

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION

18TH SESSION FINAL REPORT

In-Person Session June 4-11, 2023
Ancient Olympia, Greece



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SUMMARY OF THE SESSION

BY IOAPA VICE PRESIDENT LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)

35 Registrants
22 Countries
6 Days

5 Guest Speakers
7 Member Presentations
4 Hans van Haute Scholarship Awardee
Presentations

The session began with an informal meeting in the beautiful Otto Simiczek conference room to get acquainted. We were fortunate to receive a video welcome address from the IOA President, Isidoros Kouvelos. Elizabeth Hanley led everyone in a simple Greek dance to break the ice and then everyone was invited for refreshments (hosted by the Executive Committee) in the bar.

The official Opening Ceremony took place the following day with a very special speech by Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin (FRA). Alexandra is a descendant of Pierre de Coubertin and it was her first visit to Olympia. It was very moving to be in the Coubertin Grove and listen to Alexandra talk about Olympism. IOAPA Treasurer Ulrich Rosen (GER) made a passionate address at the Carl Diem monument. Wreaths were laid at both monuments. As is our tradition, the Hans van Haute Memorial tree was visited, and flowers were laid there. Elizabeth Hanley (USA) HvH chairwoman, spoke for a few minutes about Hans van Haute and introduced the four HvH scholarship recipients.



Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin

The new facilities provided a lot to talk about since most members had not seen them since the renovation. The session was filled with traditional as well as many first-time events and activities which will be discussed in the report.



Participants heading to the Opening Ceremony

Special Topic of the Session: Giving Back

Guest speakers for the session were:

- Emilio Fernandez Pena (ESP)
- Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin (FRA)
- Ivan Coste-Maniere (FRA)
- Dr. Shamala Subramaniam (MAS)
- Prof. Kostas Georgiadis (GRE)

Member Presentations were given by:

- Alexander Eriksson (NOR)
- Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei (QAT)
- Winfred Quek (SGP)
- Anfisa Kasyanova (BLR)
- Matt Kwak (GER)
- Alston Choong (MAS)
- Hisham Al Adwani (OMA)

Hans van Haute Scholarship Awardee Presentations by:

- Samantha Matavata (ZIM)
- Jorge Rodriguez (GUA)
- Chloé Abou Chabaké (LBN)
- Fako Masupha (LES)

Many of the presentations were streamed live to members who were watching remotely. In addition to these fine speakers, we added some fun activities such as morning workouts, art, and dance (salsa & Greek) workshops, as well as social gatherings. Feedback from the session was extremely positive.

There were many people involved in orchestrating such a session. You will find a list of everyone who had a hand in planning and delivering the session, but I must make mention here of the members of the planning committee: Richard Koo (CAN), Caroline Bujold (CAN), Megan Ritch (USA), Yogo Suzuki (JPN), Laura Moreira (CRC), and Alexander Eriksson (NOR). It was a pleasure working with all of them and I offer my deepest thanks to them and to those that made it a priority to attend the session. Since we had skipped the session in 2019 due to the pandemic, we wanted this session to be filled with extraordinary activities and make it one of the most memorable IOAPA sessions ever.

I have had many opportunities to return to Olympia. It has been one of my favorite passions and so I have made it a priority in my life. I don't have to explain to any of you why Olympia is so special. There are many reasons that would resonate with each of you. The IOA allowed members' guests to attend, also a first for our session. For many members it has been a dream, not only to return to Olympia but to share it with a spouse or friend. The place itself is unique and I feel something powerful when I'm there. However, it is the people that make the pilgrimage remain in my heart. Being with so many amazing people in Olympia is more than anyone can ask for.

Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY
IOAPA Vice President & IOAPA Session Chair

Note: The Official Report of the Session not only serves as a record of the proceedings but as an archive and template for future sessions. There may be some redundancies of information presented in this document.



PROGRAMME

IOAPA Session 2023

In-Person Session

4-11 June 2023

Special Topic: Giving Back

Important Notes:

- All programme timings are according to CEST (Central European Summer Time)
- You must be a registered participant of this session to attend
- Arts programme will consist of Culinary and Dance Workshops.

Sunday, June 4, 2023 (arrival day)

ACCOMMODATION IN ATHENS

Participants are required to make their own reservations.

Arrival of the participants

20:15	Meeting at the Acropolis Metro Station dinner at ΤΡΙΚΥΚΛΟ ΜΕΖΕΔΟΠΩΛΕΙΟ restaurant nearby (Athens) https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZbWxLw9mFFE3uJEy7
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Monday, June 5, 2023 (Day 1)

08:00	Departure by bus to Olympia from Attalos Hotel
09:30	Visit Nemea Archeological Site and Museum
	Lunch on the way to Olympia (meal at participants' cost)
15:00	Arrival in Olympia. Check in and unpack
17:30	Welcome and Introduction of participants – Richard Koo, IOAPA President (CAN) and Executive Committee Members
18:00	Cultural Presentation Elizabeth Hanley (USA)
18:50	Expectations for the IOAPA Session – Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY, IOAPA Vice-President (USA)
19:00	Reception Hosted by the IOAPA Executive Committee
20:00	Dinner

* Guests are invited to all presentations, workshops, and activities.

* Bar open until 21:00 (9pm)

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 (Day 2)

06:45	Morning Exercise
08:15	Breakfast
09:00	Programme Chair – Richard Koo, IOAPA President (CAN) Opening Ceremony (Olympic Anthem , visit to Coubertin Stele , Diem and Ketseas monument , Dedication of plaque at Hans van Haute memorial tree and commemorative photo at the stairs).

10:30	Refreshment Break
10:50	Welcome Address – Richard Koo, IOAPA President (CAN)
11:00	Utilising Partnerships with the IOA and other sport/Olympic Organisations – Richard Koo, IOAPA President (CAN)
11:15	Presentation by Ivan Coste-Maniere (FRA)
11:30	Question & Answer with the speaker // Moderator: Angela Stanescu (ROM)
12:00	Interactive Workshop on Olympic Education with Prof. Dr. Kostas Georgiadis, IOA Dean (GRE)
12:30	Panel Discussion with IOA and IOAPA GROUP PHOTO
13:15	Lunch
14:30	Dance Workshop by Elizabeth Hanley – USA or Art Workshop by Xavier Jeannin, IOAPA Marketing Officer (FRA)
15:30	Give Back Project Preparations (if needed)
18:00	Sport activities
20:00	Dinner
20:45	Night out at Zorbas

* Secretariat open from 07:00 to 15:00 (7am to 3pm).

<u>Wednesday, June 7, 2023 (Day 3)</u>	
06:45	Morning Run or Tai Chi (optional)
08:15	Breakfast
09:00	Programme Chair – Caroline Bujold, IOAPA Secretary (CAN)
09:20	Fostering Membership or Initiatives for next term – Caroline Bujold, IOAPA Secretary (CAN)
09:40	Guest Speaker: Alexandra de Navacelle (FRA), President of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association
10:00	Q & A with Alexandra de Navacelle // Moderator: Caroline Bujold, IOAPA Secretary (CAN)
10:10	Introduction of Hans van Haute Project and 2023 Scholarship awardees
10:30	Presentations by Hans van Haute Scholars (2) 15 min each
10:30	Address by President Elect – Marilena Soukera (GRE)
10:40	Coffee Break
11:10	Presentations by Hans van Haute scholars (2) 15 min each
12:40	President's Award for Merit and Service
13:00	Lunch

14:30	Dance Workshop by Elizabeth Hanley (USA) or Art Workshop by Xavier Jeannin, IOAPA Marketing Officer (FRA)
16:00	New EC meeting (Sangria team-building exercise)
17:00	Interactive Workshop on Olympic Day Activities – Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY, IOAPA Vice President (USA) and Dimitrios Regalos, IOA Liaison (GRE)
18:00	Sport Activities
20:00	Dinner
21:00	Evening (Car) Pool Party Hosted by the IOAPA EC – 2/F 3/F IOA

* Secretariat open from 07:00 to 15:00 (7am to 3pm).

