

ARETE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
ACADEMY
PARTICIPANTS
ASSOCIATION



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HIGHLIGHTS



FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE OLYMPIC PRESENT

The International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Greece has always been a place of learning, discussion and international exchange. In 1961, the 1st session of the IOA took place as a summer school in a tent camp... (p.5)

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SPORT AS A SCHOOL FOR LIFE *An Olympic Experience*

"Sport as a school of life" was a motto that I became very familiar with during my childhood in Milan, Italy. A motto, which I inherited from my father, Marco Marchei, a two-time Olympian in the marathon event... (p.8)

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2020 IOAPA REUNION IN LAUSANNE

The 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place in Lausanne and be a great opportunity to get the IOAPA family together. If you are around, then don't miss this reunion in the Olympic Capital... (p.24)

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EDITORIAL

Yarden Har Lev (ISR)



PAGE 3

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the winter edition of the Arete Newsletter!

During the month of November, I had the honor of participating at the **New Leaders Forum** held in Helsinki, which is a legacy project by Birgitta Kervinen, the 2017 IOC Women and Sport World Trophy Winner. The Forum was organized by the NOC of Finland, in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and European Olympic Committees (EOC). Over 200 participants came together, including 30 young Game-Changers and sports leaders from EOC and abroad, in order to share and discuss best practices and progress made in advancing gender equality in their respective organizations.

When speaking to the Young Leaders and the Forum attendees, IOC President Thomas Bach pointed out in his opening remarks: *"It is crucial to give young people a voice if we want to stay relevant in today's society. By empowering tomorrow's leaders, young leaders just like you, we give them the opportunity to shape their and our future."*

In that spirit, from my perspective, the New Leaders Forum was a significant ending for a year of personal and professional development, friendship, mutual understanding and solidarity; and at the same time the beginning of a fundamental change. I was personally very proud when I found myself on this journey with some IOAPA members who were also part of this group of Game-Changers. Hence, I would encourage anyone with an interest in leading change for the benefit of the Olympic Movement to learn more about the 'New Leaders Forum Legacy' and act in advancing gender equality. **Now, it is time for action!**

In this edition you will also read about what happened last November at the United States Olympic and Paralympic Athlete Reunion. Laurel Iversen, the IOAPA Vice-President, shares with us how Olympic Education is thriving in Colorado. In addition, Valentina Marchei teaches us a lesson for life through her story as a figure skater representing Italy at the Olympics. Roland Krimmer and Jonathan Ruwuya also recount their life-changing experiences at the IOA. And in her article, Aura Beatriz Amaya Cobar draws important attention to the issue of Sport and Diplomacy. As always, we include relevant news and academic opportunities within the sport and Olympic movement, where IOAPA members can share their activities and experiences. Lastly, at the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne 2020 we are excited to host the next **IOAPA REUNION**, with details on the last page of this issue of Arete.

My appreciation is given to all those who contributed to the production of the winter newsletter. I invite all of you to send us your contribution in all aspects of your participation in promoting Olympic ideals worldwide towards the first edition for 2020. Please note that the **submission deadline** is **February 15**.

Have a successful new year and happy reading!

With Olympic regards,

Yarden Har Lev, Arete Newsletter Editor

yarden@ioapa.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard Koo (CAN)



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Dear IOAPA Members and readers of Arete:

Seasons greetings on behalf of the IOAPA Executive Committee. I hope that you have all had a healthy, productive and successful 2019.

Since my last letter the Executive Committee has been busy planning several exciting initiatives for this 2019-2021 term of office. With our new Internet Coordinator Fabio Silva now installed, we have been examining new innovative ways to deliver important news to you through this newsletter and our social media platforms which will begin to execute in 2020.

IOAPA recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Canadian Olympic Committee to share educational resources developed in Canada to the rest of the world through our membership networks. We hope that this will become the start of an exciting new educational hub with other countries participating in this knowledge sharing initiative. I want to acknowledge our partners (and IOAPA members) Sandra Sassine and Kate Moorhouse at COC for their partnership and support.

On a related note, as president I traveled this month to Vilnius to see the excellent work in Olympic Education undertaken by the Lithuanian Olympic Committee under the direction of former IOAPA Executive member Vita Balsyte. I feel privileged to be able to see the impact first hand of the IOA experience and how this translates into programs that touch tens of thousands of youth around the world. Many thanks to Vita and her team for making my visit so memorable.

We have two exciting reunions to announce for 2020. First, IOAPA will be hosting a reunion on January 18 in Lausanne during the Youth Olympic Games. Invites were sent to all members via email. If you are interested in attending and did not receive an invite, please email us at info@ioapa.org. Second, we will be hosting our traditional reunion at the Olympic Games in Tokyo, tentatively scheduled for August 2. We hope to have additional programming during the games for those unable to attend the event itself and will announce these plans in the coming months.

Finally, we hope to announce some very exciting news for you our members surrounding the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay in early January. More information will be made available through our monthly mailing list as well as via our social media channels. Be on the lookout for this!

