George D. Behrakis Elected L100 Chairman, Stephen G. Yeonas Elected Vice Chairman

The board of trustees of Leadership 100 met for its 15th Annual Conference in Key Biscayne, Florida, on February 9, 2006. They elected George D. Behrakis of Lowell, Massachusetts, as their new chairman, filling the vacancy left by John A. Payiavlas of Warren, Ohio, who stepped down after serving two years. Stephen G. Yeonas of McLean, Virginia, was elected vice chairman, following Mr. Behrakis who had served in that capacity for two years. Constantine Caras of Greenville, Delaware, was elected treasurer and Mark Stavropoulos of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, was voted in as secretary.

Mr. Behrakis, a graduate of Northeastern University, who had also studied at Boston University, is a recognized leader in the pharmaceutical field. He began his career at McNeil Laboratories (a division of

Alex Rodriguez Packs Them in at L100 Sports Workshop

Leadership 100 honored Dimitris Avramopoulos with its Leadership 100 Award for Excellence at the Grand Banquet of the 15th Annual Conference on February 11 in Key Biscayne, Florida, for his outstanding service as mayor of Athens, in the diplomatic service of Greece and in his recent role as minister of tourism. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Avramopoulos told the Greek-Americans who gathered in record-breaking numbers at the conference, “I know you, I respect you and I love you.” He spoke of the founder

New York Yankee third baseman and power hitter Alex Rodriguez drew an enthusiastic and attentive audience at the first-ever Leadership Workshop on Sports at its 15th Annual Conference in Key Biscayne, Florida, on February 10. Mr. Rodriguez fielded numerous questions about his record-breaking career in major league baseball, his youth, his business interests, his values and his family life.
George D. Behrakis
Elected L100 Chairman

Johnson & Johnson and later founded Dooner Laboratories, which during this time developed and manufactured the leading asthma drug in the United States. In 1978, he purchased Muro Pharmaceutical, Inc., which he sold in 1997. He retired as president/CEO in June of 1998. A recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to business, science and the arts and his support of the Greek Orthodox Church, Mr. Behrakis has served on the boards of Northeastern University, Tufts Medical School, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He and his wife, Margo, have established chairs and scholarships at various universities and medical facilities. He is a member of the Archdiocesan Council Executive Committee and is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Stephen G. Yeonas, a graduate of the American University, the Catholic University of America – Columbus School of Law – and a member of the Virginia Bar Association, has been a developer and leader of real estate in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for five decades. He founded and served as president of the Yeonas Company, the largest builder of new homes in the region. He is also a member of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He and his wife, Thelma, reside in McLean, Virginia.

Dimitris Avramopoulos Honored by L100

of Leadership 100, the late Archbishop Iakovos, as one who excelled in his vocation. He went on to praise the Greeks of America, "who came from every corner of Greece," for forging a family that continued their devotion to the Orthodox Church and to Hellenic values, coupling it with “a burning desire to succeed” and the perpetuation of philanthropy as a “loving responsibility.”

The minister extended a formal invitation to the board of trustees of Leadership 100 to meet in Greece next September and stressed the goal of establishing a creative collaboration. He said that Greece, as evidenced by the Olympics, was a confident country proud of its past and hopeful for the future. A nation with a vision and a plan, Greece wants to become the most competitive and dynamic economy in southeastern Europe, with a view toward strengthening bilateral relations with the United States, Russia, Latin America and Africa. He explained that “in the 21st century there are no small or big countries—only small or big ideas.”

Mark Stavropoulos
chairman of the Grant Committee, said he was pleased that Leadership 100 was able to fund a greater variety of programs that represented a more extensive outreach for the Greek Orthodox Church in America.
On March 24, President George W. Bush warmly welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, spiritual leader of 1.5 million Greek Orthodox Christians, and the Greek-American community to the White House, on the occasion of the celebration of Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy 2006. Over 100 individuals, including government officials, the foreign minister of Greece, Greek and Cypriot diplomats and Greek-Americans from throughout the United States attended the ceremony in the Old Executive Office building.

In his opening remarks, Archbishop Demetrios thanked President Bush for signing the proclamation that pays tribute to the historic day of March 25, 1821, which is a symbolic day of the Greek War of Independence, or Greek Revolution, that ended with the liberation of Greece after four bitter centuries under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. He also stated that Greece has been a battleground of armies for millennia but has survived because “...the Greek nation has always been absolutely conscious of having a mission in this world, a mission of serving the highest possible ideals and sharing them with every nation, friend or enemy alike. The awareness and condition of mission explains not only the mere survival, but the Greek nation’s brilliant, most generous universal contributions to the ideals of freedom, human dignity and democracy.”