<u>Thursday, June 8, 2023 (Day 4)</u>	
06:45	Morning Run or Tai Chi (optional)
08:15	Breakfast
09:15	Visit to the Museum of the Olympic Games – Kostas Antonopoulos (GRE)
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Beach day
17:00	Executive Committee meet with Hans van Haute Scholars to discuss and mentor their projects
18:00	Sport Activities
20:00	Dinner
21:00	Hans van Haute Fundraising Auction by the HvH scholarship committee and awardees

* Secretariat open from 07:00 to 15:00 (7am to 3pm).

<u>Friday, June 9, 2023 (Day 5)</u>	
06:45	Morning Run or Tai Chi (optional)
08:15	Breakfast
	Programme Chair – Yogo Suzuki (JPN)

09:00	Presentation by Dr. Emilio Fernandez Pena (ESP) – Interactive Workshop on Communications
10:00	Presentation by Dr. Shamala Subramaniam (MAS) , Malaysia NOA via Zoom
10:20	Q and A with Dr. Subramaniam // Moderator: Yogo Suzuki (JPN)
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Presentation by Alexander Eriksson (NOR) – Giving Back
11:15	Q & A with Alexander Eriksson (NOR) // Moderator: Fako Masupha (LES)
11:30	Presentations & Follow-up Discussions by Participants 10 min. ea // Moderator: Roland Krimmer (GER) 1) Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei 2) Winfred Quek (SIN)
11:45	Final prep (rehearsal) for School Visit
13:00	Lunch
17:00	Give Back Project – Olympic Day Activities at Olympia Village School
20:00	 Dinner @

* Secretariat open from 07:00 to 15:00 (7am to 3pm).

<u>Saturday, June 10, 2023 (Day 6)</u>	
06:45	Morning Run or Tai Chi (optional)
08:15	Breakfast
09:00	Programme Chair – Samantha Matavata, IOAPA Head of Country Coordinators (ZIM) Presentations & Follow-up Discussions by Participants 10 min. each // Moderator: Samantha Matavata, IOAPA Head of Country Coordinators (ZIM) 1) Alston Choong 2) Hisham Al Adwani
10:00	Presentations & Follow-up Discussions by Participants 10 min. each // Moderator: Marie Lou Noirot (FRA) 1) Anfisa Kasyanova 2) Matt Kwak
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Summary of goals & priorities for 2023-2025 Discuss new Split-Session format.
11:30	Open Forum IOAPA topics 2024 Olympic Torch Relay draw

12:00	Special Presentations - Moderated by Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)
12:30	Closing Remarks, Distribution of Diplomas & Closing Ceremony
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Free afternoon for participants
18:00	Sport Activities or Pool
18:00	Make Floral Arrangements for table centerpieces – Laurel Iversen
20:00	Dinner
21:00	Last Night - Time to Say Goodbye

Sunday, June 11, 2023 (Day 7)

07:00	Breakfast
08:00	Departure to Athens
12:45	Arrival at Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport if necessary
14:00	Arrival in Central Athens, Attalos Hotel / Monastiraki Metro
18:00	Meeting point Attalos Hotel
19:00	Attend Opening Ceremony of the IOA Young Olympic Ambassadors Session
20:30	Dinner

VISIT TO ANCIENT NEMEA

BY ANGELA STANESCU (ROM) - PHOTOS FROM DR. ALI ALBAKRI ALYAFEI (QAT)



For the first time, the IOAPA Session Planning Committee decided that the group could make a visit to Ancient Nemea on the way to Olympia. The bus then arrived midafternoon in the academy.

In the traditional spirit of all the International Olympic Academy's sessions, on our way to Olympia, we made a stop at the archeological site and museum of Nemea.

Nemea is situated in the northeastern part of the Peloponnese peninsula, only 25 km away from the Corinth Canal - one great achievement of modern engineering. The archeological site of Nemea was excavated under the direction of the late professor Dr. Stephen Miller. Excavations revealed the temple of Zeus and the ancient stadium at Nemea, as this site was the place where the Nemean Games took place in Ancient Greece.

The Nemean Games were one of the four panhellenic games of ancient times. Along with the Isthmian Games held in Isthmia, the Nemean Games were held every two years. The other two panhellenic games: the Olympic Games in Olympia and the Pythian Games in Delphi were held every four years.

Nemean Games were dedicated to Zeus and hosted athletic games (like various foot races in the stadium, or the pankration - a form of wrestling with few rules) and equestrian games on the hippodrome that was not yet unveiled in the archeological excavations, but archeologists have a supposition about its positioning. Victors at Nemea would receive a wreath of wild celery.

The name of Professor Miller is deeply connected to the archeological site of Nemea, due to his intensive work and dedication to this place. But also, Prof. Miller dedicated his energy to the revival of the modern Nemean Games. Next to the archeological museum there is a small house that hosts the Miller Museum dedicated to the revival of the

Nemean Games. People from around the world gather in this small village of the Peloponnese to share the important values and unity of sport. The next race will take place on June 29th, 2024, and participants must register before April 30th, 2024. All athletes competing here are wearing a tunic in tone with the ancient world and have the opportunity to pass through the 36-meter-long vaulted tunnel at the entrance of the stadium. The tunnel is very well preserved and was restored in 2011 - 2012. On the walls of the tunnel, archeologists found ancient inscriptions, including one of the name of Telestas, an Olympic victor.

We also visited the temple of Zeus at Nemea, with its 3 columns that were always standing. To help visitors understand the greatness of the ancient temple, archeologists lifted 6 more columns of the temple with the help of a modern engineering device. Around the temple, visitors can see the remains of the Sanctuary buildings.

We also visited the small archeological museum of Nemea, which holds precious artifacts, but also a video display of how the hysplex mechanism works. This is the mechanism used as the starting gate in the foot races on the stadium.

As we ended the visit, we were once again amazed by the magnitude of Ancient Greek history, but also by the bridges across time that such activities like the Nemean Games can create through sports.



WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE IOAPA PRESIDENT

RICHARD KOO (CAN)

It is my great pleasure to welcome each of you to this session. Before I make my opening remarks, please stand for the Olympic Anthem.

I would like to express my gratitude for serving for eight years. It is a singular privilege to serve the community. I feel the organisation is in a better state than we found it. I am looking forward to the next Executive Committee taking our work to a higher level and I pledge my support to the incoming committee as Immediate Past President.

With nearly 120 participants registered for this 18th IOAPA Session, we fulfilled that commitment we made in 2021 to make this hybrid session a permanent feature of our association. Earlier this year as part of the on-line session we held the 2nd ever digital elections for the Executive Committee. With our now codified process for nominations, more candidates will have more opportunities to run for office without travelling to Olympia. Removing systemic barriers and greater representation and diversity from all segments of our member base has been a key part of our work over the past many years.

Let me share two important tenets for the role of new Executive Committee members. First of all, Members are volunteers in the IOAPA/Olympic Movement. Members all have lives outside of this movement and they should keep in sight both parts of their lives. One part should not be allowed to overshadow the other. Secondly, maintain realistic expectations. Members are usually flushed with enthusiasm at the start of their term. Every member must have a clear plan of what they intend to achieve during their term of office. If there is no plan, no process, things won't get done. One may end up burning out and then it doesn't help anyone. Bring a real understanding about the passion regarding what we do but bring realism and targeted effort to any plans.

One of my aims as IOAPA President was to boost the number of new memberships to 50 memberships per year. We have been very successful in meeting that goal.

I'd like to acknowledge the administrative rigor and process that goes into what we do. It's nothing glamorous, but that's how our EC intended to run the organization.