As this year draws to a close, I hope that you all will have an opportunity to spend time with your families and loved ones as we prepare to usher in a new decade and another exciting Olympic year in 2020. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Richard Koo, IOAPA President

Richard@ioapa.org

FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE OLYMPIC PRESENT

25 Students – 20 Countries – 5 Continents – 1 Dream

Roland Krimmer (GER)

PAGE 5

The International Olympic Academy (IOA) in Greece has always been a place of learning, discussion and international exchange. In 1961, the 1st session of the IOA took place as a summer school in a tent camp. Currently, once a year, it also hosts young scientists from all over the world who are researching the topic of the Olympic Movement. For this reason, the world-famous "International Seminar on Olympic Studies for Postgraduate Students" was held in Greece for the 26th time in 2019 from May 8-30. The event was held near the ancient Olympic Stadium under the Kronos Hill, with the topic: "The Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement: Past, Present and Future – An Analysis from the Historical, Philosophical and Social Perspectives" and "Olympic Diplomacy and Peace".

The postgraduate seminar is one of the IOA's traditional core programmes, targeting graduates from all five continents. The understanding and knowledge about the Olympic Movement and its goals as well as the resulting mission are intensified through lectures, case studies, discussion groups, presentations and excursions to cultural and historical sites and museums. In addition, in the run-up to each postgraduate seminar, academic papers are submitted by the international students, which are then delivered to the international plenum in daily presentations.

In the course of the journey via Athens (Acropolis Museum, Panathenaikon Stadium, Acropolis Museum, Athens Olympic Sports Complex), Epidauros, Nafplio (Fortress of Palamidi); Corinth and Nemea, the group of 25 students from twenty countries and five continents visited several historically important sports sites and places of worship. Afterwards, they devoted themselves to daily lectures in the direct neighbourhood of Olympia's ancient sanctuary. Professors from the birthplace of the Olympic Games and Democracy, Greece, as well as Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and the United States of America covered a wide range of current topics from the ancient Olympic Games via the modern movement to the ethical aspects of Olympism.

But before the exciting lectures at the prestigious Olympic Academy finally got under way, the opening ceremony was held together with the 15th International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies. Traditional protocol included the Olympic anthem as well as laying wreaths at the Stele of Baron Pierre de Coubertin (renovator of the Olympic Games) and at the commemorative monument of John Ketseas and Carl Diem (pioneers of the IOA). The informal ending of this wonderful festivity was located in the club "Zorbas".

Image 1: IOA Dean
Prof. Dr.
Georgiadis award
diploma to Roland
Krimmer.

Image 2: A group
photo on the
famous marble
staircase at the
IOA.



In the following days, Prof. Dr. Mauritsch (AUT) introduced the topic "The Ancient Olympic Games and their Philosophy" to the international students and was supported by Mrs. Erofilis (GRE). It was of crucial importance that the students gain expert insights into the topic "1,000 years of Olympic Games in antiquity; sources for sport in antiquity: literature – art – epigraphy; ancient politics and Olympia; events at Olympia; victors and heroes; a man's world: woman and sport in ancient Greece and Rome; and Olympic diplomacy and peace". This laid a fundamental foundation for the ensuing academic discourses of the following weeks.

The focus of the second week was on "The Modern Olympic Movement and the socio-political aspects of the Modern Olympic Games". The two internationally known Pierre de Coubertin experts Prof. Dr. Norbert Müller (GER) and Prof. Dr. John MacAloon (USA) were able to inspire the students with their rich Olympic insider knowledge and countless anecdotes about media and communication, management, organization and marketing. This led to desired extra lessons and made the students therefore extraordinarily happy. The thirst for knowledge of the young academics found no end here. Knowing this circumstance, the Dean of the IOA, Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Georgiadis (GRE) laid without further ado his lecture in the impressive historical backdrop of the ancient Olympic Stadium. This gave the students an unforgettable access to the mythological and cultural backgrounds of the Ancient Olympic Games and thus became a lecture highlight of the postgraduate seminar.

In week three Prof. Dr. Irena Martinkova (CZE), Prof. Dr. Yannis Theodorakis (GRE) and Prof. Dr. Matthew Llewellyn (USA) continued with the topic "The ethical and philosophical issues of Olympism as well as the athletes' rights in the modern Olympic Movement". A balanced mix of philosophical reflection, captivating lectures and active sports activities brought the entire group together more intensively in the spirit of the Olympic idea. The seminar was rounded off with a visit to the Oracle of Delphi, before the students began their journeys to their respective homelands.

Although the temporary community may now be scattered all over the globe the Olympic values of friendship, respect, and excellence will live eternally in the hearts as well as in the spirit of the participants.

All in all, the varied programme with lectures by avid Olympic researchers, excursions to

One of the unique experiences for the international students at the Neda waterfalls.



various ancient sites, the immediate proximity of the Academy to the ancient place of worship and other significant sites of Olympic history and the great atmosphere among the international participants, as well as the excellent care by Mr. Nikos Papacharalampous (GRE), was a valuable and once in a lifetime experience for the young academics. Exchanging and living with so many different cultures, nationalities and personalities, was similar to a small Olympic Village. The cultural evenings, exploration of the Greek surroundings like Zakynthos Island, South Peloponnese (Voidokoilia Beach, Gialova, Pylos, Kalmamata City, Neda Waterfalls and Zacharo Beach) were a unique experience for the international students. In addition, the joint sport activities supported and contributed to the coalescence of the whole group. From the very beginning, it showed the positive role of Olympic sport in general, and the IOA as bridge builder in particular, in bringing together different people and cultures to create a community of values of fair play, solidarity and humanity.