President Bush, in his response, welcomed the Archbishop and everyone in attendance and commented on the high number of Greek Americans currently serving in this administration, including Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte, and Homeland Security Advisor Frances Fragos Townsend. He also noted the presence of Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyianni, who was in the United States for a number of meetings, and Senator Paul Sarbanes, the well-respected U.S. senator from Maryland. The President also spoke of the need to continue working for democracy. “America’s founding fathers were inspired by the democratic ideals, and it helped to form our own union. Those ideals became implanted in long-lasting documents. But, as we watch the world today, we must understand that democracy is difficult at times. It’s not easy to take hold. It requires work and diligence and optimism and strength and will. But the Greek lesson, not only in Greece, but also here in America, is one that with time and persistence, liberty does take hold because of its universality. It’s a lesson we honor on Greek Independence Day.”

On the evening of March 23, 2006, the Director of National Intelligence and Mrs. John D. Negroponte hosted a dinner in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Blair House. In welcoming His Eminence and guests, including Dora Bakoyianni, the foreign minister of Greece, Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD), Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, members of the government, diplomats and the Greek-American community, Mr. Negroponte noted that he, too, is a proud member of the Greek-American community. He continued by stating that “...between two and three thousand years ago, Greece gave birth to a philosophical style and train of thought that has helped liberate more than half the world......The inquiring habits of mind of Ancient Greece still underpin the urge of individuals throughout the world to ask the great questions - and in the case of democracy, the biggest questions of all: Why should this or that people be free and not us? Why shouldn’t we, with the same God-given gifts, enjoy similar opportunities to express, better and secure ourselves? How could it be that someone else has rights we do not have?”
General Assembly Meets

Leadership 100 held its General Assembly at the 15th Annual Conference on February 10, introducing George D. Behrakis as the new chairman and Stephen G. Yeonas as vice chairman. Reports were presented regarding the record-setting assets at the end of 2005 of $54.9 million, reflecting the highest number of contributions for the same period since 2001. The grants that were allocated, including $2.5 million in 2006, now exceed $20 million since the inception of the organization in 1984.

Crossroad Program Taking Applications

The Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) at Hellenic College is now accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for its summer CrossRoad program, now in its third year. From June 23 through July 3, thirty Orthodox teenagers from the United States and Canada will take part in an exciting summer vocations exploration program designed to help students discern their life callings and match their personal gifts with the needs of the world.

The CrossRoad program combines the greatest offerings of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology through faculty instruction and participation, as well as an enthusiastic staff of graduate students. The beautiful campus overlooks the exciting city of Boston itself. Students will participate in daily classes with Hellenic College and Holy Cross faculty. They will also attend vespers each evening at neighboring parishes in the area. After attending CrossRoad last year, participant Vanessa Theoharis of Weston, Massachusetts, stated, “I know CrossRoad will have a never-ending inspirational drive on my body, soul and spirit...I will always remember the incredible experiences and adapt them to my everyday life.”

CrossRoad is one of the many unique programs sponsored by the OVM and is part of a five-year program funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc. Applications may be downloaded from the CrossRoad Web site at www.crossroad.hchc.edu, or received by mail by calling the office at (617) 850-1310. Furthermore, the OVM has produced a DVD featuring the CrossRoad 2005 experience that has been sent to each parish and is available on the CrossRoad Web site. Applicants must currently be in their junior or senior year of high school. All expenses for participants, aside from the travel costs to Boston, are provided by the CrossRoad program.
Nicholas Gage, former "New York Times" journalist and author, and his daughter, Eleni Gage, led the Forum on Hellenism at the 15th Annual Leadership 100 Conference here. Mr. Gage, the author of the widely popular "Eleni," the more recent "Greek Fire" and many other books, addressed the topic "Can Orthodoxy and Hellenism Survive in the American Melting Pot?"

He pointed to the unique identity of Greeks and Greek-Americans who carried the values paramount in an enlightened world, contributing to Western civilization not only the gift of democracy, but that of the love of life, or the "pursuit of happiness." He cited the disappearance of the Greeks of southern Italy who lived in a similar and friendly culture and who were completely absorbed by it. Mr. Gage regards it as a lesson for the Greeks in America, who, he felt, must decide whether to struggle mightily to preserve their culture through monumental achievements, education and religion, or be confronted with the same fate.