Tenure highlights

The highlights of my tenure include:

- The Hans van Haute scholarship fund this year had its largest outreach of four participants, two partial scholarships (registration, room and board) as well as two full scholarships (flights, registration, room and board) for members from underrepresented nations. Thus, for the first time ever, four Hans van Haute scholars are here with us and present during this in-person IOAPA Session.
- On the administrative front, I'd like to thank all the subcommittee members and reiterate the importance of these committees. And I would like to emphasise and urge all EC members to use subcommittees liberally to share the burden of work and to give a chance for ordinary members to contribute to the work of IOAPA.
- Knowledge Management and Transition Protocols

At this time, I must tout the achievements of our outgoing secretary Caroline Bujold (CAN) for her tireless efforts and work on Knowledge Management and Transfer which has been critical. A good Knowledge Management framework helps to preserve the work of the outgoing EC and ensures there is a reservoir of knowledge and information for the incoming EC to build upon.

Many thanks to IOAPA Vice President Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) and Secretary Caroline Bujold (CAN) for their effort on spearheading the novel effort of splitting the IOAPA session into two, namely an online session and the physical session in Olympia. They have also been instrumental in helping the outgoing EC members to acquaint themselves with the incoming EC members and will ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY IOA PRESIDENT

IOA PRESIDENT, ISIDOROS KOUVELOU



Dear IOAPA friends,

I welcome you once again to Ancient Olympia and the renovated facilities of the International Olympic Academy which you have loved so much as participants several years back. The International Olympic Academy Participants Association is an organization which has been created right from the core of the International Olympic Academy. It was founded by IOA past participants and the love and connection to the academy as well as the safeguarding of the objectives of the IOA have always been within this framework of the mission of the IOAPA. And this is why the IOA and the IOAPA have always been closely linked.

As you all have already experienced, the sparkle is being linked at the International Olympic Academy in Ancient Olympia where it all began. All the participants who are being educated by the IOA during any international Olympic sessions and seminars are introduced and specialized in the Olympic history and the Olympic ideas. They gain a life experience, and they are baptized into the Olympic Spirit. And as the days of their stay go by this sparkle turns into a flame 'til it's time to leave the premises.

Maybe it is the evocative place. Maybe it is the magic and spirituality which is in the air, but we all have experienced the ritual of participating in the IOA. And this is something that links us all for life.

IOAPA has the task to try to keep this flame alive, strong and bright, in the hearts of the IOA participants and support Olympism and Olympic Education around the world.

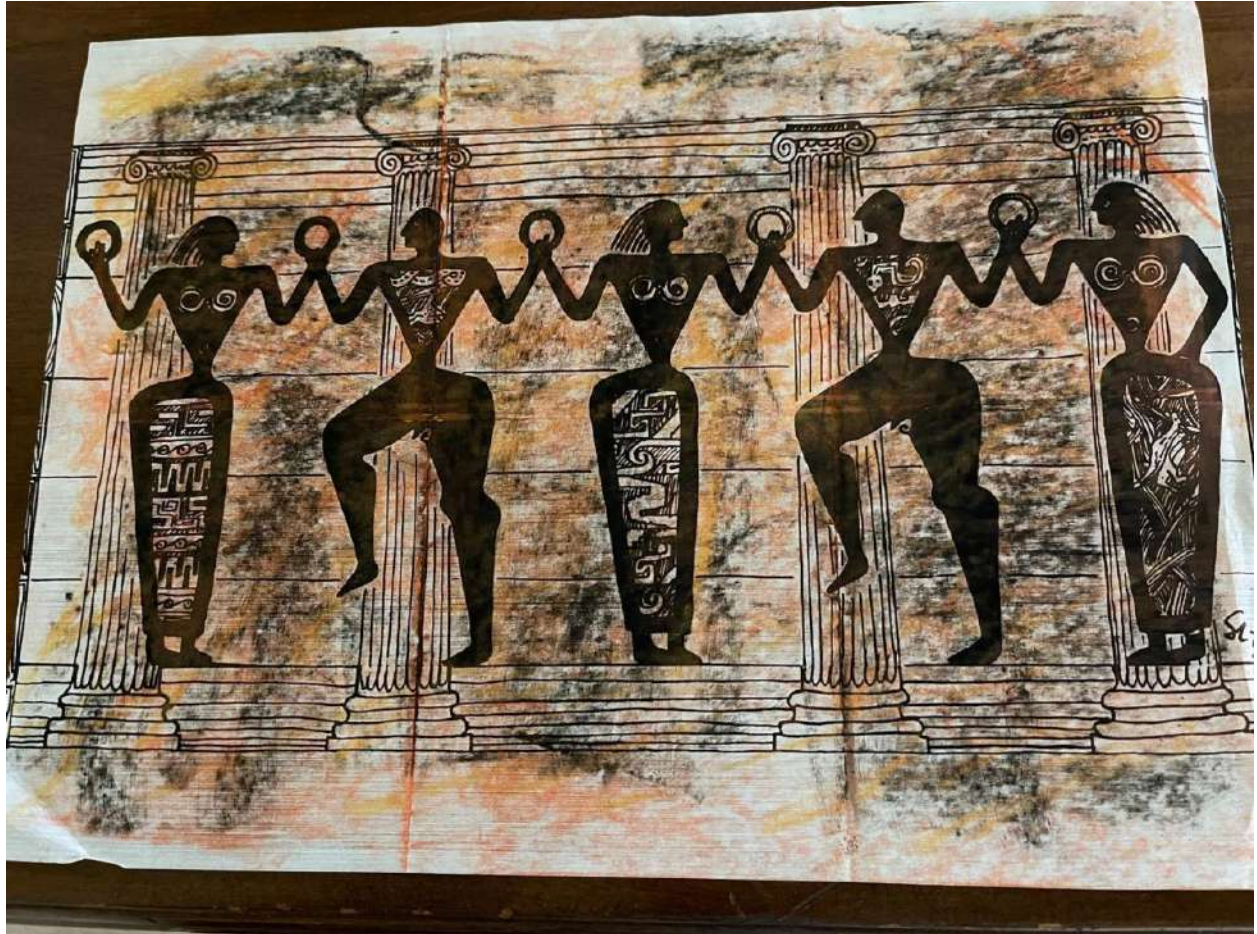
Apart from the activities you organize during the year, I would like to point out your valuable assistance as coordinators during the International Session for Young Olympic Ambassadors. Your experience and the intensive work you are carrying out in cooperation with the academy staff members are indeed very much appreciated and I would like to personally thank you for that.

On this occasion, I would like to send a message to all the members of IOAPA, who I know love the academy very much. I would like to ask them to become as active as they can, by addressing the educational communities of their country, highlighting in every way the historical importance of the place that gave birth to the Olympic Games and the possibilities provided by our renovated premises for organizing important educational activities. The more activities the IOA hosts in Ancient Olympia the closer it will be to the fulfillment of the mission assigned to it by the Olympic Family, which of course, is the dissemination of Olympic Values.

With these thoughts I would like to wish you every success in the works of your session. Good Luck and Thank you.

HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS OF THE IOAPA

BY IOAPA VICE PRESIDENT LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)



Original Artwork by Ralf Stratmann (GER) for the IOAPA Brochure

Traditions help bind us together and reinforce who we are. Who hasn't dreamed while soaking in our common humanity at the IOA campus in Ancient Olympia? Who could resist thoughts of peace, and unity, of what could be as world events rage around us? Especially, in the protection of that unique place, it is impossible to turn away from meeting a new friend, try a new sport, a dance, or a language. Any session at the IOA can be a life-changing experience. Those who grasp this opportunity to utilize sport as a means to teach respect for other ways of life, tolerance of things we have limited understanding of, fair play and inclusion, surely find great satisfaction. Old traditions are reinforced, and new ones are born.

