



# Διάλογοι

Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO)

Ελληνοκαναδική Ένωση Πανεπιστημιακών του Οντάριο (ΕΚΕΠΙΟ)

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## Message from the President

Dear colleagues,

We have had yet another successful year in contributions and results. Possibly, the most important success is the establishment of the Modern Greek Studies Program at the University of Toronto. See more details further in the newsletter. We also continued our Distinguished Guest Speaker Series with a lecture dedicated to Kavafis, and enjoyed a nice dinner during our annual get-together dinner series. During the University Studies Orientation Day, we again had a fruitful exchange with high-school students of the Hellenic-Canadian community.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the executive Christina Christara, Sakis Gekas, Alexandros Gezerlis, and Nota Klentrou, for all their hard work during the year. I extend my thanks to Maria-Athina Martimianakis, Nota Klentrou and Christina Christara for their participation in the University Studies Orientation Day, to all executive members and to Maria-Athina Martimianakis for their contributions in the discussion about the Hellenic Studies Program at UT, and to Christina Christara for editing this newsletter, and updating our website. Last but not least, I am grateful to all members who contributed to and participated in our activities in one way or another.

We would love to have more participation and engagement by our members, especially those in more remote areas. Please come to the meeting, or send us your ideas and suggestions about possible activities.

Warm regards

George J. Georgopoulos

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## HCAAO 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Executive Council of HCAAO calls all members and potential members to a General Meeting on

**Sunday, November 30, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.,**

Room WB 215, Wallberg Building, 200 College Street (west of University Avenue, just east of College Street) at the University of Toronto. If you encounter problems entering the building, please call 905 510 8591.

### *Agenda*

Approval of the 2013 AGM minutes

President's report

Treasurer's report

Activities for 2015

Other items

You look forward to seeing you there.

## Hellenic Studies Program at UT

HCAAO is proud to have contributed to the establishment of a Modern Greek Studies Program at the University of Toronto (UT). HCAAO worked closely with the Hellenic Heritage Foundation in order to provide academic advice on the establishment of the program.

With the leadership and generosity of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation (HHF), the initiative of the University of Toronto's Greek Students' Association (GSA), and the advice and commitment of the Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario (HCAAO), as well as the support of the Greek Community of Toronto and of many organizations and individuals, on May 2, 2014, an agreement between HHF and UT has been signed.

The program is part of a larger program of European Studies offered by the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES), under the auspices of the Munk Center of Global Affairs at UT, in collabora-

tion with the Faculty of Arts and Science at UT. As Professor Randall Hanson, director of CERES, says “Understanding Greek history, politics and the Greek language is fundamental to our work and teaching on the European Union and Europe itself”.

The program was launched in September 2014. Initially, the program offers one full-year Modern Greek Language course, and two half-year courses on Modern Greek Politics and Contemporary Affairs. In addition, funds are being raised for field trips of students to Greece, scholarships, public lectures and other support of Hellenic Studies. Further program expansion is planned after a few years.

#### University Studies Orientation Day 2014

On Saturday, November 1, 2014, members of HCAAO visited two high-schools in Toronto and talked to grade 12 students, who are also part of the Hellenic Language classes. The discussion went around the procedure to apply for university studies, choices of programs and disciplines, appropriate preparation, etc. More specifically, Professors Panagiota Klentrou and Maria-Athina Martimianakis visited the G. S. Henry high-school (200 Graydon Hall Dr), then Professors Panagiota Klentrou and Christina Christara visited the Eastern Commerce high-school (16 Phin Ave). In both schools, the students attending the Hellenic Language classes indicated great interest in university studies, raised several questions and discussed their concerns with the professors.

#### The Greek Canadian History Project

HCAAO was one of the supporters of the event organized by the Greek Canadian History Project, that took place at the Toronto City Hall, on May 12-17, 2014. This project, led by Professor Sakis Gekas, holder of the HHF Chair in Modern Greek History at York University, is part of the activities of the Modern Greek Studies Program at York U. During the event, there was a talk and a photo-exhibition “Memory and Migration: A History of Greeks in Toronto”. For more information, see

<http://archives.library.yorku.ca/gchp/>

#### Distinguished Guest Speaker Series 2014: A tribute to Cavafis

On Tuesday, April 15, 2014, HCAAO presented “The End of an Era? Religious Fanaticism and Fourth Century A.D. in the Poetry of C.P. Cavafis”, a lecture by Dr. George Syrimis, Associate Chair, Hellenic Studies Program, Yale University. The lecture was made possible with the generous support of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation. The talk discussed a number of Cavafy poems set in the critical 4th century A.D. and late antiquity. More specifically, the talk focused on poems about the controversial emperor Julian (331-363 A.D.) and discussed the rise of religious fanaticism and conflict in late antiquity and its relation to social class. Further, it addressed more recent adoptions of Cavafy’s work by the radical right in contemporary Greece since the financial crisis. This talk was dedicated to a (late) celebration of the 150 years from the birth of Cavafis.

#### HCAAO Get-together Dinner 2014

Members of HCAAO and guests, gathered for the HCAAO Get-Together Dinner, on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at the Trinity Taverna, 1681 Lake Shore Blvd E, Toronto.

The food was delicious and the atmosphere friendly and warm. During the dinner, Professor Panagiota (Nota) Klentrou gave an interesting presentation titled “Re-thinking University Education”, in which several educational, financial and administrative issues that arise in university studies in Ontario and Greece were discussed.

We thank all members and guests for their participation and we are looking forward for fruitful engagement.

Stay tuned for announcements of the 2015 get-together dinner.

#### Hellenic Language in Canadian High-Schools

Professors George Georgopoulos and Christina Christara participated in several meetings called by the Hel-

lenic Heritage Foundation (HHF) to discuss the HHF initiative to support a new Hellenic Language Program as part of the Heritage programs in Canadian High-Schools.

Membership
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All members are kindly asked to submit their membership dues for 2014. The amount is \$25. A membership application/renewal form can be downloaded from [http://www.hcaao.org/?page\\_id=29](http://www.hcaao.org/?page_id=29) We would appreciate if all past members who forgot to pay their membership dues for 2014 send their dues for both 2014 and 2015 (i.e. a total of \$50). New members pay dues for 2015 only (i.e. \$25). Please make checks payable to the **Hellenic-Canadian Academic Association of Ontario** and mail them to

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Once we receive your dues, you will be sent a receipt. Those who come to the General Meeting and have not paid their dues will be requested to pay at that time.

Our website includes a list of our members at [http://www.hcaao.org/?page\\_id=11](http://www.hcaao.org/?page_id=11) If you wish to make any changes to the information shown for you, please e-mail [ccc@cs.toronto.edu](mailto:ccc@cs.toronto.edu).

Renew your membership today!!!