Vielen Dank IOA, thank you very much IOA, Σας ευχαριστώ πολύ την IOA.

“Celebrating Olympics means relying on history ... Demanding the peoples to love one another is a kind of puerility; to ask them to respect one another is not a utopia; but to esteem someone, you have to know each other first” - Baron Pierre de Coubertin

NEW “ON THE SHELF”



The 3rd issue of *DIAGORAS: International Academic Journal On Olympic Studies*. In this release, 7 articles from experienced academics, two from emerging scholars and one research report have been published. [READ IT HERE](#)



FASTER, HIGHER, “GREENER”: IOC Sustainability Progress Update - A review of our 2020 objectives. This report highlights achievements against the IOC’s 2020 sustainability objectives. [READ IT HERE](#)

Valentina Marchei (ITA)

“Sport as a school of life” was a motto that I became very familiar with during my childhood in Milan, Italy; a motto, which I inherited from my father, Marco Marchei, a two-time Olympian in the marathon event (Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984).

My father was my first and longest tenured mentor, during my time as a professional figure skater. He was never one of those fanatic dads. He would bring me to competitions and barely watch them. He always told me that if I wasn't having fun anymore, I could change to any other sport. As long as I was practicing something, he was happy with it. Through his guidance, I learned what it meant to honor a commitment and to have dedication and trust in myself, all skills I utilized to invest myself into skating.

For many years, it was my own run, my own victory, my own journey. It felt good to be in charge, in the center of attention, but it was also hard to be far away from my family to follow my dreams. Through my journey, I lived in several different countries, such as the United States of America, Russia, Latvia and France, and travelled around the world to compete.

In all of these years, I was injured a lot and was defeated a lot. A few times, I even touched the rock bottom, forcing me to reset everything. One such moment was in 2006, when I had chance to qualify for my first Olympic games, in Italy – my country.

I was 19 years old and was not able to handle the pressure of the moment. I ended up not making the team. While I was crying in front of the television, watching the games, my family was always there for me. They held my hand through every tear and through every time I said I would give up. They helped me to stand back up and start from zero using only my pure passion. 2010 was another challenging year. I was once again in contention for a spot on the Olympic team for Vancouver. I was so very close to making the only spot available that I could taste it. However, once again, I didn't make it. Despite that, I won the Italian nationals that year. Carolina Kostner (one of the strongest skaters in the world) won the European Championships a few weeks later to secure her spot and prevent me from achieving my dream. Instead of crying in front of the television, I was hired by the national tv channel to commentate the Games. Without realizing it, I found myself opening up a bunch of new opportunities that would later become my identity outside of skating. These types of adventures give you extra energy to restart motivated and challenged. Challenges most of the time shape us into fighters.




Image 1: Valentina with her team at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.
Image 2: Valentina with her dad at the Sochi Olympic Village in 2014.



2010 was the year I decided to really go for it. It was also when I decided to do it for myself, not for a medal or for the glory, but just for me.

In 2014, I finally qualified for my first Olympic Games in Sochi. I had dreamed of the moment for more than eight years and I was ready. I knew every step, every feeling that I owned. I was ready to skate like I had never done so in any competition in the 20 years of my career.

Skating over the Olympic rings on that ice was a dream come true. Not only did I skate my best in the ladies event, finishing 11th, but team Italy ended up 4th in the team event, which was quite a surprise for the entire Italian delegation. I mean, we were fourth in the world! Can you believe that? For a girl that was chasing the Olympic adventure since she was eight years old, that was a huge accomplishment. Also, living the atmosphere of the village was so unique and inspiring that it gave me even more motivation to go for another dream: making it to another Olympic Games.

2014 was also the year of my biggest encounter, Ondrej Hotarek. He quickly became my partner in crime on the ice. I was 28 years old and he was 30. We were just back from Sochi, where we competed together in the team event, but in two different disciplines. He was a pairs skater and was ready to end his career. I was a very motivated single skater that was certainly not ready to call it quits. We played around with few pair elements just to keep him in shape. He was lifting me, and he was throwing me around the ice; quite challenging and different for a girl afraid of heights and used to doing everything by herself.

That feeling of the wind over my face, the flying, the speed, brought me back to my seven-year-old self that just started to skate, and here I was falling in love with skating all over again. For the skating world our age was considered retirement age. Nobody would ever believe and trust a couple like us, who aimed to compete on the international stage, but we were having fun, and we thought why not? Why not challenge ourselves, one more time?

A new discipline for me (after a 20-year career as a single skater), meant starting from the basics. It required a lot of work. Our heart, instead, was telling us to try and soon we proved that limits were just in the eyes of people watching us, not ours. In four month's time, we won nationals.

*Valentina with
her partner
Ondrej at the
2018 Winter
Olympics in
Pyeongchang.
Credit: Augusto
Bizzi.*



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In five, we were fourth at the European Championships (I was fourth the year before in the ladies event). Most importantly, in four years, we were competing at the winter Olympics in PyeongChang and I was one of the first in the world to compete in two different disciplines in two consecutive games.

Not only did we make history, breaking all the Italian records possible in the pairs event, but we skated the performances of our lives. No mistakes and a full arena of spectators on their feet, dancing and clapping during our routines. Not even in our wildest dreams would we have imagined it. It was amazing to think we started our journey only four years before with just us and our very small team believing in this adventure. It all started as a game and then became our reality. He was carrying my dream and I carried his. I'll always be thankful to Ondrej for the trust and the patience he extended to me.