At the IOA sessions during the mid-eighties, there were many such dreamers. Individuals from the 1985, and 1986 sessions, with the encouragement of the President of the Academy, Dr. Nikolaos Nissiotis, had an idea for the formation of an organization that would celebrate what they were all living at the Academy, "Real Olympism". The single, biggest question that all participants were asking following the sessions was, "Now what happens?"

The idea was born for a way to keep everyone connected, to continue the New Olympic Movement upon returning home. We wanted a way to support one another as we strived to implement Olympism as a philosophy of life, in our own countries. We also wanted to ensure a way back to Olympia, to find the profound joy we had experienced and rekindle those friendships and bonds that were made there.

Many young participants cannot remember the dark ages before FAX, email, and SMS. Regular post was the best means of communication as it was simply too expensive to telephone. At the close of the '86 session, Dr. Nissiotis offered the Academy premises for a "reunion" of the IOA participants. Upon the untimely death of Dr. Nissiotis that same summer, the plans stalled. The '85 group organized by Hans van Haute (BEL), a selfless guy with enormous energy and a contagious spirit, and the '86 group organized by Ingolfur Hannesson (ISL), Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) and Yiannis Zouboulis (GRE) were sharing information through newsletters.

All preparations were made by letter and fax and in the summer of 1989, 61 past participants from 20 countries met again in Olympia to form the International Olympic Academy Alumni Association. The principles of democracy and the Roberts Rules of Order were implemented to run the meetings and the elections. I recall that many of the members from the former Eastern Bloc countries were not accustomed to voting and told us to just make the decisions for them. There were small groups all over the lecture hall with someone translating into a common language, Italian, German, Russian, or Spanish. Not only were officers elected, but the mission statement and each of the by-laws of the association was discussed at length and voted upon. This was a tedious and incredibly painstaking process, which was undertaken without the benefit of simultaneous translation. Fortunately, there were numerous lawyers in attendance to make sure we did everything correctly. The full report of the session was typed and copied during the session and handed over prior to leaving. When I look back on this session, I am very proud that this organization was born out of such an incredible process and very proud to have been a part of it. I was elected the first president, followed in 1991 by Ingolfur Hannesson. I returned to the position in 1995 and remained until 2005.

We were off and running, or so we thought. We soon found out that printing, folding, addressing, and mailing newsletters, our only form of communication to the new members and other past participants we were trying to reach, was a very slow, and expensive way to communicate. For the first 10 years of the association, most of the budget (received through dues-\$30 for two years) was spent on this endeavor. Weeks and months were required for any decisions regarding the association to be made.

Also, Mr. Filaretos and the Ephoria proved somewhat reluctant to wholly endorse us. We were economically tied to the IOA, mostly because of the offer for free room and board at the Academy for our sessions. We only had to get ourselves there, which is no small financial undertaking. We also met resistance on many initiatives we wanted to implement, such as proposing coordinators for the session and being allowed a few minutes to present the IOAAA during the official program. I'm not convinced they took us very seriously and thought maybe we wouldn't survive. Realistically, we probably shouldn't have when you consider that we were a global association without any sponsorship, funded solely by \$30 subscription fees of the members. One mailing of the newsletter could wipe out an entire year's budget.

In all successful organizations, there are always some stubborn, persistent individuals who keep the train on the track. Fortunately, we had a few of those as well as some dedicated folks behind the scenes who were always willing to step up. Along the way, we nurtured our relationships with the IOA leadership and gained the trust and confidence that we desired while remaining an independent, self-sustaining entity. Slowly, we won over many of the Greek officials as they could see we were serious people, dedicated to Olympism and willing to work. Mr. Filaretos, although he referred to me as Mrs. Impossible, became one of our most ardent supporters until his death in 2007. Almost from

our inception we were defended and counseled by our dear friend, Dean Kostas Georgiadis. He has been the single most constant influence in the association. He first attended our session in 1991. We thought his real mission was to spy on us, as he did not engage us in any conversations, (we learned it was because he didn't speak much English). But we quickly saw that he was the best thing that could have ever happened to us. He remains today the Dean of the IOA and has been supporting us through the many different government and IOA leadership changes. We can never thank him enough for his support and friendship which continues to this day.

Our traditions began at the 2nd session in 1991 after the death of one of our founders. We planted the Hans van Haute memorial tree, and we pay tribute to this fine man every session by laying a wreath at his tree. This year we will install a plaque commemorating the tree in Han's memory.

A big boost came for us in 1996 when we were invited by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to take part in the Centennial Olympic Games Flame Relay in Greece. Mr. Anastasios Kritsinelis played a key role to make this a reality and Yiannis Zoumboulis worked tirelessly to organize the entire affair. 42 members made the trip and attended the Lighting Ceremony in the Ancient Stadium in Olympia and ran with the torch over the rugged Mt. Taigetos south of Olympia.

In 1997, President Filaretos attended our session. It was then that the participants voted to change the name to the International Olympic Academy Participants Association -- IOAPA. Between 1997 and 2007, things remained rather status quo and sessions were generally organized around Olympic Education. The Association was still operating on the dues of the membership and really had no sponsorship or means to take on any large projects. Eventually the IOAPA president was invited to come every year to the IOA session as a coordinator and we were allowed to make a presentation in the lecture hall, distribute the beautiful brochure we produced and inscribe new members.

The old guard gave way to the new generation in 2005 as technology was enabling us to communicate worldwide in real time. The new wave of members, many of whom came from the Post Graduate seminar, were very well immersed in every aspect of Olympism, eager to get involved and experienced in all the latest means of social media and technology. Hector Arguelles (ESP) led this "Newest" Olympic Movement.

These past eight years have witnessed the exceptional leadership, vision and innovation of our current President, Richard Koo (CAN). Membership has jumped and partnerships have resulted from Richard's expert diplomacy and foresight.

At many of the sessions a large amount of time was spent re-hashing what the aims of the association should be. Because there are always many new participants, this had to be explained to bring everyone up to speed. Just recently, members attending the IOAPA session have begun to understand that its primary function is to provide a network of contacts and support in many different areas of sport to individuals who have attended an official session of the IOA and who chose to join the IOAPA. Most recently in 2013, the members present voted to make the initial membership fee a lifetime membership.

This year the Executive Committee decided to split our session into two parts:

1. Online Business Meeting and Virtual Elections enabling more members to participate and vote;
2. The traditional in-person session in Ancient Olympia which without the business portion of the session allows more time for interactive workshops and guest speakers and more free time to enjoy the IOA and Olympia.

The IOA itself has been reborn out of the scorched trees of the fires of 2007 modernizing itself with new programs, initiatives, and collaborations. Since the election of IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos in 2009 the IOAPA has enjoyed

a new level of cooperation and encouragement. Dean Georgiadis continues to be our mentor and the new facilities at the IOA beckon us all to return.

IOAPA members continue to make impacts in their countries as members and leaders of their respective NOAs, in some cases, being the driving force in their creation. They help in preparing the Young Olympic Ambassadors for each year's IOA session, (our Orientation Manual can be downloaded and used in any country). They are respected professors of Olympic Studies, NOC officers, and IOC members and Olympians. The future promises to bring us closer together as globalization shrinks our world. Technology will enable us to do more than ever before as we have seen when COVID forced us indoors. The values of Olympism always shine brightly in troubled times, and we will always play a part in spreading these values.

Over the past 34 years our traditions have evolved. Every session we host an IOAPA Pool Party to enjoy each other's company and since 2011 we have made a visit to the Agrotourism Farm Magna Grecia to enjoy an evening of good food, dancing, and comradery.

