

# ACADEMY PRESIDENT ATTENDS OLYMPIC TRUCE COMPETITION

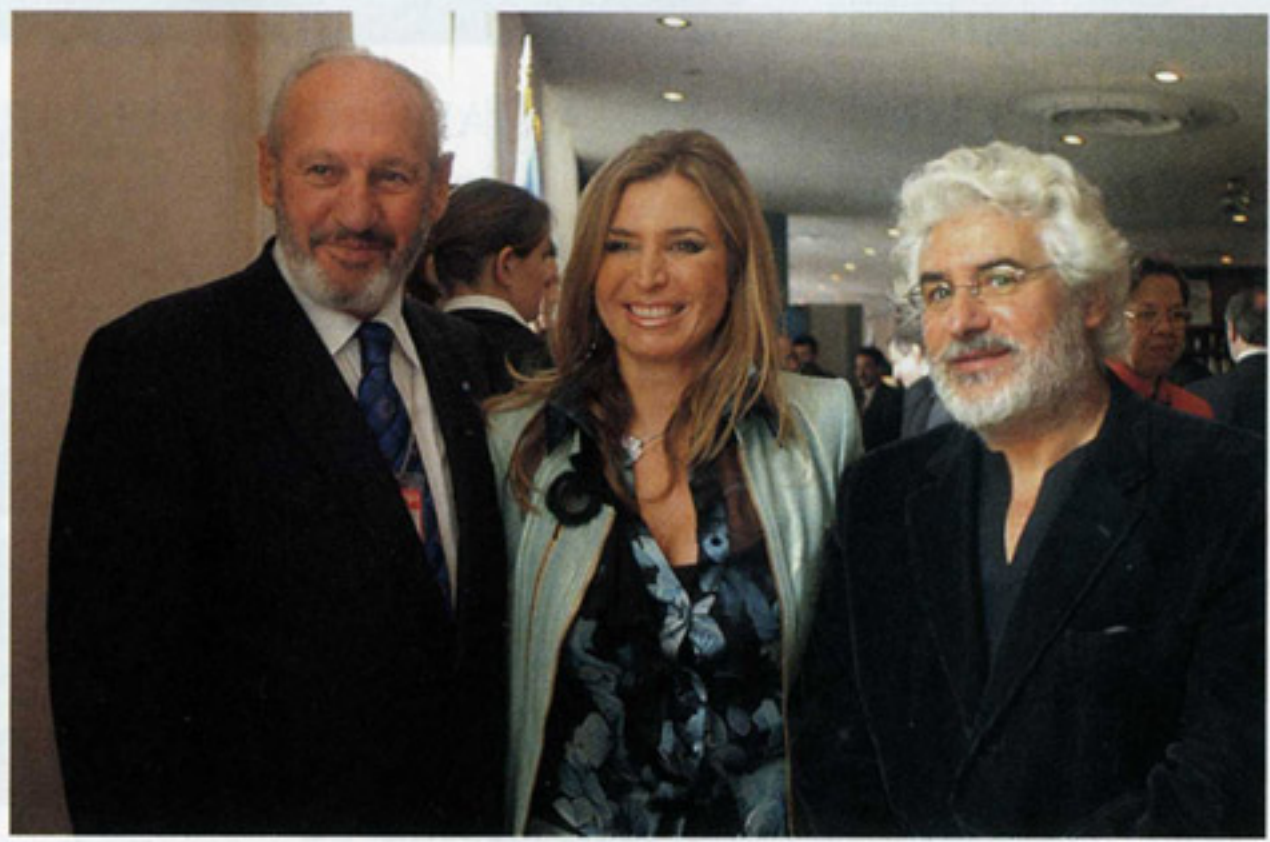
Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, President and CEO of the United States Sports Academy, was among the officials and dignitaries invited to attend the ceremony honoring the "Olympic Truce" held at the United Nations in New York in November 2003. As a part of that ceremony, the art piece entitled "Olympic Truce" was presented to Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations.

The "Olympic Truce" is a painting by Mina Valyraki-Papatheodorou, the Academy's Sport Artist of the Year 2002. She is widely recognized as one of the world's most dramatic Sport Artists.

"Promoting peace was, in fact the actual reason why the Olympic games were originally established," said George Papandreou to the General Assembly. The painting was presented to Papandreou, Foreign Minister of Greece, who has been recognized for his tireless work to bring peace to the Middle East and his thesis entitled, "Olympic Truce."

"In antiquity, placement of the Olympic Truce entailed a cessation of all hostilities to allow thousands of athletes, pilgrims and spectators to travel to Olympia to attend this sacred celebration of human achievement, and then return home in safety and security. The Olympic Truce was upheld for over 1000 years, making it the longest peace treaty in history."

During the presentation, Secretary General Annan said he hoped the warring sides would use the Olympic Truce to "stop and reflect...even if it is for 24 hours." Adding, "I hope that people in all conflict areas-from Iraq to Afghanistan to Liberia to the Congo-will really listen to the message. But it is not just those who are actually fighting. The populations should also



*(Left to Right) President Thomas P. Rosandich, Mina Valyraki-Papatheodorou and Cristobal Gabbaron at the Presentation.*

work to make demands they want peace, that the fighting must stop."

The select group on hand for the presentation included Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee; Tomas Sithole, Executive Director of the IOC International Competition and Development Committee; and Prince Albert of Monaco.

This concept is predicated on the fact that Greece has not been an aggressor for centuries. It is this thesis, which led to Papandreou's selection as the Academy's Jackie Robinson Humanitarian Award recipient in 2002 and a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize 2004.

The Olympic Truce, borne of the theme of the Olympic games, represented a time of international peace and diplomacy. A truce (in Greek, literally means "holding of hands") was announced before and during each of the Olympic festivals to allow visitors to travel safely to Olympia. An inscription describing the truce was written on a bronze discus that was displayed at Olympia. During the Truce, time was focused on the competitions and physical tests of the athletes who were representing their respective nations.

Mina Valyraki-Papatheodorou's art reflects the vibrant nature of competition with her use of vivid colors and hues. It is impossible to view one of her paintings and not be taken in by its power and intrigue. This use of color and the theme of the "Olympic Truce" have produced the exact effect sought by the use of Olympic competition to bring about a time, however temporary, of world peace.



*"Olympic Truce" by Mina Valyraki-Papatheodorou, Academy Sport Artist of the Year 2002*