My story is about not waiting to be ready, but about daring to dream and chasing it at all costs. My story is about not fearing the future, because it will never go the way you believe it will but trusting the process and finding yourself at an even better 'finish line' than expected. My story is not about me, but about the people I met and worked with along the way. I might not have won heavy medals. I'm actually the queen of fourth place finishes. (Yes, in PyeongChang, team Italy placed 4th again, but with the strongest national team in Italian history). But the shout of joy at the end of my team event performance felt like the shiniest gold I've ever received.

It's the journey, not the results, which will shape you into the best version of the athlete and person you could ever dream of becoming.

SPORT AS A SCHOOL OF LIFE. DARE TO DREAM!



UNITED STATES OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETE REUNION

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Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)

This quadrennial event was held in America's Olympic City, Colorado Springs the weekend of November 4th.

Having attended the event four years ago in Las Vegas, I knew this was a great opportunity to catch up with teammates and other Olympians and Paralympians. My 1980 teammates decided early last year that we should make every effort to make it to Colorado.

Our team is tightly connected. We were the first TEAM to go into year-round, full-time training in order to qualify for the 1980 Games in Moscow, and the first residents of the Olympic Training Center when it opened in 1978. It was a bleak place in those early days. The land and abandoned buildings were donated to the USOC by the US Air Force. There were chain link fences all around the perimeter with barbed wire on the top. We did qualify in April of '79 but due to the boycott did not attend the Olympics. We all believe that living and training together and enduring the disappointment of the boycott, molded our characters and made us very close to one another.

The USOPTC is now a beautiful place for athletes training in many sports and employs the latest sports science and sports medicine technology.

As a sister city of Ancient Olympic, Colorado Springs has a lot of ties to the Olympic world. Officially branded America's Olympic City, not only is it home to the USOP Training Center, Olympic and Paralympic Museum, but also the USOPC and many National Governing Bodies.

The reunion weekend was full of many opportunities to connect with fellow athletes. Friday night was the Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. Inductees included Lisa Leslie - Basketball, Apollo Anton Ono - Speedskating, Tommy Smith and John Carlos - Athletics, Tara Lapinski Gymnastics, Candice Cable - Para skiing and Athletics and our own Misty May Trainer - Beach Volleyball, and others! The addresses by these men and women, the best of the best of all of us were so heartfelt and inspiring. Surely, they have all had many speaking engagements, but to speak in front of 190 of your peers had to be a bit unnerving! They were excellent. Many of my teammates had photos with their Heroes and Sheroes!

Saturday we were guests of the Olympic and Paralympic Museum which is currently under construction and slated to open mid-2020. Colorado Springs was successful in procuring the land for the future Olympic and Paralympic Museum. This beautiful museum overlooks a large park with views up to Pike's Peak in the Rocky Mountains.




Image 1: The Olympic and Paralympic Museum.

Image 2: The USOPTC, which is a now a beautiful place for athletes training in many sports.



We were welcomed by the mayor and museum curator and invited to sign a steel band that will be part of the museum. I raced to the top which will house the history of Ancient Olympia and a collection of Olympic Torches. Imagine my delight to meet a volunteer from Greece! Kalimera! Ti kanete? Mr. Haris was thrilled to meet so many Olympians.

Tours were conducted by Young Champion Ambassadors who are part of a youth leadership program available to all high school students in the region.

2019 Young Champion Ambassador Atharva Vispute, a local high school student, will represent Colorado Springs during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay in Ancient Olympia, Greece in March 2020. “The Young Champion Ambassador program comes to life through an online essay competition to select two student representatives per high school to participate in a one of a kind youth-leadership curriculum that concludes with an international trip to the origins of the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

YCA participants venture into a journey of personal growth as they master skills such as design thinking, public speaking, networking, branding, and more. Participants also learn all about the Olympic and Paralympic movement.” Olympic Education is thriving in Colorado!

I’m very proud of this new building and the great ideas they have for interacting with visitors. I look forward to returning to see the completed museum and all of its exhibits.

Saturday afternoon we had time to be with friends, enjoy the magnificent surroundings of the Broadmoor Resort by its lake. A fascinating Olympic Documentary called “The Last Gold” was shown. It’s about the East German doping of female swimmers in 1976. After that: time with Teammates.



Members of the 1980 Women’s Olympic Volleyball Team with Misty May Treanor -3X Gold Medalist in Beach Volleyball (Left front in a black dress), her dad Butch May, 1968 Volleyball Olympian, Danielle Scott Aruda – 5X Volleyball Olympian, and Bobbi Perry 1968 Volleyball Olympian. She was my teammate on my first National Team. Bobbi is from Hawai’i.

AN UNEXPLAINABLE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Johnathan Ruwuya (ZIM)

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As the bus drives down the winding road towards the gate, I am overwhelmed with great emotions of joy while reminiscing about the invaluable experience I shared with many other young participants. At the same moment my soul is gripped with sadness, a feeling that is prompted by the desire to stay much longer in Ancient Olympia. My conscience is aware of the impossibility of staying even a day longer at the International Olympic Academy (IOA), and I almost drop a tear at this thought. My tears are salvaged by a greater sensation of immense change and rejuvenation springing from deep down in my soul. A sense so surreal it reminded me that I will never be the same again and the best is yet to come.