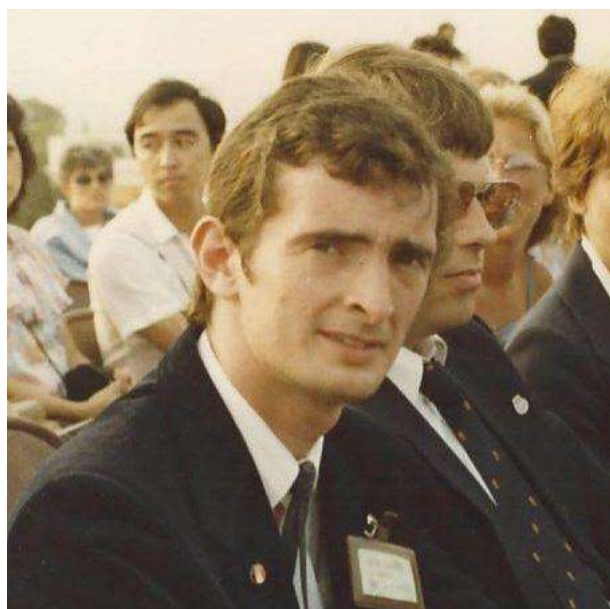
Today in this 18th IOAPA session with over 75 participants present, we are reminded once again of the inspirational words of Dr. Nissiotis at the Closing Ceremony of the 1985 Young Participant's session. He said, "...make a miniature replica of the universal family, a family which you will form beyond and over the level of any religious, political and racial discrimination".

We did it! It is something we can all be very proud of.

See Appendix A for PowerPoint Presentation

HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

BY ELIZABETH HANLEY, HVH COMMITTEE CHAIR (USA) AND IOAPA VICE PRESIDENT
LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)



Hans van Haute (BEL) 1985 IOA Session for Young Participants

The Hans van Haute Scholarship Fund, established during the 2001 IOAPA session, was named in honor of the main force behind the creation of our Association. Hans was an IOA participant from Belgium in 1985. He died in 1991, but did have the opportunity to attend the inaugural IOAPA session in 1989 despite his illness.

During the 1985 Young Participants Session, Hans was inspired and encouraged by the President of the Academy, Professor Nissiotis, to organize an alumni association of the IOA. On his own initiative, Hans wrote and mailed a newsletter to all the 1985 participants to keep the spirit alive.

Professor Nissiotis also put the same thought into the heads of the 1986 IOA participants Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA), Ingolfur Hannesson (ISL), and others during a meeting in his office. He promised the IOA facilities free of charge for an IOA alumni meeting.

Shortly after the 1986 session, Hannesson also began publishing a newsletter for the participants. Eventually, van Haute and Hannesson were connected, and they coordinated their efforts. Almost immediately following the 1987 session, Paul Baldacchino (MLT) joined forces with Ingolfur and Hans and the three became the driving force behind a reunion in Olympia.

In March 1988 Hannesson and '86 participant Yiannis Zoumpoulis met in Athens with IOC member, Mr. Nikos Filaretos, (the new IOA President) following the death of Professor Nissiotis. With Zoumpoulis leading the way in Athens, the final plans for a reunion in 1989 rapidly took shape. Invaluable support came when Mr. Filaretos sent a formal letter on 27 March 1989, informing all NOCs and NOAs around the world about the upcoming meeting and the value of such an endeavor for the Olympic Movement.

Recognizing Hans van Haute's dedication to the birth of IOAPA, there was a strong movement at that first conference to elect Hans the organization's first president. But he refused all these attempts. Not long after the conference everyone learned that Hans was suffering from cancer. On 13 June 1991, just weeks before the second alumni conference, crushing news came that Hans had lost his battle with cancer.



In 1993 during the IOAPA session, a tree was planted in memory of Hans van Haute behind the Old Lecture Hall. The first tree survived only a few years and a second tree was planted which thrives there today. IOAPA also developed the Hans van Haute Scholarship to help participants in need to attend the session. The report of each session is sent to Hans' wife, Lieve Bague-De-Keersmaecker.

During its short existence, the fund has been able to offer assistance to several participants over the past decade. (2013: Croatia, Serbia; 2015: Slovenia; and 2017: Switzerland and Russia; 2019: Puerto Rico and Germany).



The plaque for the memorial Hans van Haute was installed at the IOA premises during the session. Pictured from left to right are Tove Tomasson (DEN) member of the HvH subcommittee, Xavier Jeannin (FRA) IOAPA Marketing Officer, Chloé Abou Chabaké (LBN), Fako Masupha (LES) and Samantha Matavata (ZIM) 2023 scholarship recipients, Roland Krimmer (GER) former recipient, Elizabeth Hanley (USA) HvH Committee Chair, and Jorge Rodriguez (GUA) 2023 scholarship recipient.

MAGNA GRECIA OLIVE OIL FUNDRAISING PROJECT FOR THE HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARSHIP 2020

BY IOAPA VICE PRESIDENT LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)

I have been very fortunate to attend many sessions of the IOA and IOAPA. Over 20 years ago I became friends with Franca Magrini and Dimitris Karabalas, owners of L'Argalo shop in Olympia. In 2010 the family opened an Agritourism Farm and Restaurant in Floka, just above Olympia. The farm has been very successful, catering to land tours as well as groups from cruise ships (Katakalo Port). Their business was essentially dead for all of 2020 and well into 2021. They were still shipping orders of the products they produce on the farm all over the world. I was thinking how to help my friends in their difficult situation. I thought about organizing my friends on Kauai, Hawaii to bring the Extra Virgin Organic Olive Oil to the islands.

I wrote a letter describing my idea and emailed it to everyone I knew. By joining together, we were able to fill the shipping boxes with 18 -750 ml cans and lower the shipping cost down to about 8 Euros per tin. The total cost per tin including shipping was about 25 to 27 Euros depending on exchange rates between the Euro and Dollar. Within 72 hours I had sold 90 tins. People were very touched by the story of the family and wanted to help these people in their struggle during the pandemic.

I shared the idea with Elizabeth Hanley (USA) and she began her own campaign, eventually filling 10 boxes of 18 tins. We feel like the project was successful for two reasons. First: Our deep connection to the family and our willingness to jump to action! Second: Elizabeth lives in a small college town in Pennsylvania and I, on a small island in the Pacific ocean. Both places are a bit isolated, and it is difficult to find delicious gourmet products for a good price. People were delighted with the olive oil and many reordered entire boxes to give as Christmas gifts.

Franca and her family were overwhelmed by our Aloha and happily prepared the boxes for shipping. The family was happy that they had some business and very grateful that so many folks on the other side of the world would make this effort for them. Nothing like the tours they were doing but to see some of their life's blood- olive oil - leaving the shelves, was so meaningful to them. Even the local post office was excited because they had business income shipping the boxes.

After the first five orders, Franca said she wanted to pay a commission which I declined, but then got an idea. I explained how we raise money to fund the IOAPA Hans van Haute Scholarship to Franca. Over the years we have never been able to bring an alumni member from a less-developed country because they needed a scholarship that would also include travel costs. IOAPA's goal for 2021 was to have enough money in the scholarship fund to provide that FULL Scholarship to one person. For many people from these countries, their only possibility rests with a scholarship that included airfare. Franca has been hosting our IOAPA dinner and tour at Magna Grecia every year since 2011 and knows many of our members. She agreed to the idea and the 15% commission funded the scholarship. With the help of our amazing family of friends in Hawaii and also from folks around the US in Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Indiana and Idaho we raised money for the HvH scholarship.

It was one of the most rewarding projects that I have been involved with. Our final results were as follows: - 1026 x 750 ml tins of olive oil sold.

- **245 customers**
- **2200+ Euros raised for HvH fund**
- **11,000+ Euros raised for Magna Grecia**

I was recently back in Hawaii and so many people told me they were out of Olive Oil, so I think I am going to do the project again at the end of this year. People love the idea of funding the HvH scholarship while enjoying some of the best olive oil in the world. We were not able to award the scholarships in 2021 because we couldn't meet in Olympia. But this year 2023, we did it and four very deserving scholars returned to Olympia this June.