Ms. Gage gave a speech from the perspective of women and youth, saying that mothers preserved and perpetuated Orthodoxy and Hellenism by passing on the language, values and culture of their faith and heritage. The author of a new book, "North of Ithaka," she spoke of her experience, recounted in the book, of returning to her father’s native village of Lia in Epirus, Greece, to restore their ancestral home. Now living in New York and an editor at "People Magazine," she said she had learned that "you can go home again," but that the essence of Hellenism was to be neither Greek nor American, but as Socrates said, "a citizen of the world."
George D. Behrakis gave his inaugural speech as the new chairman of Leadership 100 to a record-setting Grand Banquet attendance of more than 400 members and their guests. He praised outgoing Chairman John Payiavlas, who he said gave real purpose to Leadership 100 with his quiet determination, executive qualities and compassion. He cited the excellent programs at the conference that conveyed Hellenic values. In this regard, he pointed to New York Yankee Alex Rodriguez, who married into a Greek Orthodox family who led a Workshop on Sports; Nicholas Gage and his daughter Eleni who led the Forum on Hellenism; Barbara Spyridon Pope, who gave the Workshop for Women; and Leadership 100 member John Catsimatidis, who led the Business Forum.

John Payiavlas gave Welcome Remarks, saying that Leadership 100 had a bright future with Mr. Behrakis as its head and Stephen G. Yeonas as the new vice chairman.

Andrew Athens, president of the World Council of Hellenes and the first chairman of Leadership 100, who with his brother, Dr. William Athens, hosted the conference, gave the Greeting, saying Leadership 100 had risen to a new level both in the United States and internationally.

In addition to awarding Dimitris Avramopoulos the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence, Leadership 100 also honored Congressman Michael Bilirakis of Florida, who is retiring after 24 years in the House of Representatives. Behrakis acknowledged the exemplary work of Bilirakis in advancing the Greek-American agenda and in regarding the entire Greek-American community in the United States as his constituency, as well as his own constituency in Florida.

The Grand Banquet ended with remarks by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. The conference, attended by more some 425 people, formally ended Sunday, February 12, with liturgy led by the Archbishop at St. Sophia Cathedral in Miami.
15th Annual...

Archbishop Demetrios and Fr. Dimitrios (front left) officiate at L100 Memorial Service.

L100 Conference Co-host Chairmen, Andrew Athens and Dr. William Athens at Welcome Reception.

Fr. Dimitrios with son Eliot at Opening Breakfast.

John Catsimatidis addresses Business Forum.

George D. Behrakis (left) looks on as Dimitris Avramopoulos presents icon to outgoing L100 Chairman, John A. Payiavlas and his wife, Marisa.

February 17, 2006

Mr. John Payiavlas
AVI Food Systems, Inc.
2590 Elm Road, NE
Warren, Ohio 44483

Dear John,

I wanted to take a moment to say “Thank You” for putting on what was the most exciting Leadership 100 conference that I’ve attended to date. Your tireless efforts over the past two years came through in flying colors with the excitement and enthusiasm that was none stop all three days in Key Biscayne.

I have brought my four children for the last five years to these conferences. The first time was more of a novelty so that was nice. However, the last two years under your command has my children asking “when are we going to the next L100 conference?” They are making friends with other Greeks around the country that they would have never met. I can only imagine that this could lead to the survival of Hellenism well into the future as Nicholas Gage would say and even further advancement of L100.

I can see why Mr. Chimples speaks so highly of you. I admire you both for your contributions and effort to this great endeavor. You both do it with dignity and passion, traits that are hard to find together.

One last note is that I saw this month’s Inside Business magazine. I was happy and proud to see your name in the Power 100 as one the areas most powerful individuals.

Sincerely,

Chris Tjojtos
Founding L100 Chairman Andrew A. Athens with son, Paul, and Archbishop Demetrios, acknowledged for service at Grand Banquet.

Archbishop Demetrios and Alex Rodriguez with youth at Workshop on Sports, along with John Payiavlas and George Stamas.

March 18, 2006

Dear John Payiavlas, George Behrakis, and Everyone at Leadership 100,

I’ve been travelling for work, which does not excuse the amount of time it has taken me to write all of you, but does I hope, explain it a little. In the meantime I have not stopped thinking or talking about what a wonderful time my parents and I had at the Leadership 100 conference. Thank you so much for inviting me to participate and for organizing such a lovely event. Everyone I spoke to about the conference had a wonderful time and I was so honored to be a part of the conference. Thank you for your hospitality and for your support of North of Athens.

All best,

Eleni N. Gage

George D. Behrakis, Archbishop Demetrios, Fr. Demetrios Antokas and L100 Director of Development Paulette Poulos acknowledge John A. Payiavlas for service as L100 Chairman.