It may be plausible right at the start to state a brief history of the IOA, which is the idea of the founder of modern Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin. The reason for establishing such an august institution was to promote his Olympic philosophy so as to preserve his work from being perverted by venal and corrupt interests within sport. His ideologies are what we now know as Olympism, described by the Olympic Charter as “a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.”

The ancient Greeks shared the same ideology which centered on a holistic approach to experiencing the Olympic festivities. Focus was not merely on being the best, but rather the wholesome participation of the human body, mind and spirit, in connection with the environment in a form of worship to their gods. Heather L. Reid (2018) describes such an ideology as an Olympic Ethos and postulates that ‘moderns will recognize Olympia’s refreshing green pines and buzzing cicadas as the fortuitous consequence of a confluence of rivers, whereas the ancients interpreted its verdant landscape as permeated with divine life... Human beings were understood to be connected - not only with the living landscape and divine spirit upon which they thought their lives depended – but also with one another in circles of friendship and community that ranged ever outwards from family, to city, to nation, to mankind, and ultimately to nature and the gods.’

I vividly recall the day I received the notification that I will be representing Zimbabwe as a



*Jonathan as
a coordinator
at the 59th
Young
Participants
Session in
Olympia.*



young participant for the 56th Young Participants Session. It is always encouraging to see your efforts being recognized by the National Olympic Committee, however, much of my excitement was emanating from the fact that I would be visiting Europe for the first time. Little did I know that I was about to embark on a journey that will leave an imprint in my life, I had no idea that the experience will cut deep into my soul and stir a desire to be a part of a movement bigger than sport itself.

My experience started the very moment I arrived in Athens. The excitement was overwhelming and I had the opportunity to meet a few of the young participants immediately. It was amazing having to introduce ourselves to each other and just marvel at the variety of countries represented. This is one of the beauties of the Young Participants Session, the ability to connect individuals from different countries that converge at a place with one goal in mind. There are life-long friendships that are seeded during the session and one can easily see them grow and blossom. Needless to say, the main goal of the session is to learn and contribute to the Olympic Movement by sharing ideologies and answering pertinent questions associated with sport, but not only limited to Olympic sport.

The two weeks that followed basically broadened my horizons. It is true that if an individual is brought up in one culture all their life they may lack appreciation of other cultures. They are somewhat prisoners and they have a narrow perspective through which they view the world. The sessions are organized in such a way with various cultural exhibitions that enable one to learn, in a few minutes, about numerous cultures from across the world. One cannot benefit from this unique setting unless if they step out of their comfort zone and interact and network with 150 young people, by sharing ideas and philosophies regarding sport and life.

Perhaps it is paramount to mention that connections made in Olympia are not regular ones. They seem to be instigated by an underlying power that draws people together. It may be the excitement associated with being part of such an impressive session. If the Young Participant Sessions were organized in a different location, would the end result be the same? Perhaps Pierre de Coubertin saw or felt this underlying power in Olympia and saw fit to establish an academy where the Ancient Greeks had their games. From my experience, it is my opinion





that Olympia is special and the IOA serves to preserve the internal logic of sport. By the end of the 56th Young Participants Session I learned how much young people were doing to promote Olympism, not only in sporting environments, but also in societies to make a substantive change. I felt as if I had received a calling to contribute in preserving the internal value of sport through education. I didn't quite understand how I was going to fulfil a desire to act, but this desire prompted me to look for opportunities in Europe. Perhaps I wanted to be closer to Olympia and the IOA.

The power of the IOA is not only to establish life-long friendships or merely to broaden self's horizons through intercultural interactions, but also to share cutting edge ideas that serve the Olympic Movement. There is an unexplainable connection to the ancient roots of the Olympic ideologies that transforms oneself from within. I had another opportunity to attend the Young Participants Session as a coordinator in the year 2019. While we were in Olympia a certain friend mentioned something that struck my mind and sort of confirmed my initial thought. She said, 'there is a lot of energy that I feel in these sacred environments and it is quite humbling to be here.' To be honest I didn't feel anything of that sort but it made me ponder upon the idea of Olympia and the IOA possessing an underlying power that connects people, a power that stirs a desire to contribute positively to the advancement of Olympics in sport and society.

After the Young Participants Session I had an opportunity to meet members of the International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA), an organization whose efforts are to ensure past participants maintain the desire to re-visit the IOA. For many, they have not missed a single IOAPA Session just to relive the first dreamlike experience they had as young participants. To some it is more of a spiritual experience which changed the course of their lives and each time they revisit Olympia, their souls and spirits are somewhat re-energized and they leave the sacred place as better persons. To some the emotions they experienced were incomparable to anything they ever experienced before, the reason why they pledged to continue visiting Olympia for the rest of their days. At this juncture I would like to make reference to Heather L. Reid's words about Olympia and Olympism. She mentions that 'Olympic Ethos is holistic...connecting human beings with each other, as well as with the natural and spiritual worlds.' This is the essence of Olympia and the IOA.

SPORT AND DIPLOMACY EDUCATION FOR PEACE

PAGE 16

Aura Beatriz Amaya Cobar (ESA)

I am totally convinced that sport is a way to educate for peace and tolerance. Tolerance goes through the acceptance of people, regardless of anything. Actually, society has evolved in different aspects, but evolution must include a mental reeducation, an education for living together in harmony. Advances in politics and diplomacy and international agreements have undoubtedly helped to develop cooperation, the world economy and, unfortunately, they have also collaborated with alliances that do not respond to common interests.