The Hans van Haute scholarship awardees with Magna Grecia owner Mrs. Franca Magrini and IOAPA Vice President Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA).

See Appendix B for PowerPoint Presentation

IOAPA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MERIT



Elizabeth Hanley (USA) Recipient of the first IOAPA President's Award for Merit for her years of service to IOAPA and especially as chair of the Hans van Haute scholarship committee.

Elizabeth first went to the IOA in 1977. For many years she served as a coordinator and taught the Dance Workshop. She has also attended as a lecturer and guest.

She is a founding member of IOAPA and has been to every IOAPA session in Olympia except two where she has led a dance workshop every time.

Elizabeth is an honored member whose kindness, inclusiveness, and positive attitude are exemplary.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS

Invited guest speakers are specially recognized and thanked for their contributions to the session. These dedicated individuals were responsible for their own transportation, accommodation, and expenses. They truly made a huge impact on the quality of the session. The special theme of the session was “Giving Back”. Each of our guest speakers, as well as our member presentations centered around this perfect theme.

IVAN COSTE-MANIERE (FRA)



Ivan Coste-Maniere is currently Professor at SKEMA Business School, Sophia Antipolis, France, Suzhou, China, and Raleigh, USA, where he teaches Luxury Brand Management and is Programme Director. He is also Professor in Organic Synthesis at the University of Marseille and Genova. He is acting as a consultant for several top ranked luxury brands having around 30 years in entrepreneurship and innovation and has been founding several companies.

He has been a member of many boards and associations both in government and Sport.

He is currently a member of the Regional Economic Social and Environmental Council, the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee, Vice Chairman of the Association Francophone des Académies Olympiques (AFAO), Vice President of the Comité Français Pierre de Coubertin, the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and was recently elected Research Officer of the IOAPA.

He has been giving numerous conferences around the globe, publishing books, chapters and articles at Springer, Elsevier and MacMillan Palgrave. He has presented three times at the IOA previously.

In addition to some 20 business schools in the USA, Mexico, Peru, Italy, China, Germany, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia, Ivory Coast, he has been working in many countries for 35 years and organizing many events and art exhibitions.

He has been a deputy Mayor for the city of Grasse for ten years. He participated in Track and Field and Handball.

See Appendix C for PowerPoint Presentation

DR. KONSTANTINOS GEORGIADIS (GRE)



Honorary Dean of the International Olympic Academy.

Vice-rector at the University of Peloponnese on Culture and International Relations Issues.

Professor at the University of Peloponnese, in the Department of Sports Organization and Management.

Member of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education since 2010.

Member of the IOC Coordination Commission for the 1st Youth Olympic Summer Games in Singapore 2010
Member of the Executive Board for the LOC "Athens 2004" Organizing Committee for the 2004 Olympic

Games.

PhD in Sports Science from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Kostas has authored or co-authored many books and publications and has been a guest lecturer in numerous conferences, seminars, and universities all over the world. He is an IOAPA member since 1991 and one of the IOAPA's biggest supporters.

ALEXANDRA DE NAVACELLE DE COUBERTIN (FRA)



Alexandra is a 4th generation descendant of Pierre de Coubertin. She is currently the president of the Pierre de Coubertin Family Association and a member of the Olympic Culture and Heritage Committee of the IOC. She officially represents Pierre de Coubertin's family at the IOC and at Sport and Olympic events.

When not engaged in promoting the values of Olympism, Alexandra is a consultant in Organisational development and Change Management. She lives in Paris with her Greek American husband, John, who attended the session with her as a guest, and their two teenage girls.

See Appendix D for PowerPoint Presentation

DR. EMILIO FERNANDEZ PENA (ESP)



Dr. Emilio Fernández Peña is a Communication Professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and head of its Olympic Studies Centre since December 2009. He is the founder director of the Sport Research Institute UAB which joins 40 senior researchers from 12 different departments. This Institute analyzes sport with a strong multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach.

Emilio has a doctorate in Communication from the Basque Country University with Outstanding Award (2001). He is the creator and teacher of the Massive Online Course (MOOC) The Olympic Games and the Media which was launched in 2014 on Coursera. It has had more than 8,000 enrolled students since its creation.

Dr. Fernández Peña has been the promoter and main designer of the new degree on Interactive Communication at UAB, which is oriented to train the students with a holistic vision of technology, allocated in the intersection between engineering, communication, and liberal arts.

See Appendix E for PowerPoint Presentation

DR. SHAMALA SUBRAMANIAM (MAS)



Professor Dato' Dr. Shamala Subramaniam is a Professor in the Department of Communication Technology and Networks, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia and serves as the Chairman for Ph.D. and Master's Thesis Supervisory Committee. She has a high number of cited publications in reputed high impact and indexed journals and has authored Chapter (s) in books and lecture series. Dr. Subramaniam has been recognized as a Member of Editorial Advisory Board in national and international journals. She has given the keynote address in several national and international forums.

She is the former Vice President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, former Deputy President of the Malaysian Hockey Confederation, and former Executive Member of the Asian Hockey Federation. Having been a national hockey player, she won the Olympic Council of Malaysia Women in Sports Award, was awarded the Asian Hockey Federation Order of Merit and the President's Award.

See Appendix F for PowerPoint Presentation

HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR 2023

In 2001 the Hans van Haute Scholarship Fund was established to enable participants with limited financial means to attend the IOAPA Session in Olympia, Greece. After a successful fundraising campaign in 2020 aimed at providing full scholarships for participants from underrepresented countries, we are proud to announce the Hans van Haute scholarship awardees for 2023.

We created a fundraising partnership with Magna Grecia, a family owned Agritourism farm and restaurant which has been operating successfully near Olympia, Greece since 2010 catering to cruise ship tours and land touring companies. Since 2011, the IOAPA members attending the Session in Olympia have visited the farm for an evening of food, wine, and entertainment. The bond between our two entities has been strong ever since.

These four recipients (2 full scholarship and 2 partial) were chosen from a group of 17 candidates and attended the IOAPA Session in Olympia in June 2023. They presented a project during the session that they have developed in their countries.





Samantha Matavata is currently serving as Country Coordinator for **Zimbabwe** and was elected as member of the IOAPA Executive Committee as Head of Country Coordinators. Samantha has also worked with the Zimbabwe Olympic Committee, Zimbabwe Olympic Museum, and has been involved in the basketball community and in basketball competitions. Being part of the Olympic Movement and giving back through Olympism has motivated her to grow, diversify, and exceed her own expectations as to who she can be and what she has to offer the sporting world. Samantha has diplomas in Sports Administration and Sports Management, as well as a certificate in Women's Sport Leadership, Sports Marketing, and Tourism.

See Appendix G for PowerPoint Presentation



Jorge Rodriguez is from **Guatemala** and his sport of choice is Modern Pentathlon. He was a competitor from 2006-2015, retiring in 2015 from professional sport. Jorge has volunteered at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games for Modern Pentathlon and in Lima, Peru, for the Pan American Games in 2019. In 2012 he was a participant at the Guatemala Olympic Academy, in 2013 a Young Participant at the IOA, and he attended the online IOAPA session in 2021. Jorge is an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Guatemalan Modern Pentathlon Association for 2019-2023. With a view to spreading Olympism, he initiated school programs in swimming and running for youth in his hometown.

See Appendix H for PowerPoint Presentation



Chloé Abou Chabaké is from **Lebanon** and is a part-time member of the Education and Cultural Commission of the Lebanese Olympic Committee. She earned a BA in Physical Education and Sport in 2019 and is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Olympic Studies, Education and Organization with plans to graduate this year. In addition, she was a girls' football (soccer) coach for several years in her country. Chloé was a volunteer for Lebanon sporting events in 2022, an IOA Coordinator in 2022 in charge of football (soccer) and music workshops. She is a sports enthusiast and also plays drums!

