, Greece).
www.ioapa.org



2018 IOAPA REUNION IN BUENOS AIRES

October 11 at the Youth Olympic Games

More information to follow in our monthly bulletins... *Save the DATE*

UPCOMING SPORT EVENTS

August



2018 International Conference on Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management

August 22-14, 2018, Tokyo - JPN



15th World Leisure Congress

August 28 - September 1st, 2018, Sao Paulo - BRA

September



International Sports Science & Sports Medicine Conference

September 4-6, 2018, Newcastle upon Tyne – GBR



The 46th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport

September 5-8, 2018, Oslo - NOR



26th EASM – The European Sport Management Conference

September 5-8, 2018, Malmö - SWE



International Symposium on Advancements in Tourism, Recreation and Sports Sciences

September 5-8, 2018, Podgorica – MNE



35th FIMS World Congress of Sports Medicine

September 12-15, 2018, Rio de Janeiro - BRA

September



XII World Congress of Performance Analysis of Sport
September 19-23, 2018, Opatija – CRO



22nd International Conference & Expo on Nutrition, Fitness
and Health Management
September 19-23, 2018, Vancouver – CAN



Eighth International Conference on Health, Wellness & Society
September 20-21, 2018, London - GBR



6th International Congress on Sport Sciences Research and
Technology Support (icSPORTS)
September 20-21, 2018, Sevilla - ESP



International Conference Sport and Public Space
September 20-23, 2018, Ljubljana - SLO



ACPSEM 2018 Symposium - The Sporting Mind
September 21-22, 2018, London - GBR

October



SPORTEL Monaco
October 22-24, 2018, Monaco – MON



Sports, Data, and Journalism Conference
October 28, 2018, Zurich - SUI



Smart Cities & Sport Summit 2018
October 29-31, 2018, Lausanne - SUI



INTERNATIONAL PIERRE DE COUBERTIN COMMITTEE

Stephan Wassong has been elected unanimously as new President of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee (CIPC) on 20th January 2018. In this office, he is succeeding Prof. Norbert Müller, who successfully chaired the CIPC for 15 years.

From IOAPA we thank Prof. Müller for his contribution and collaboration over the years and congratulate Prof. Wassong on his new position. We look forward to maintaining the fruitful relationship with the CIPC.

In the next issue of Arete newsletter, you will find an article of Prof. Wassong on the CIPC and his objectives for the next four years.



Stephan Wassong is Full Professor at the German Sport University Cologne where he is Head of the Institute of Sport History and Director of its Olympic Studies Centre since 2009. From 2006 until 2009 he was Associate Professor at Liverpool Hope University, GBR. He is Executive Director of the international study programme Master of Arts in Olympic Studies and member of the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Education Commission. Professor Wassong is widely published on the national and international level. His fields of research include, amongst others, the educational work of Pierre de Coubertin, the history of the modern Olympic Movement, the Olympic anti-doping fight, foundation and development of the IOC's Athletes' Commission, sport for all in the Olympic Movement, socio-culture aspects of sport and physical education in the USA, development of sport in the German Empire and the Weimar Republic, and the archive-based project on 100 years of institutionalization of sport science in Germany. He has been appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Since 2012 he has been invited as lecturer at the International Olympic Academy regularly.

>> **Olympic Studies Centre of the German Sport University Cologne:** <https://www.dshs-koeln.de/olympic-studies-centre/>

>> **Contact Prof. Dr. Wassong:** wassong@dshs-koeln.de

OLYMPIC POEMS

IOA Past Participants

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BEYOND THE OLYMPICS

“We all love the Olympic Games.

Every four years, they return to the world stage.

We anticipate them and love watching them.

They are packed with tension,

and both the competitors and spectators are filled with pride.

The Olympic Games teach us the values

of Excellence, Friendship, Respect, and Fair Play.

Many good things happen during the short duration of the Olympic Games.

This is the place where sport, culture and education meet!

The meaningful learning of educational values,

derived through the love of sport,

was envisioned by the founder of the Modern Olympic Movement,

Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Let's engage everyone with the unique power of the Olympic Games,

to build greater understanding for a world with Peace and Solidarity.”



Written by: Yarden Har Lev, Israel

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Every single living organism is a part of our planet and is going to leave the planet once or later.

It made us to what and where we are right now, in that moment.

Life is beautiful, it is a gift but are we aware of that?

The Olympic Games have the power to show us how lovely and joyful life can be.

To get aware of life as itself, the Olympic Games make people from all over the world live at the exactly same moment.

And that is what life is about, to live every moment to the fullest.

You know what just happened in the last few seconds?

All of us, we lived the moment. Wasn't it wonderful!



Written by: Niko Dittrich, Austria

IOAPA MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD

Country : Jordan

Name: Amira Qattan

The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) has held a workshop that aims to prepare their top athletes for competing at Mega-Sports Events. The Olympic Preparations Programme welcomed some of the Kingdom's brightest stars to the Olympic Preparations Centre for sessions that were delivered by the JOC Educational Department. The athletes learned about the Olympic Values and how to implement them within their lives in order to serve as positive role models within the society in Jordan. The workshop ended with a media session which provided tools for conducting media interviews. In the near future, another workshop will be held for YOG athletes.



Photos Credit: Amira Qattan

CONTRIBUTE TO ARETE NEWSLETTER!

Did you participate in an interesting Conference in the field of sport?

Did you organize a sport-related event in your country?

Are you working on a sport-related dissertation or paper?

SHARE with us your experiences and contribute to the ARETE NEWSLETTER!

For any ideas, do not hesitate to contact the Newsletter Editor at yarden@ioapa.org.

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58th Young Participants Session 2018

Photo Credit: George Skouloudis



Sports have the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sports can create hope, where there was once only despair. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination. Sports is the game of lovers.

Nelson Mandela



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE YOUTH OLYMPICS?



When and where did the first summer edition of the Youth Olympic Games take place?

Please send your answer to the newsletter editor at: yarden@ioapa.org