Returning to the evolution of society, the strength of the struggle for inclusion and equality is now a task that we have to solve in the sports field as well. It is convenient to think: what will be the future of sports, being inclusive with gender changes? In this acceptance of diversity, we must continue the fight of fair play.

In recent years, sport as a social practice has been used as a tool aimed at fighting a series of evils that affect society: sports against drugs, sports against alcoholism, sports against obesity and sports as social inclusion, especially in vulnerable populations, sport as a solution to political conflicts, etc. In my opinion, the tolerance of inclusion is the best way of harmonious coexistence. Therefore, at the political and diplomatic level, sport can be used as a way of tolerance. Sport as a diplomatic tool seems to have more successes than in other instances.

My first memory about the Olympics games is Seoul 1988. I can still remember the opening and the parade of countries. A great party began, without being aware that the world was still full of internal and international conflicts. And more than 30 years after there are still big political differences. Even after the war of 1953, the permanent political conflict of the South and North Korea transformed into the continuation and extension of a cold war that theoretically came to an end with the fall of the former USSR and its satellite countries. All forms of reunification and treaties were unsuccessful when the Olympic games were held in Seoul South Korea in 1988. The parallel national games of North Korea were intended to demonstrate the great magnificence of that country's sports power. However, in 2018 they walked in as a one Korea at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. In this way, acceptance, tolerance and respect differences of any kind put us on the road to peace. Yet, we still need to educate or reeducate for peace by acquiring values which respects the human rights while adapting to the new challenges of society.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

ARETE Editorial Board

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Olympic studies around the globe
Études olympiques dans le monde



THE OLYMPIC
STUDIES
CENTRE

The 3rd conference "**CITY, MEGA EVENTS AND TOURISM**" of the Observatory of Research on Mega-Events (ORME) at the University of Paris-Est, organized with the As TRES Association on May 18th to 20th 2020. Contributions may deal with different kinds of events (mega-events such as Olympic and Paralympic Games, World Expos, European Capital of Culture, etc.) or different types of events on smaller scales on diverse themes.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 31 DECEMBER 2019. FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION [CLICK HERE](#)

Please note that papers may be submitted in English or in French.

The 2020/2021 edition of our **ADVANCED OLYMPIC RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME** has been launched. The programme is aimed at university professors, lecturers and research fellows who have completed their doctorate, and who currently hold an academic/research appointment/affiliation. It is also open to both individual and collective applications. For this new edition, the Olympic Studies Centre is inviting the academic community to submit proposals related to at least one of the 11 IOC priority fields of research described in the rules. The rules and application forms can be found [HERE](#). **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION IS 31 JANUARY 2020.**



The Academic College at Wingate and the Olympic Committee of Israel are proud to host the **6TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCES** scheduled to take place June 4-7, 2020 at the Academic College at Wingate, Israel.

Within the framework of the Congress, **OLYMPIC STUDIES AND EDUCATION** will be one of the main themes with a rich Scientific Program designed by the Olympic Studies Center.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS 31 MARCH 2020. FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION [CLICK HERE](#)

Please visit the [CONGRESS WEBSITE](#) for further details and registration. In any questions, please contact Yarden Har Lev, Coordinator of the Israeli Olympic Studies Center, at yarden@wincol.ac.il

Fábio Silva (POR)
IOAPA Internet Coordinator

BENEFITS OF IOAPA MEMBERSHIP?

Besides having the opportunity to keep in touch with other members, attend our Reunion at the Olympics and take part in our bi-annual Session in Olympia, as a member you also get exclusive access to the following (to get access, login our website):

- ✓ List of members
- ✓ Monthly emails with news on sport related opportunities
- ✓ Helpful links for jobs and research

KNOW A PAST PARTICIPANT WISHING TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Please refer them to [IOAPA MEMBERSHIP](#) and they will be able to register and pay online directly!

DO YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IOAPA MEMBERS?

You have access to great perks and you are able to share: sporting event tickets, cultural event tickets, sport promotions, special museum exhibits, etc.?

Send us the details at info@ioapa.org or post the information on our [Facebook group](#) (members only).

FEEL FREE TO JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

You can find us on

[Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)

PROMOTE YOUR IOAPA ACTIVITY

We are continuously looking for news from our members. Are you working on a sport or Olympic education project that could be of interest to others? Does your country have a National Academy and you're taking part? Are you travelling and meeting IOAPA members or want to host IOA friends in your city? Do you have a great Olympic/Paralympic story? Did you meet the love of your life in Olympia? You're hosting a mini IOAPA reunion? **WE WANT TO KNOW!** Send us the details with a couple pictures/videos at info@ioapa.org and we may just publish them.

Lead IOAPA in your country!



Maintain an active network of past IOA participants in your country. IOAPA needs you! You could be a national representative.