See Appendix I for PowerPoint Presentation



Fako Masupha is from **Lesotho** and was the Programs Coordinator at the Lesotho Olympic Committee in 2022. He earned a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning in 2017 and is currently working on a Post-Graduate Diploma in Executive Sports Management. As a young athlete, he represented his country in volleyball, basketball, and handball. He was a professional basketball coach from 2021-2022 in South Africa and involved in Lesotho community sports development programs. Fako has been indirectly and directly involved in the Olympic Movement since his teenage years and continues to do so in his work with the LOC.

See Appendix J for PowerPoint Presentation

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS ON GIVING BACK



Alexander Eriksson (NOR)

See Appendix K for PowerPoint Presentation



Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei (QAT)

See Appendix L for PowerPoint Presentation



Winfred Qwek (SGP)

See Appendix M for PowerPoint Presentation

Matt Kwak (GER)

See Appendix N for PowerPoint Presentation



Anfisa Kasyanova (GRE)

See Appendix O for PowerPoint Presentation



Alston Choong (MAS)

See Appendix P for PowerPoint Presentation



Hisham Al Adwani (OMA)

See Appendix Q for PowerPoint Presentation

OLYMPIC DAY ACTIVITIES WORKSHOP AND OLYMPIA SCHOOL VISIT

BY LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA) AND ANFISA KASYANOVA (GRE)

We considered some new activities for our session this year. We felt that with the help of long-time IOAPA member Anfisa Kasyanova, a teacher and resident of the village of Olympia, we would be able to organize and execute the first ever Olympic Day Activity for kids.



We held a workshop on day 2 of the IOAPA Session and went through a rough plan for the activities that we would organize for the kids. Many members gave input from their own experiences. Anfisa took the lead in developing a program for the event. She also coordinated with the school, arranged for the event to take place in the community gymnasium, recruited parents to help as translators, and invited dignitaries. Anfisa's husband Kostas Antonopoulos, also an IOAPA member, was our chief translator. He also gave the children a very brief account of Olympism.

Another workshop session was held one afternoon to make torches out of construction paper and tissue paper, assemble the gift bags for the participants, and cut ribbons for the victory armbands. Most members attending the session brought pins, decals, stickers, and other small items from their countries for the gift bags. We had an amazing assembly line. Half of the members made 32 torches while others put the gift bags together and tied them with Greek Blue ribbons.

The last workshop was for the final rehearsal, and we confirmed everyone's responsibilities and had a practice run to make sure we were ready.



Gift Bags Assembly Line



Dr. Ali making torch bases

The event was held on day 5 of the session. 25 children between the ages of 4-5 attended the Olympic Day Activity along with many parents and community leaders. IOAPA President Richard Koo spoke for a few minutes about what IOAPA does. The children had made flags for each IOAPA country represented. The Olympic hymn was played, and then warm up exercises led by Fako Masupha and Chloé Abou Chabaké took place.



Country Flags



Warm up with Fako & Chloe

The kids were then divided into 5 groups. We recited the Olympic Oath and then they went to their stations to play the games we had created for them. They rotated to the next station after about 5 minutes at each activity.

Every child participated in the Torch Relay around the gymnasium guided by IOAPA members. After some photos and closing remarks, everyone received a Victory Ribbon tied on their arm, one of the torches, and a gift bag full of Olympic goodies. Roi Antonopoulou, Vice Mayor of Ancient Olympia, thanked the IOAPA members. Each child also received a certificate of the event that the teachers filled in for us.



Reciting the Olympic Oath



Activity Station - Matt Kwak and Fako Masupha

After an hour and a half of frenzied fun, we finished off our incredible euphoria with our traditional visit to Magna Grecia Farm for dinner. With our topic of “Giving Back” we were extremely proud of this effort to do something for the community of Olympia. The children made drawings of Olympic Games and presented a book of them to us. We are hoping to make a calendar of these images.



Torch Relay



Gift Bag Contents



Alston Choong with Children's Drawing “Ekecheiria”

We hope that IOAPA Olympic Day can become a regular event during future sessions. Huge thanks to Anfisa and Kostas for all the planning that went into this activity.

See Appendix R for Organisation of event.

IOAPA TRADITIONAL DINNER AT MAGNA GRECIA FARM

After our Olympic Day event, we made our way up the hill to Floka to the Magna Grecia Agritourism Olive Oil Farm and Restaurant where we were again hosted by the Karabelas sons Alexis and Francesco and their mother, our great friend Franca Magrini. The evening began with a welcome glass of wine or water and a small hors d'oeuvre. Then Franca led the group on a short tour of the facilities, garden, vineyard, olive mill, olive oil tasting, and then into the restaurant where we were treated to a wonderful dinner. Magna Grecia is one of the premier Farm to Table restaurants in the area. Some of the employees danced to entertain us and then invited us to join in a kalamatiano dance. IOAPA sessions have included a dinner at the farms since 2011.





IOAPA GIVES BACK TO THE IOA

Our legacy project for 2023 was to donate musical instruments to the IOA for future use at IOA sessions. The Dean accepted the instruments on behalf of the IOA. Each instrument has an IOAPA decal on it.

We hope that the participants will enjoy the use of these instruments during workshops, social evenings, and nights on the marble steps.

Instruments included a guitar with extra strings and a carrying case, a ukulele with extra strings and a carrying bag, a tambourine, percussion cylindrical shakers as well as egg shakers.



BEACH DAY

Many of the IOAPA members enjoyed a visit to Kuruta Beach near Katakalo.

It was a very relaxing outing.



THE HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

The auction to raise money for the Hans van Haute scholarships was held on day 4 in the bar area of the cafeteria. All participants were encouraged before the session to bring Olympic memorabilia or other interesting gifts from their countries to sell at the auction. In past years not everyone participated by bringing items, and the most we raised was about 400€.

The response this time was overwhelming.

This auction was a huge success raising 1000€. All the money raised went to the scholarship fund. Thanks to Tove Tomasson (DEN) for helping to organize the event and acting as money manager.



GUIDED VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES AND TO THE MUSEUM OF THE EXCAVATIONS

Kostas Antonopoulos (GRE) is an archeologist and an IOAPA member who lives and works in Olympia. Kostas guided the group on a very informative tour of the two museums. The Museum of the Ancient Olympic Games on the hill above the large parking lot at the south end of the village is a beautiful tribute to the ancient athletes and history of the Games.

The very tiny museum of the excavations, adjacent to the other museum is often closed or overlooked. Fortunately for us Kostas had some connections with the administrators, and we were able to go inside. This museum documents the discoveries and excavations in the ancient site. The old photographs are an amazing record of what the archeologists found and how they proceeded to uncover and preserve it.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Three outgoing members of the Executive Committee were recognized with a small presentation of past photos and a gift of a bronze Kotinos. They have been exceptional leaders and excellent in their respective positions. They made an exceptional team.



Caroline Bujold (CAN) IOAPA Internet Coordinator 2015-2019 & IOAPA Secretary 2019-2023
Ulrich Rosen (GER) IOAPA Treasurer 2019-2023



Richard Koo (CAN) IOAPA President 2015-2023

As we honored the outgoing members, we also must point out that the new Executive Committee of 2023-2025 took their offices at the conclusion of the session.



Left to Right: Dimitrios Regalos (GRE) Outgoing IOA Liaison, Matt Kwak (GER) Incoming Treasurer, Caroline Bujold (CAN) Outgoing Secretary, Xavier Jeannin (FRA) Marketing Officer, Marie Lou Noirot (FRA) Incoming Internet Coordinator, Alston Choong (MAS) Incoming Secretary, Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) Vice President, Samantha Matavata (ZIM) Head of Country Coordinators, Ulrich Rosen (GER) Outgoing Treasurer, Richard Koo (CAN) Outgoing President - will remain on the EC as Immediate Past President.