Greek Dancing at Grand Banquet

Incoming Chairman, George D. Behrakis, and wife, Margo, Archbishop Demetrios, and Marisa Payiavlas and outgoing Chairman, John A. Payiavlas.
L100 Sports Champions

Lana Gialamas and Jack Mitsokopulos Award Winners of Tournaments

**Tennis**

Kathy Theofilos

Eppie Johnson

Gus Trataros

Mike Manatos

**Golf**

Bill Rozakis

Michael Bapis
Accompanied by his wife, the former Cynthia Scurtis, the granddaughter of a Greek Orthodox priest, he spoke of growing up in Miami where his mother worked in a Latin-American restaurant, his early devotion to baseball, which he uses as a metaphor for life, and the courting of his wife and her Greek-American family.

He said that his marriage into one “of the most beautiful families” changed his lifestyle and gave him direction and appreciation of true values by which to live, citing the advice of his wife’s grandfather. His wife reciprocated, calling him one of the most dedicated, loyal and honest partners.

Mr. Rodriguez advised the young people in the audience never to seek financial goals, but to look for the right mentors to guide them into a responsible and focused life, whether they go into sports, fine arts, science or business. He said his greatest regret was not to have gone to college. Citing Carl Ripen Jr. as the ultimate role model, Mr. Rodriguez said that one has to persevere and keep on one’s toes, organizing everyday life to fit one’s goals and vision.

He said baseball occupied only 8% of his time, and that his involvement in a real estate business, philanthropic causes and family life were pursued with equal passion.

He cited his religious and prayer life as central elements of his daily routine and essential to his ability to withstand criticism when his record-breaking contract with the New York Yankees became global news.

George D. Behrakis, newly elected chairman of Leadership 100, moderated the questions to Mr. Rodriguez, joined by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and George Stamas, a member of Leadership 100 who is Rodriguez’s attorney.
Fulfilled Members

Fulfilled Members Receive Obelisks from Archbishop Demetrios, L100 Chairman John A. Payiavlas & Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis at 15th Annual Conference, Key Biscayne, Florida

New Members

ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
Drs. Andreas and Iakovos Koutras Brooklyn, NY
Dimitrios and Sophia Vissas Scarsdale, NY

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
Yianny and Annette Caparos Northbrook, IL
Angelo and Ursula Loukas Bannockburn, IL
Kostas and Eileen Pouloupolos Hinsdale, IL

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
Thomas L. Demakes Lynn, MA
Dr. John P. Eliopoulos Swampscott, MA
The Arthur Pappas Family Cotuit, MA

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
Peter and Elli Paleologos Silver Spring, MD

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
Dr. Nicholas and Diana Terezis Steubenville, OH

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
Dr. Andreas and Iakovos Koutras Brooklyn, NY
Dimitrios and Sophia Vissas Scarsdale, NY

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON
Dr. James C. Alex Boston, MA
George Alex Cohasset, MA
Nicholas Gage N. Grafton, MA
Nicholas and Pamela Lazares Milton, MA

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA
James and Helen Ballerano Boca Raton, FL

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
Dr. Lazarus and Helen Kirifides Wilmington, DE
New Members Receive Icons from Archbishop Demetrios, L100 Chairman John A. Payiavlas, & Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis at 15th Annual Conference, Key Biscayne, Florida
During our conference in Key Biscayne, we offered a special treat to our lovely Leadership 100 ladies by arranging an outing to Neiman Marcus located in the exclusive area of Bal Harbour. At 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, 100 of us gathered in the lobby of the Ritz Carlton for coffee and muffins. After breakfast and with great anticipation, we all boarded buses en route to Neiman’s. As soon as we arrived, the store’s managers warmly greeted us and escorted us inside a full hour earlier than their usual time for opening.

Entertained by Greek music in the background, we enjoyed a lovely brunch in the company’s dining room. During the meal—and one of the highlights of the day—was the fashion show that included some makeovers done on our intrepid volunteers. Then came the real fun...100 Greek ladies ran through the store, picking out clothes, makeup and whatever else they could put their hands on! As it turned out, management had opened the store early, so that we could have some private time to shop. Needless to say, we lost no time in accommodating them, right down to the last minute! In fact, our shopping spree was such a success that when the managers escorted us back to the door, they promised us that the new Neiman Marcus would be completed before we arrived in Naples, Florida for our next Leadership 100 conference in 2007! So......get ready for some more fashion, fun—and shopping, of course.

by Paulette Poulos
...and Shopping

Photos by Peter Costopoulos
A Blessed Pascha

With this special conference review of the Leader, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, I wish to convey to you and your family a Blessed and Glorious Pascha.

I pray that this Paschal season will give us the opportunity to reflect upon the new life given to us by the Resurrected Lord and the opportunity to fulfill our faith and express our Blessings through our joint endeavors in this Leadership 100 family, built on faith and friendship.

Fr. Dimitrios Antokas
Executive Director