CONTACT US:

info@ioapa.org



UPCOMING SPORT EVENTS FOR 2020

Youth and Winter Sport Congress

2020/01/07 - 2020/01/08 | Lausanne, SUI

2020 NSCA Coaches Conference

2020/01/08 - 2020/01/10 | Texas, USA

International Conference on “Physical Education and Sports Sciences”

2020/01/09 - 2020/01/11 | Rajasthan, IND

2020 Sport for Life Canadian Summit

2020/01/28 - 2020/01/30 | Gatineau, CAN

Digital Transformation in Sports Summit

2020/01/29 - 2020/01/30 | San Francisco, USA

University of Miami Sport Industry Conference (SIC)

2020/01/29 - 2020/01/29 | Miami, USA

Scandinavian Sports Medicine Congress

2020/01/30 - 2020/02/01 | Copenhagen, DEN

European Golf Business Conference 2020 | Technology & Innovation in Golf

2020/02/03 - 2020/02/05 | Cascais, POR

Global Sport Week

2020/02/05 - 2020/02/07 | Paris, FRA

2020 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, Promoting Well-Being following TBI

2020/02/07 - 2020/02/07 | Toronto, CAN

3rd Week of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sports of the Uliège

2020/02/24 - 2020/02/29 | Liège, BEL

WANT TO BE FEATURED ON OUR Instagram ?



Drop us a line at info@ioapa.org and tell us a little bit about yourself. Also, don't forget to tag us on your posts [@ioapa_official](#) for a chance to be featured.

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UPCOMING SPORT EVENTS FOR 2020

Youth Sport Trust 2020 Conference

2020/02/27 - 2020/02/27 | Coventry, GBR

India Sports Tech Conference

2020/03/01 - | Mumbai, IND

14th Annual MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference

06/03/2020 - 07/03/2020 | Boston, USA

IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury & Illness in Sport

12/03/2020 - 14/03/2020 | Monaco, MON

International Academic Conference on Transport, Logistics, Tourism and Sport Science 2020

13/03/2020 - 14/03/2020 | Budapest, HUN

WADA 2020 Annual Symposium and Athlete Session

17/03/2020 - 18/03/2020 | Lausanne, SUI

14th Annual Conference of the PSA Sport and Politics Specialist

26/03/2020 - 27/03/2020 | Manchester, GBR

Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research Annual Conference

27/03/2020 - 28/03/2020 | Fullerton, USA

International Conference on Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management (HTSM)

30/03/2020 - 01/04/2020 | Kyoto, JPN

17th Annual Scientific Conference of MSA "Sport, Physical Activity and Health: Contemporary Perspectives"

02/04/2020 - 05/04/2020 | Dubrovnik, CRO

Country : Puerto Rico

Name: Natalia I. Ramírez-Irizarry

“Olympism is a philosophy which, by blending sport with culture, seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal ethical principles” – Juan Antonio Samaranch

In 2016, I participated in the IOA Young Participants session, which was an important session to me as a scientist because of the theme: “Olympism as an effective tool for development and sustainability”. Since then, I have become part of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) and in charge of visiting schools and educating students in Puerto Rico. The objective of this programme is to promote a healthy lifestyle, to implement the Olympic Values in everyday life without having been an Olympian, and to increase the knowledge about Olympic History. In addition, there is an emphasis on implementation of sustainability in sport, which is an important recommendation in the Olympic Agenda 2020 to encourage balance between body, will and mind.

Some examples of the activities of the OVEP in Puerto Rico are that students may come to school dressed in the uniform of their favorite athlete or sport. Furthermore, students play with recycled equipment and are divided into teams using the Olympic Values: excellence, respect and friendship. I have had the opportunity to inspire around 100 students in different schools by teaching Olympic History, Olympic Values and about the participation of Puerto Rico in the Olympic Games (Summer, Winter, Youth and Paralympics) through unforgettable moments throughout history. Personally, spreading Olympism among young people is important because by this means I can impact and promote a better country for a better World.

Finally, I would like to thank Elizabeth Hanley (USA) and her committee for selecting me to receive the Hans van Haute Scholarship, so I could attend the 16th IOAPA session and share the Olympic Values project in my country.



Country: Germany

Name: René Beck

My name is René Beck (36) from Germany. I have been an IOAPA member since July 2019.

On March, 1st 2020, I will start the engine of my Land Rover Defender “Barney” to travel to Tokyo 2020. Actually, I wanted to do a sabbatical to travel the world, get to know new cultures and collect inspiration for my future life. But, my time at the International Olympic Academy (IOA) in July 2019 changed my plans. The participation at the 13th International Session for Educators of Higher Institutes of Physical Education (1st - 7th of July 2019) changed my perspective on the Olympic Games. I had always looked at it from a commercial and marketing point of view. And then, at the IOA, more than 50 participants from all over the world were discussing about Olympic Truce, Diplomacy and Peace. I did not really realize these topics when it came to the Olympics, before.

Back in Germany, Tobias Knoch (Director of the German Olympic Academy) and myself discussed how my journey could be used to promote Olympism and its values such as friendship, respect and understanding. Finally, I am proud to do my journey as an official ambassador of the Olympic movement in Germany spreading out the Olympic idea and the power of sports for peace. In total, I am traveling through 23 countries (Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran*, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan*, Kyrgyzstan*, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia, Japan). IOAPA members in these countries are encouraged to contact me and meet up with me when I am passing by.

So far, the project is 100% privately financed. Unfortunately, my financial resources are exhausted. Right now, I need your support to finalize my preparations. Therefore, I started a crowdfunding campaign giving you the chance to support my project: www.fairplaid.org/road2tokio.

