

AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award

JOANNA DESPOTOPOULOU

For her outstanding philanthropic achievements, dedication to volunteerism, and promotion of Hellenic culture.

Special Olympics Hellas was founded in 1987. In 1990, Special Olympics Founder Eunice Kennedy-Shriver entrusted Joanna Despotopoulou to develop the Special Olympics movement throughout Greece. For the past twenty years, Joanna has worked voluntarily, but unremittingly, for the noble cause of improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

In 2007, Joanna played an instrumental role in Greece's successful bid to organize the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens. As president of the Organizing Committee of the Special Olympics World Summer Games Athens 2011, she heads an international event that will take place for the first time in Greece.

During her career with Special Olympics Hellas, Joanna has focused on the promotion of the Special Olympics movement in Greece and worldwide. As president, and general secretary of the President's Council of Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia, she continues to offer her volunteer services to improve the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by encouraging more of them to participate in the Special Olympics. Under her leadership, the number of Special Olympics athletes in Greece has reached an impressive 12,000 persons.

From 2004 to 2006, Joanna served at the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity of the Hellenic Republic as the state secretary general. In addition, she served as a committee member to several international organizations such as: the European and National Committee of Adapted Sports, the Tourism Intergroup of the European Parliament, and the World Tourism Organization. Since October 2005, Joanna has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile Foundation (FIA Foundation). Moreover, she served the European Union Committees as an expert in tourism, evaluating investment proposals for tourism projects.

Furthermore, Joanna worked, inter-alia, as research, analysis and marketing director of the Greek National Tourism Organi-



zation in Athens and London. She authored many studies and articles on tourism and on Special Olympics sports, which were published in Greek and international media outlets.

Joanna Despotopoulou's career achievements have been acknowledged nationally and internationally. Most notably, she received: The Gold Medal of the City of Athens (2000); The Gold Medal of the Hellenic Parliament (2001); The Award of Moral Excellence of the Academy of Athens (2002); The Award DELPHI (with decoration) of the International Olympic Academy (2003); The Centennial Gold Medal of Lions International (2005); and The Ordine al Merito de la Repubblica Italiana (Grande Ufficiale) (2006).

Joanna studied economics at the University of Piraeus and completed post-graduate studies

in Business Administration at the University of Economic Studies of Athens, and Tourism Economics at the University of London. Under scholarship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she specialized in European Community Affairs at the IIAP-Ecole Nationale d'Administration of Paris. Moreover, through her scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Joanna concentrated on Tourism Marketing at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) of Tokyo. Her breadth of knowledge and qualifications were enhanced with specialized studies in Sponsorship Marketing, Games Management and Crisis Management at Yale University; and Volunteer Management at Duke University.

Joanna is married to Vassilis Despotopoulos, president, Automobile Club of Greece (ELPA), and has two sons, both of whom are Special Olympics volunteers.

With deep gratitude to Joanna V. Despotopoulou for her outstanding philanthropic achievements, dedication to volunteerism, and promotion of Hellenic culture, we present her with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award this 17th day of June, 2009, at our 5th Annual Athens Dinner.

AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award

DR. LAVRENTIS LAVRENTIADIS

For his outstanding business achievements and promotion of Hellenic Culture.



In 1996, Dr. Lavrentinos Lavrentiadis assumed the reins of the family business, Neochimiki L.V. Lavrentiadis S.A., a major chemicals and lubricants company. In 2003, the company rapidly expanded after its listing on the Athens Stock Exchange. His ability to foresee the importance of Greece's geographical position in southeastern Europe allowed him to establish Neochimiki as a leading distributor of chemicals, gaining a significant presence in seven countries through the acquisition of several companies and facilities. In May 2008, he consummated one of the most notable transactions in Greece with the sale of Neochimiki L.V. Lavrentiadis S.A.

In May 2007, his vision for the establishment of an innovative company in the pharmaceutical sector materialized with the creation of Alapis S.A. Since its founding, Alapis S.A. acquired more than 19 companies to develop its two core business units: Healthcare (human health pharmaceuticals, medical devices and veterinary products) and Non-healthcare (cosmetics and detergents).

Alapis S.A. is now a leading pharmaceuticals company in Greece. In 2008, the company achieved a turnover of EUR 1,136.3mil. (+156.8% over F.Y. 2007). Headquartered in Athens, Greece, the company employs more than 2,900 people. Although he maintains 22 percent of Alapis, Dr. Lavrentiadis has resigned from the company's management team to create, through the Lavrentiadis Group of Companies, a private equity fund aiming to exceed 1 billion Euros.

During his professional career, Dr. Lavrentiadis has received numerous honors. In November 2005, the Young Enterprise Club bestowed him with the *Elaboration and Innovation* prize. A year later, he received two awards upon entering a competition sponsored by Ernst & Young: *2006 Businessman of the Year* and *2006 Internationally*

Developing Businessman of the Year. It was the first time the competition was held in Greece.

In addition, Dr. Lavrentiadis has been published. In 2007, he co-authored with Ian Pargaru, "Techniques of International Business."

He received his BA in Economics, Finance and Accounting from Deree College – The American College of Greece. Dr. Lavrentiadis received a Master's and Ph.D. in Marketing from Brantridge University of Sussex. He is fluent in three languages: Greek, English, and French.

Dr. Lavrentinos Lavrentiadis was born in 1972 in Athens, Greece. He is married to Aikaterini Nikolitsi and has two children.

With deep gratitude to Dr. Lavrentinos Lavrentiadis for his outstanding business achievements and promotion of Hellenic culture, we present him with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award this 17th day of June, 2009, at our 5th Annual Athens Dinner.