

World Leaders of Sport Enl

The United States Sports Academy offered a variety of sport and art educational programs to the public on July 27th in conjunction with its 30th anniversary activities. A number of distinguished honorees that participated in the Academy's commencement ceremony also joined in the Academy's Sport Leadership Conference and Sport Art Education Seminar.

The sport summit, featuring world-renowned leaders of sport, was divided into two components: Sport Leadership and Worldwide Networking.

Among the panelists for the Sport Leadership Seminar were: Moderator Jimmy Carnes, executive director of the US Track Coaches Association; Herman Frazier, United States Olympic Committee Vice President; Dr. Gaylon McCollough, president of the

McCollough Institute for Appearance and Health in Gulf Shores, AL; Dr. Richard Young, Athletics Director at Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL.) and Hall of Fame women's basketball coach, C. Vivian Stringer.

In her address, Coach Stringer spoke with pride and humility about her coaching career, fondly recalling her tenure at Cheyney University in Pennsylvania twenty years ago. She marveled at her players' commitment to their team, despite having spartan facilities, lack of funding and little fanfare. Stringer credits her Cheyney players for initiating a career that would make her one of the greatest teacher-motivators of women's basketball.

The Worldwide Networking Seminar, moderated by former President of the Goodwill Games Jack Kelly, included panelists: Dr. Zhenliang He, chairman of the International Olympic Committee Cultural and Olympic Education Commission; Sports Illustrated Senior Writer Ivan Maisel; United States Basketball Academy President Bruce O'Neil; and Joseph J. Valyraki, the former Minister of Sport and Minister of Public Order for Greece.

The discussion topics in the second seminar included the dropout rate of student athletes, post-retirement education for athletes and Olympism in third world nations.

Ivan Maisel of Sports Illustrated recalled a story from his days at



Dr. Zhenliang He, Chairman of the IOC Cultural and Education Commission speaks at the Sport Leadership Conference as a part of the Sport Summit.



Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki, the Academy's 2002 Sport Artist of the Year, demonstrates her techniques with "The Finish Line" at the Art Education Seminar.

the Dallas Morning News in the late 1980s. Legendary football coach Bill Walsh was scheduled to speak at a luncheon in Texas but had lost his luggage at the airport. Understanding Walsh's plight, Maisel lent Walsh his clothing for the luncheon. According to Maisel, Walsh was so moved by the gesture that he still responds to Maisel's phone calls today, fifteen years later. Maisel's story simply conveys how vital networking and compassion are within the sports industry, or any walk of life.

The Art Summit featured world-renowned artists Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki of Greece, Puerto Rico native Liston Bochette III and Cris Gabarron, the son of prominent Spanish artist Maestro Cristobal Gabarron. Valyraki, the Academy's 2002 Sport Artist of the year and Bochette, the 1996 Academy Sport Artist of the Year shared their unique

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philosophies toward their profession while providing intriguing insight to their inimitable techniques.

Valyraki is the fifth European and only the second woman to earn Academy Sport Artist of the Year honors. She was born in Athens, Greece, studied painting at The School of Fine Arts at The Technical University of Athens and graduated with honors in 1980. In 1981 she was granted a scholarship by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable her to follow a post graduate course entitled 'Perfezionamento in Storia dell'Arte Medievale e Moderna' at the University of Florence, from which she received her Ph.D degree in 1986.

Dr. Liston Bochette III competed in the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games as a decathlete. At the 1992 (Albertville) and the 1994 (Lillehammer) Winter Olympics, he was a member of the Puerto Rican bobsled team. The acclaimed athlete/artist has earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts, a master's degree in humanities and a doctorate in education. Dr. Bochette is the Secretary General of the World Olympians



The Academy's Sport Art Seminar was a successful venture in its first year. The principals of the event, pictured above, are (L-R): Kay Daughdrill, Executive Director of ASAMA; Dr. Liston Bochette, III, Trustee and Sport Artist of the Year 1996; Mina Valyraki, Sport Artist of the Year 2002; Cris Gabarron, The Gabarron Foundation; Jack Scharr, Trustee and ASAMA Chairman.

Association, a group that works with the International Olympic Committee to preserve Olympic ideals.

Maestro Cristobal Gabarron of Valladolid, Spain was the 1992 Academy Sport Artist of the Year.

Gabarron designed and produced the two largest murals in the world. The first mural depicting the history of the Olympic Games stands 100 meters tall in Barcelona, Spain as a tribute to the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games. The same year, Gabarron created a mural depicting Christopher Columbus's discovery of America for the Building of the Americas in the 1992 Seville Expo.

In 1997 Gabarron presented the Academy with a mural on the main face of its building entitled "A Tribute to the Human Spirit" as part of the Academy's 25th Anniversary Celebration. It is dedicated to Jackie Robinson in honor of his breaking professional baseball's color barrier 50 years before. The mural, valued at \$2.5 million, is believed to be the largest public art piece in Alabama.

After the summit Chris Gabarron presented a check to La Casa de Amigos of Fairhope, AL, a charitable organization benefiting migrant farm workers in Baldwin County. The donation was derived from the sale of Gabarron's painting "Spirit of the Bay"



Ivan Maisel, Senior Writer for Sports Illustrated and Bruce O'Neil, President of the United States Basketball Academy, share a laugh during the Sport Leadership Conference. The men addressed the concept of networking as panelists as a part of the sport summit.