As an alumni of the IOA and an ambassador of the German Olympic movement, I am carrying the Olympic values deep in my heart.

Follow my journey on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or get connected with me on [LinkedIn](#).



Country: Israel

Name: Yarden Har Lev

On November 4-5, 2019, the Olympic Committee of Israel and the Academic College at Wingate conducted the 1st Joint Seminar of the National Olympic Academies of Israel and Germany, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Olympic Committees of Israel and Germany. Ten guests from Germany attended the seminar, including **Mr. Frank Wieneke**, Judo Olympic Champion 1984 and Olympic Silver Medal 1988, who was the honorary guest of the seminar. In addition, four representatives from the Guatemalan Olympic Committee attended the seminar, which also has an agreement of cooperation with the Olympic Committee of Israel. The seminar addressed two important issues in Olympic sports: preserving the Universality of the Olympic Movement and of International Sport and Structures and Challenges of Coaching Education in Israel and Germany.

Mr. Uwe Becker, Deputy Mayor of Frankfurt, noted that BDS tries to spread-out antisemitism all-over Germany. They proclaim themselves as a humanitarian organization, but we should show people that it is an antisemitism movement which violates the values of the sport. Mr. Becker also outlined possible ways to combat BDS. He demonstrated the organization's various techniques of operation, such as pressure on countries not to invite Israeli teams to sporting events; demand from national teams not to come and compete in Israel; pressure on specific athletes such as Leo Messi through the burning of shirts with his name, lest he come to Israel for a match; and a demand from athletes not to contend against Israeli athletes in international competitions.

Mr. Alexander Feuerherdt, a sports and politics journalist who investigates boycotts against Israel throughout history, described situations in which the Israeli football team was forced to skip various regional unions in Europe, Asia and Oceania in early international tournament matches, all due to refusal by Muslim countries to play against Israel. Feuerherdt emphasized the inaction of most international sports associations which render such a reality as licit.

More than 100 local participants including sports managers, coaches, athletes, sports journalists, students and teachers of physical education, among others attended the seminar.



IOAPA President Richard Koo recently visited the Lithuanian Olympic Committee in Vilnius to meet Director of Olympic Education Vita Balsyte, Head of Olympic Education Programs Ugne Supranaviciene, and Olympic Champion Vida Venciene (Cross-Country Skiing 10k, Calgary 1988).



2020 IOAPA REUNION IN LAUSANNE

January 18th, 2020 from 18:00 at the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

It is a great opportunity to get the IOAPA family together once again. If you are around, then don't miss this reunion in the Olympic Capital.

Other activities may be added to our event in the afternoon, so keep your calendar open!



For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

IOA Past Participants

”

THE PEOPLE I'VE MET

*The people I've met are light of culture,
Beauty of life, physical spirit of friendship.*

*The people I've met are so diverse.
They are not only different to myself, but also within each other.
The people I've met were first strangers to me
The people I've met mean something to me now
The people I've met are so kind. They are funny, nice and interesting.
They are happy and tired and mad.
The people I've met mean more to me than I first thought they would.
The people I've met have stories to tell.
Stories I want to hear. Stories I want to learn from.
The people I've met are awesome, peaceful and calm.*

*The people I've met, without words, have told me that
I still need to get rid of all the prejudices I carry
The people I've met make me see that there is still a long way to completely know myself.
The people I've met have shown me that I need to believe in myself.*

*The people I've met, makes me feel happy,
Make me feel great, have made me open my eyes.*

*The people I've met have shaped my mind in many ways I didn't expect;
In thought, in touch, in communication and respect.
I've learned things that I never thought
I would know and made bonds
Across cultures I've never encountered*

*There is something about this place,
Removed from the world, where nothing else exists but you
My confidence is filled by your presence and your easy, carefree smile
I'm funny. I'm me.
Endless meetings, endless stories, endless friendship.*

*The people I've met share the instant connection.
You need no pre descriptive questions, but an open heart and endless discussions.
You feel belongingness, but not necessary know the name.
You feel acceptance, although you just met them.*

*The people I've met are different yet the same
We have shared together moments of joy
And sometimes even pain
They taught me that there's strength in unity
They showed me that there's still hope here for you and me
These fifteen days have taught me so much
Especially that there's no greater feeling
Than human touch.*

*The people I've met are amazing, loving, caring and beautiful
The people I've met are from different places
The people who by their mere presence change my life and make me a better person
The people I've met are creative, supportive and motivating,
I am forever grateful for your part in my journey, It will be good if we meet again.*

“

Written by:
Simone Ciaccione (ITA)
Annika Jedliczka (AUT)
Rafael Mendoza (MEX)
Sigurd Restad (NOR)
Samantha Wells (AUS)
Jenni Sundqvist (FIN)
Ghina Chahwan (LBN)
Mamakebe Moshoeshe (LES)

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, Yarden Har Lev, at yarden@ioapa.org.

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*The Olympic Movement
gives the world an ideal
which reckons with the
reality of life, and includes
a possibility to guide this
reality toward the great
Olympic Idea.*

- Pierre de Coubertin -

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE OLYMPICS ?

Between which span of
Olympic Games were
medals awarded in art
competitions?



Answer to the summer newsletter: Mexico City 1968

Please **SEND YOUR ANSWER** to
the newsletter editor at:

yarden@ioapa.org