CLOSING REMARKS BY THE IOAPA PRESIDENT

First of all, it goes without saying that producing an event such as this is as much a labour of love as it is also a huge commitment of time. So, to all the people that have produced both sessions and all the work that went into these sessions: this association thanks you for your service, and I thank you for your service.

On a personal note, Laurel thank you for supporting me over these last four years and thank you for returning to the IOAPA Executive after the many years in which you had already served as President. Also, thank you for indulging me in supporting this crazy idea I had to have our first ever online session in 2021 and both an online session and a live session this year. It turned better and more amazing than I could ever have imagined, and that's in no small part due to your tireless commitment and love for this organisation.

To Caroline, I know you didn't want me to continue talking about your incredible work at IOAPA, so instead I'm going to talk about our friendship. I have known Caroline since 2002 when we first met at the Olympic Academy of Canada. And as two people who were kind of outsiders in that group, for us to have bonded in the way we did and continue this journey over 20 years – I could have never imagined that we would both end up here at the International Olympic Academy and to both have been given the opportunity to serve this fabulous organization, it has truly been a life changing experience. I have really cherished your friendship, your support, your shoulder when I had to vent (or almost cry). It is something I would never have expected to happen 20 years ago, and I am so glad to have been able to share this experience with you, together. Thank you!

A couple of final thoughts from me as I leave the presidency after 8 years. There's a saying they have in Canada and probably other places around the world, and that is: leave the place in a better state than you found it. I think we managed to do that. I think we managed to find a way despite all the craziness of this world to continue to come together, to grow, to have people in these rooms and in the online rooms, to reduce the barriers that we may have had previously. We did this so that we can all celebrate the work we have done here in Olympia, the work that continues to be done in Olympism, and to celebrate each other.

One of the biggest professional joys of my life has been the opportunity to serve all of you and to lead this organisation into whatever future it was I had inherited and then brought forward to all of you. To the new Executive Committee, you are going to be fantastic! I will be there to support you every step of the way, and I cannot wait to see what you're going to do next!

I thank you for your patience, I thank you for your support, I wish you all the success, happiness and continued great work in all your fields of work, education, and life.

Thank you again, and goodbye.

Richard Koo
IOAPA President (CAN)

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE IOA SESSION FOR YOUNG OLYMPIC AMBASSADORS



Upon request to the IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos, the IOAPA members were invited to the Opening Ceremony for the Young Olympic Ambassador's Session which took place on the Hill of Pnyx in Athens on June 11.

Following the ceremony which was interrupted by lightning, thunder, and rain, the IOAPA enjoyed a final meal together near the acropolis.



Such an ambitious program required the cooperation of many people. The participants themselves gave presentations and organized many aspects of the session. We sent 47 personalized thank you letters calling out each person's unique contribution as well as the generic text below that was sent to everyone. Below is a list of all those that contributed.

We could not have asked for a better group of experts to discuss relevant topics of the Olympic Movement with our members during the session. When the final report of the session is prepared, it will be disseminated to all our members as well as to the International Olympic Academy and posted on our website and other social media outlets. We will include the presentations and any links or additional information shared.

Over the past three years, we have all attended our share of online Zoom conferences. Our goal was to put together something extraordinary for our return to an in-person session in Olympia. From the comments of the members in attendance, we feel that this goal was achieved. We have always taken pride in the fact that whoever is engaged to speak or present at an IOAPA Session is part of our family and not simply another person reciting a lecture. In this respect, you hit a homerun. We appreciate your commitment to be with us in Olympia.

Yours sincerely,

Laurel

*Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)
IOAPA Vice President and Session Chair*

List of Contributors:

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Yogo Suzuki (CAN)
Alexander Eriksson (NOR)
Laura Moreira (CRC)
Megan Ritch (USA)
Alexandra de Navacelle de Coubertin (FRA)
Emilio Fernandez Pena (ESP)
Ivan Coste-Maniere (FRA)
Dr. Shamala Subramaniam (MAS)
Dr. Kostas Georgiadis (GRE)
Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei (QAT)
Winfred Quek (SGP)
Matt Kwak (GER)
Alston Choong (MAS)
Hisham Al Adwani (OMA)
Samantha Matavata (ZIM)
Jorge Rodriguez (GUA)
Chloé Abou Chabaké (LBN)
Fako Masupha (LES)

Elizabeth Hanley (USA)
Ulrich Rosen (GER)
Xavier Jeannin (FRA)
Dimitrios Regalos (GRE)
Anfisa Kasyanova (GRE)
Kostas Antonopoulos (GRE)
Angi Stanescu (ROM)
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Roupini Toumpa (GRE)
Maria (GRE) IOA
Franca Magrini & Karabelas Family (GRE)
Magna Grecia
Katerina Spiliopoulou (GRE) Hotel Europa
Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)

IN MEMORIAM – ULRICH ROSEN (1972-2023)



Shortly before the publication of this final session report, the IOAPA family was saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend Ulrich Rosen (GER). As is evident in the many photos of Uli in this report, he was such an integral part of our visits to Ancient Olympia and the Academy. We will forever cherish the moments we had with him this year.

“ Our IOAPA family is still in shock over the passing of our dear friend Ulrich Rosen from Germany. Anyone who had the pleasure to meet Uli could not avoid being impacted by his huge personality. We will remember the legacy he left us, as his endless love and commitment to Olympism. He truly embraced all cultures, had a kind word for everyone and was a teacher to all of us in so many ways.

His favourite sport might have been playing Devil’s advocate, engaging us in discussion about controversial issues facing the Olympic Movement. He made us think and examine our own beliefs.

Over the past decade Uli was a regular participant in the IOAPA sessions in Olympia and served as treasurer for the association from 2019-2023. In Olympia this past June, Uli made a very impassioned speech at the

Carl Diem Monument during the Opening Ceremony about how there can be no success without the struggle, lessons that Olympism taught him personally. He also organized an inspired “Transfer of Executive Committee” ceremony for the incoming and outgoing EC members, where he encouraged the new EC members and offered some sage advice. And, as was his custom, he led Tai Chi exercises every morning.

Ulrich was distinguished for the integrity of his character, his good manners, his methodology and his enthusiasm about IOAPA and Olympism. His loss will be noticeable to all the members of the Executive Committee and our IOAPA family.

We were so very fortunate to have those beautiful moments with Uli.

The IOAPA Executive Committee sends our heartfelt condolences to Uli’s family. He will be remembered as a bright light and a true friend.”



SESSION DIPLOMA



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION

NAME

participated in the
18th IOAPA Session
held online
from DATES 2023

Richard Kee
President

Laurel Brassey-Iversen
Vice-President

2024 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY DRAW

IMPORTANT NOTE: Members were drawn in priority order for possible assignment in the Greece portion of the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay, to provide for alternate names in case of unavailability of the chosen member(s). Not all names drawn will be assigned positions in the Torch Relay.

See Appendix K for PowerPoint Presentation

IOAPA Members chosen randomly for an opportunity to participate in the Paris 2024 Relay

Emilio Pena (ESP)

Caroline Bujold (CAN)

Angela Stanescu (ROM)

Winifred Quek (SGP)

Sayed Al Zabir (BAN)

Anfisa Kasyanova (GRE)

Aura Beatriz Amaya Cobar (ESP)

Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei (QAT)

Alexander Eriksson (NOR)

Roland Krimmer (GER)

Xavier Jeannin (FRA)

Nicolette Wolf (AUS)

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Spain	Emilio Fernandez Pena	Emilio.Fernandez@uab.cat	Lecturer
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France	John Zolidis		
France	Laurence Delaire-Coste		
Qatar	Ali Almakki		
United States	Tom Jable		